AA.H3N BALTIC PHOTIC MUDDY SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZED BY INFAUNAL CRUSTACEA

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic 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). No macrovegetation or epibenthic macrofauna. Biomass of infaunal crustaceans dominates in the group infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is muddy sediment. Appears in all energy exposure classes.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Monoporeia affinis, Pontoporeia femorata

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

2.7.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.7.2.1 With little or no macrophyte vegetation

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.3 Sublittoral mud

A5.31 Sublittoral mud in low or reduced salinity

A5.311 Baltic brackish water sublittoral muddy biocenoses influenced by varying salinity

http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2585