

AA.H1E1 BALTIC PHOTIC MUDDY SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY MYTILIDAE

AUTHOR

HELCOM RED LIST Biotope Expert Team

TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic 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). Epibenthic bivalves cover at least 10% of the seabed, and more than other perennial attached erect groups. Out of the epibenthic bivalves mytilidae constitute at least 50 % of the biomass.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is muddy sediment. Appears in low to moderate energy exposure classes. Salinity is at least 5 psu.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Mytilus spp., *Hediste diversicolor*, *Gammarus spp.*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

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>