

AB.M1E1 BALTIC APHOTIC MIXED SUBSTRATE DOMINATED BY MYTILIDAE

AUTHOR

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TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic zone bottoms with at least 10- 90 % coverage of hard (rock/boulders/stone) and 10-90 % soft substrata (e.g. muddy/coarse sediment/sand). 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 soft or crystalline rock, boulders or stones mixed with mobile substrates such as sand or coarse substrate. Depth is typically from 20 to 100 meters. Appears in all wave exposure classes. Salinity >5 psu.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Mytilus spp. and Modiolus modiolus

QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Amount of sediment. Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Baltic Sea up to the Quark in the North

ANTHOPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

HELCOM 1998:

2.8 Mixed sediment bottoms

2.8.1 Aphotic zone

EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.4 : Sublittoral mixed sediments

A5.41 : Sublittoral mixed sediment in low or reduced salinity

A5.412 : Baltic mixed sediment bottoms of the aphotic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2589>

OSPAR list of threatened biotopes:

Modiolus modiolus beds

Habitat occurs in the OSPAR Region II (including Kattegat) and is listed threatened and/or declining in this region