

AB.I3L10 BALTIC APHOTIC COARSE SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY MULTIPLE INFAUNAL BIVALVE SPECIES: *MACOMA CALCAREA*, *MYA TRUNCATA*, *ASTARTE SPP.*, *SPISULA SPP.*

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic zone bottoms with at least 90 % coverage of coarse sediment. Coarse sediment has less than 20 % of mud/silt/clay fraction (<63 µm), and the proportion of gravel and pebbles (grain size 2–63 mm) exceeds 30% of the combined gravel and sand fraction . Biomass of infaunal bivalves dominates and is highest in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae. Out of the infaunal bivalves, multiple infaunal bivalve species (*Macoma calcarea*, *Mya truncata*, *Astarte spp.*, *Spisula spp*) constitute at least 50 % of the biomass.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Macoma calcarea, *Mya truncata*, *Astarte spp.*, *Spisula spp*

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Known from German waters in the Baltic Sea

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.4 Gravel bottoms

2.4.1 Aphotic zone

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.1 Sublittoral coarse sediment

A5.11 Infralittoral coarse sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.114 : Baltic gravel bottoms of the aphotic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2619>