AB.H3N1 BALTIC APHOTIC MUDDY SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY *MONOPOREIA AFFINIS* AND/OR *PONTOPOREIA FEMORATA*

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic zone 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). Biomass of infaunal crustaceans dominates and is highest in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae. Out of the infaunal crustaceans, *Monoporeia affinis* and/or *Pontoporeia femorata* constitutes at least 50% of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is muddy sediment. Depth is typically from approximately 20 to 200 meters. Appears in all wave exposure classes. Salinity below 10.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Monoporeia affinis, Pontoporeia femorata, Saduria entomon

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna. Number of healthy eggs in pregnant females.

ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication, chemical pollution

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