Sparse or no communities on Baltic infralittoral shell gravel

Summary

This habitat, characterized as sparse or no communities on infralittoral shell gravel is poorly studied. Threats and pressures are unknown at present and no conservation or management measures have been identified specifically for this habitat. This habitat was not evaluated by HELCOM in the 2013 Red List of Habitat Assessment because of insufficient data.

Synthesis

This habitat, characterised as sparse or no communities on infralittoral shell gravel is poorly studied. It was not evaluated by HELCOM in the 2013 Red List of Habitat Assessment. Due to a lack of information on which to base a quantitative assessment or to make an assessment based on expert opinion this habitat is considered to be Data Deficient.

Overall Category & Criteria			
EU 28		EU 28+	
Red List Category	Red List Criteria	Red List Category	Red List Criteria
Data Deficient	-	Data Deficient	-

Sub-habitat types that may require further examination

None.

Habitat Type

Code and name

Sparse or no communities on Baltic infralittoral shell gravel

Description

Karkven (Kaffebadan) (© P.Lehtonen, Parks and Wildlife Finland, 2011).

Habitat description

This benthic Baltic Sea habitat occurs in the photic zone with at least 90% coverage of shell gravel

according to the HELCOM HUB classification. Epibenthic macrovegetation or macrofauna does not occur. The habitat is most often encountered in high energy exposure areas and therefore believed to be limited to the Baltic Proper, Belt Sea and The Sound.

Indicators of quality:

Unknown

Characteristic species:

Unknown

Classification

EUNIS:

The closest correspondence in EUNIS (2004) level 4 is A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

Annex 1:

The relationship between HUB biotopes and Annex 1 habitats has not yet been mapped by HELCOM, however this habitat may occur in the following Annex 1 habitats:

1110 Sandbanks slightly covered all the time

1160 Large shallow inlets and bays

1650 Boreal Baltic narrow inlets

MAES:

Marine - Marine inlets and transitional waters

Marine - Coastal

MSFD:

Shallow sublittoral coarse sediment

Shallow sublittoral mixed sediment

EUSeaMap:

Shallow coarse or mixed sediments

IUCN:

9.3 Subtidal loose rock/pebble/gravel

Other relationships:

Level 5 of the HELCOM HUB classification (2013).

AA.E4U Sparse or no communities on Baltic infralittoral shell gravel

Does the habitat type present an outstanding example of typical characteristics of one or more biogeographic regions?
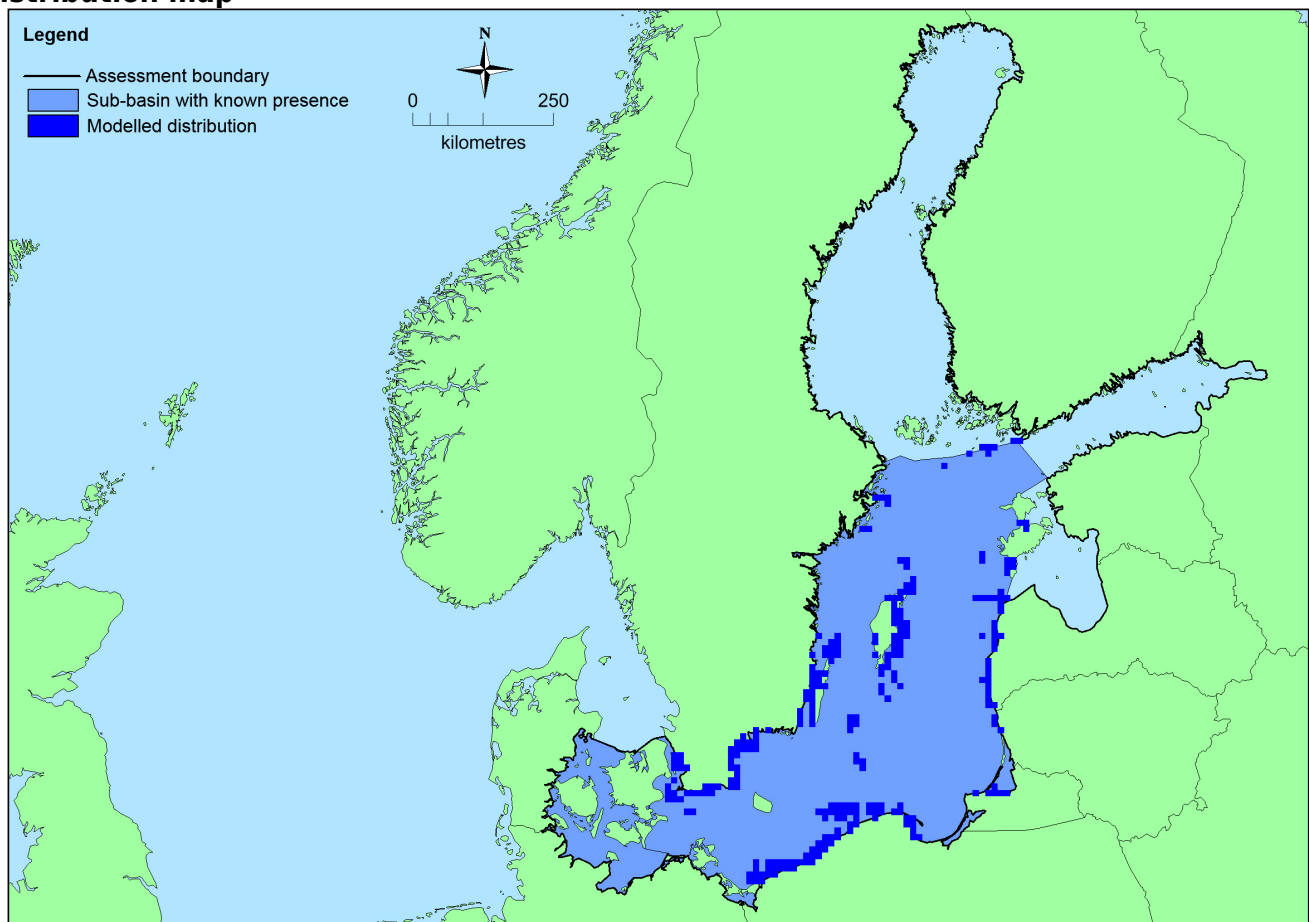Unknown

<u>Justification</u>
Geographic occurrence and trends

Region	Present or Presence Uncertain	Current area of habitat	Recent trend in quantity (last 50 yrs)	Recent trend in quality (last 50 yrs)
Baltic Sea	Baltic Proper: Present Belt Sea: Present Gulf of Bothnia: Uncertain Gulf of Finland: Uncertain Gulf of Riga: Uncertain The Sound: Present	Unknown Km^2	Unknown	Unknown

Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy and habitat area

	Extent of Occurrence (EOO)	Area of Occupancy (AOO)	Current estimated Total Area	Comment
EU 28	Unknown Km^2	Unknown	Unknown Km^2	-
EU 28+	Unknown Km^2	Unknown	Unknown Km^2	-

Distribution map

There are insufficient data to provide a comprehensive and accurate map of the distribution of this habitat. This map has therefore been generated using the modelled data available on EMODnet for EUNIS level 3 habitats in the Baltic Sea (EMODnet, 2010). This means it indicates potential areas in which this habitat may occur, not the actual distribution of this EUNIS level 4 habitat.

How much of the current distribution of the habitat type lies within the EU 28?
Unknown.

Trends in quantity

There is insufficient information on baseline conditions or changes over the last 50 years to determine any trends in quantity.

- Average current trend in quantity (extent)
  EU 28: Unknown
  EU 28+: Unknown
- Does the habitat type have a small natural range following regression?
  Unknown
  Justification
- Does the habitat have a small natural range by reason of its intrinsically restricted area?
  Unknown
  Justification

Trends in quality

There is insufficient information on baseline conditions or changes over the last 50 years to determine any trends in quality.

- Average current trend in quality
  EU 28: Unknown
  EU 28+: Unknown

Pressures and threats

No pressures and threats have been identified for this specific habitat.

List of pressures and threats
-

Conservation and management

No conservation and management measures have been identified for specifically for this habitat.

List of conservation and management needs
-

Conservation status

Annex 1:

1110: MBAL U1

1160: MBAL U2

1650: MBAL U2

HELCOM (2013) assessments:

1110 VU C1

1160 VU C1

1650 VU C1

This habitat was not evaluated by HELCOM in the 2013 Red List Assessment.

When severely damaged, does the habitat retain the capacity to recover its typical character and functionality?

Unknown

Effort required

Red List Assessment

Criterion A: Reduction in quantity

Criterion A	A1	A2a	A2b	A3
EU 28	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %
EU 28+	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %

Experts considered there to be insufficient data on which to assess criteria A. This habitat has therefore been assessed as Data Deficient under criterion A.

Criterion B: Restricted geographic distribution

Criterion B	B1				B2				B3
	EOO	a	b	c	AOO	a	b	c	
EU 28	unknown Km^2	Unknown	Unknown	unknown	unknown	Unknown	Unknown	unknown	unknown
EU 28+	unknown Km^2	Unknown	Unknown	unknown	unknown	Unknown	Unknown	unknown	unknown

Experts considered there to be insufficient data on which to assess criteria B. This habitat has therefore been assessed as Data Deficient under criterion B.

Criterion C and D: Reduction in abiotic and/or biotic quality

Criteria C/D	C/D1		C/D2		C/D3	
	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity
EU 28	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown% %	unknown %	unknown %
EU 28+	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown% %	unknown %	unknown %

Criterion C	C1		C2		C3	
	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity
EU 28	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %
EU 28+	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %	unknown %

Criterion D	D1		D2		D3	
	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity	Extent affected	Relative severity
EU 28	unknown %	unknown%	unknown %	unknown%	unknown %	unknown%
EU 28+	unknown %	unknown%	unknown %	unknown%	unknown %	unknown%

Experts considered there to be insufficient data on which to assess criteria C/D.

Criterion E: Quantitative analysis to evaluate risk of habitat collapse

Criterion E	Probability of collapse
EU 28	unknown
EU 28+	unknown

There is no quantitative analysis available to estimate the probability of collapse of this habitat type.

Overall assessment "Balance sheet" for EU 28 and EU 28+

	A1	A2a	A2b	A3	B1	B2	B3	C/D1	C/D2	C/D3	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	D3	E
EU28	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD
EU28+	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	LC	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD	DD

Overall Category & Criteria			
EU 28		EU 28+	
Red List Category	Red List Criteria	Red List Category	Red List Criteria
Data Deficient	-	Data Deficient	-

Confidence in the assessment
Low (mainly based on uncertain or indirect information, inferred and suspected data values, and/or limited expert knowledge)

Assessors
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Contributors
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Reviewers
M. Haldin.

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Date of review
19/01/2016

References

HELCOM, 2013. *Red List of Baltic Sea underwater biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes*. Avellan, L. (Ed). Helsinki, Finland.