

AB.E3 BALTIC APHOTIC SHELL GRAVEL CHARACTERIZED BY MACROSCOPIC INFAUNAL BIOTIC STRUCTURES

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic bottoms with at least 90 % coverage of shell gravel. Macroscopic infauna present, no epibenthic macrofauna.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is shell gravel. Appears mostly in high energy exposure areas.

MAPPING ADVISE (HABITAT DELINEATION, IDENTIFICATION, SIMILAR TYPES)

Macroscopic infauna present, no epibenthic macrofauna. Only for biotopes occurring in Kattegat and the most southern parts of the Baltic Sea.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Southern part of Baltic Sea, the Sound, Kattegat

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Increase in atmospheric CO₂ (Ocean acidification)

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.6 Shell gravel bottoms

2.6.1 Aphotic zone

HELCOM 2007:

Shell gravel bottoms

- habitat under threat and/or in decline in all areas of occurrence: The Southern Baltic Proper, The Gulf of Gdansk, Bay of Mecklenburg, Kiel Bay, Little Belt, Great Belt, The Sound, Kattegat

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.115 Baltic shell gravel bottoms of the aphotic zone