

AB.H1E1 BALTIC APHOTIC MUDDY SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY MYTILIDAE

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

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is muddy sediment. Appears in low to moderate energy exposure classes. Salinity >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

2.7.1 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>

