

AB.H1K Baltic aphotic muddy sediment characterized by epibenthic polychaetes

Author

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

Textual description

Baltic aphotic bottoms with at least 90 % coverage of muddy sediment. The sediment must contain at least 20 % of mud, silt or clay (grain size less than 63 µm). Sessile/semi-sessile epibenthic polychaetes cover at least 10 % of the seabed and more than other perennial attached erect groups.

Physical environment

Substrate is muddy sediment. Depth below approximately 20 m. Appears in all energy exposure classes.

Characteristic species

tube building polychaetes

Quality descriptors

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

Geographic range

Whole Baltic Sea

Anthropogenic threats

Eutrophication, contaminants

Correspondence with other classification systems

HELCOM 1998:

2.7 Muddy bottoms

2.7.1 Aphotic zone

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.3 Sublittoral mud

A5.37 Deep circalittoral mud

A5.378 Baltic muddy bottoms of the aphotic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2588>