

AB.H1 Baltic aphotic muddy sediment characterized by macroscopic epibenthic biotic structures

Author

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Textual description

Baltic bottoms in the aphotic zone 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). Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is $\geq 10\%$.

Physical environment

Salinity range: All; Exposure range: All; Depth range: Below photic zone - more common in deeper areas.

Characteristic species

Mytilus spp.

Mapping advise (habitat delineation, identification, similar types)

Muddy sediment bottoms in the aphotic zone with at least 10 % coverage of epibenthic fauna.

Geographic range

Whole Baltic Sea

Anthropogenic threats

Dredging, dredge spoil dumping, poisonous substances

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>