

# AA.H3N1 BALTIC PHOTIC MUDDY SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY *MONOPOREIA AFFINIS*

## 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). 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* constitutes at least 50% of the biomass.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is muddy sediment. Depth is typically from approximately 20 to 100 meters. Appears in all wave exposure classes. Salinity below 10.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Monoporeia affinis*, *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

2.7.2 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>