

AB.H3N Baltic aphotic muddy sediment characterized by infaunal crustaceans

Author

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Textual description

Baltic aphotic 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). Sessile/semi-sessile epibenthic macrofauna is not present. Biomass of infaunal crustaceans dominates and is the highest in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae.

Physical environment

Substrate is muddy sediment. Depth below approximately 20 m. Appears in all energy exposure classes.

Characteristic species

Monoporeia affinis, *Pontoporeia femorata*

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

2.7.1 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>