

AB.H2 Baltic aphotic muddy sediment characterized by sparse macroscopic epibenthic biotic structures

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). Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is 0><10%.

Physical environment

Salinity range: All; Exposure range: All; Depth range: Below photic zone - more common in deeper areas.

Characteristic species

Macoma balthica, *Saduria entomon*, *Marenzelleria* spp, *Monoporeia affinis*

Mapping advise (habitat delineation, identification, similar types)

Muddy sediment bottoms in the aphotic zone. Coverage of sessile macroscopic epifauna is 0><10%.

Geographic range

Whole Baltic Sea

Anthropogenic threats

Dredging, dredge spoil dumping, poisonous substances

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>