

AB.B1 BALTIC APHOTIC HARD CLAY 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 hard clay. Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is $\geq 10\%$.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Salinity range: all; Exposure range: all; Depth range: below photic zone.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Mytilus spp., *Astarte spp.*

MAPPING ADVISE (HABITAT DELINEATION, IDENTIFICATION, SIMILAR TYPES)

Aphotic zone areas with at least 90 % coverage of hard clay. Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is $\geq 10\%$.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.3 Hard clay bottoms

2.3.1 Aphotic zone