

AA.H3L BALTIC PHOTIC MUDDY SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZED BY INFAUNAL BIVALVES

AUTHOR

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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 bivalves dominates in the group infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is muddy sediment.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Macoma balthica, *Arctica islandica*, *Astarte spp.*

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>