

BalMar

Baltic Marine Habitats Classification Tool

Key for determining biotope classes

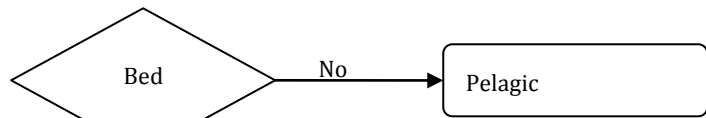
Alleco Ltd. 26.1.2012 update

Downloadable at:

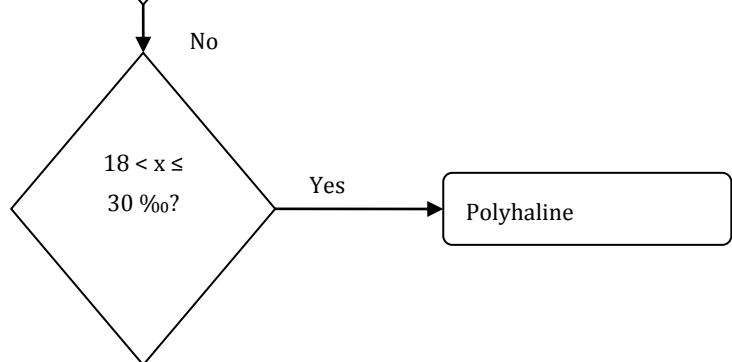
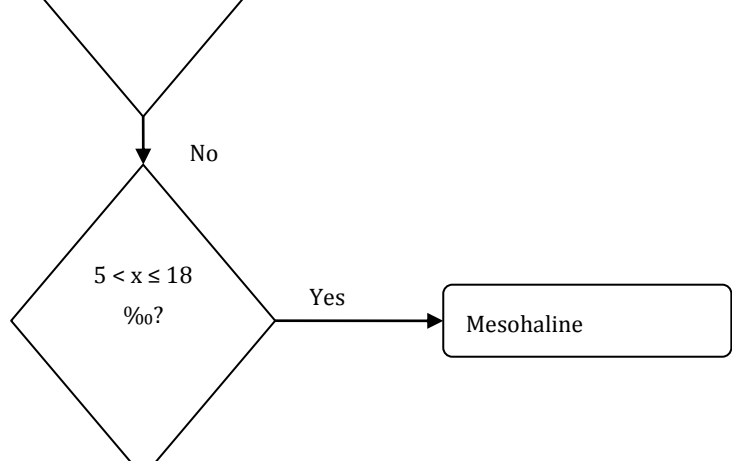
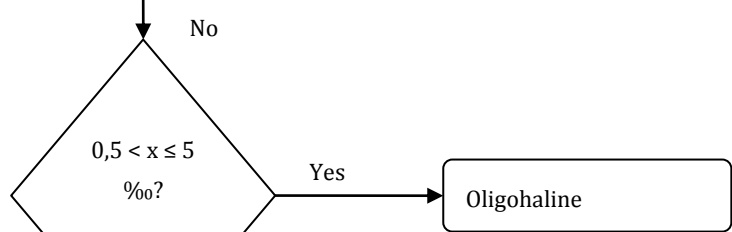
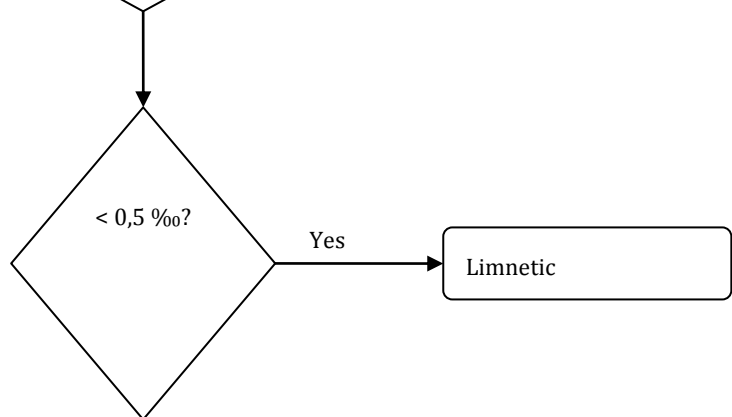
<http://alleco.fi/Balmar.pdf>

This key is updated from the version published in 20.5.2005. The update includes fixes at Levels 9 and 10, and addition of wave exposure class criteria at Level 3 for SWM-index.

LEVEL 1
Main habitat



LEVEL 2
Salinity



LEVEL 3

Wave exposure

9 classes of which maybe 5-7 exist in the Baltic Sea

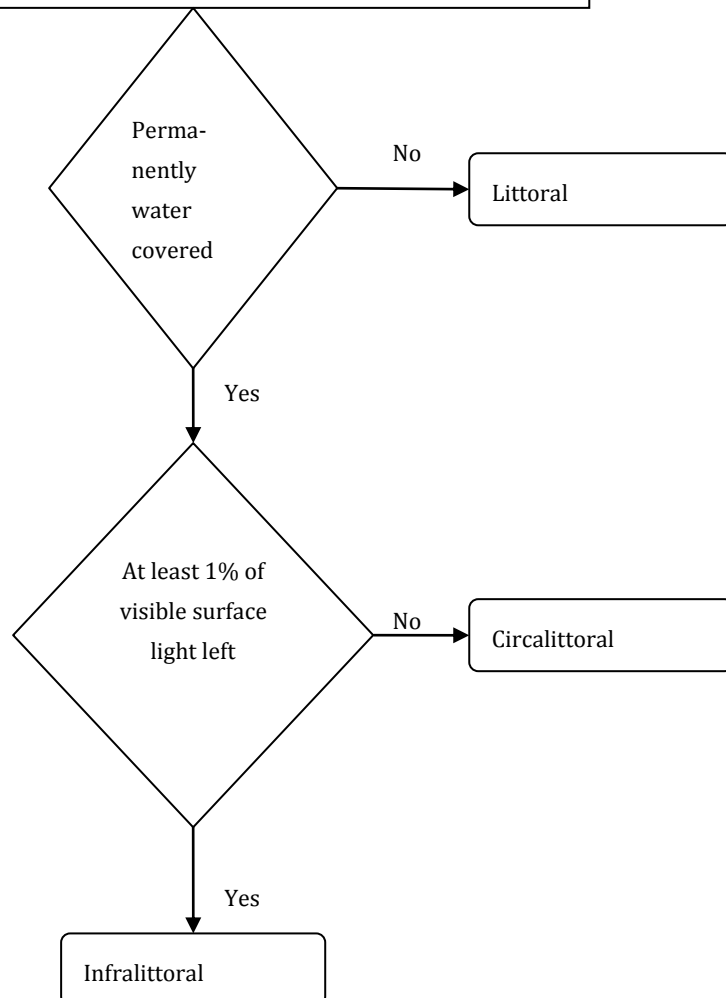
Numerical criteria for SWM-index⁽¹⁾:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Ultra sheltered | 1 - 1200 |
| Extremely sheltered | 1200 - 4000 |
| Very Sheltered | 4000 - 10000 |
| Sheltered | 10000 - 100000 |
| Mod exposed | 100000 - 500000 |
| Exposed | 500000 - 1000000 |
| Very exposed | 1000000 - 2000000 |
| Extremely exposed | 2000000 - 5000000 |

⁽¹⁾ Isæus, M. (2004). Factors structuring *Fucus* communities at open and complex coastlines in the Baltic Sea, Doktorsavhandling, Botaniska institutionen. Stockholms universitet: 40.

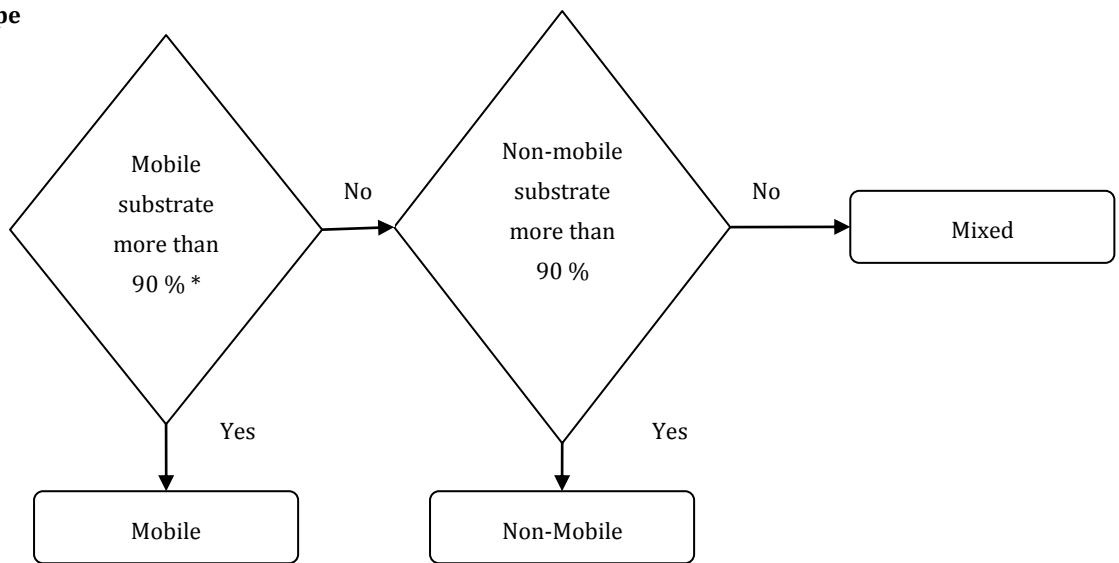
LEVEL 4

Depth zone



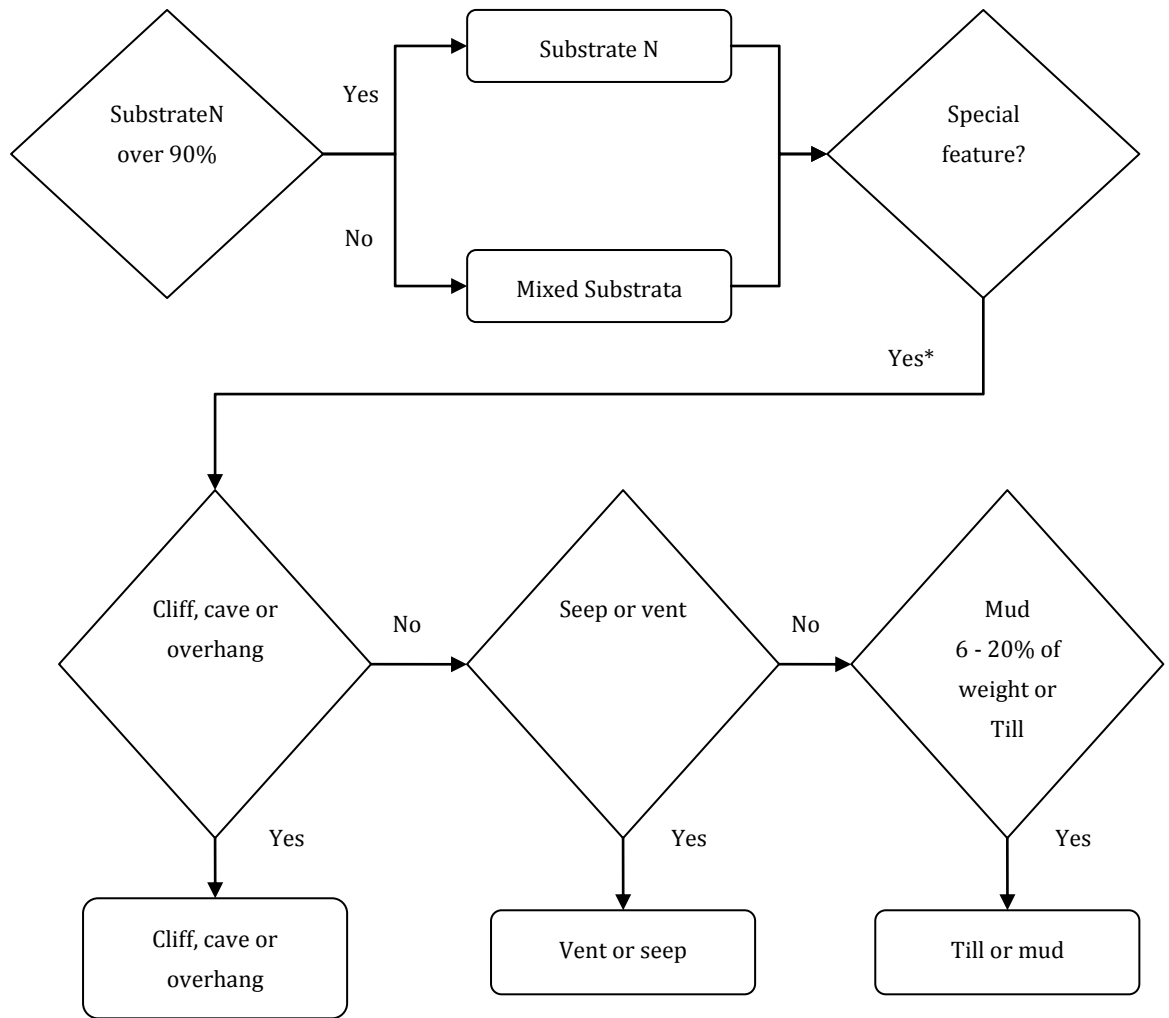
LEVEL 5

Substrate type



*Note: Total substrate coverage is 100 %.

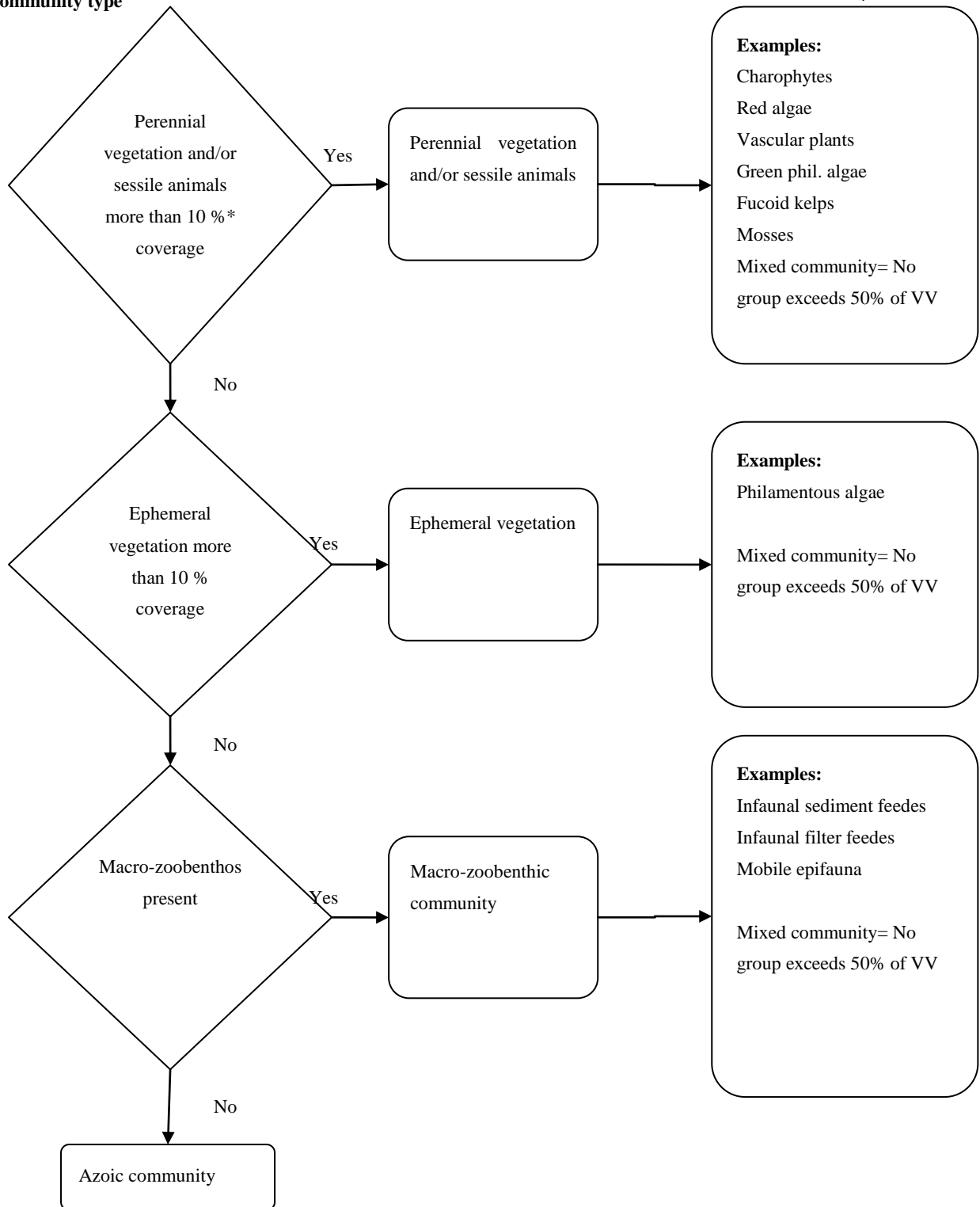
LEVEL 6
Substrate



*Special feature usage: [Substrate name] and [Special feature]

LEVEL 7

Community type



LEVEL 8

Community **

Examples:
Charophytes
Red algae
Vascular plants
Green phil. algae
Fucoid kelps
Mosses
Mixed community= No group exceeds 50% of VV

Examples:
Filamentous algae
Mixed community= No group exceeds 50% of VV

Examples:
Infaunal sediment feedes
Infaunal filter feedes
Mobile epifauna
Mixed community= No group exceeds 50% of VV

*Note: total coverage of growths can be more than 100%!

** Which dominating community naming taxae have the Visual volume or biomass more than 50% WITHIN LEVEL 7 (COMMUNITY TYPE)? The criteria for estimation is *Visual volume* (VV) = coverage [%] * averageheight [cm].

LEVEL 9
Species

