

Dock harbour walls as biodiversity hotspots

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Vlaamse overheid



Where?

- Harbour dock in Zeebrugge
- Harbour wall in Zeebrugge
 - Higher tidal zone
 - Lower tidal zone

When?

- winter 2011
- spring 2012

SOFT SUBSTRATE MACROBENTHOS

= *Macoma balthica* community

- Very low densities
- Few species



Polydora sp.



Streblospio benedictii



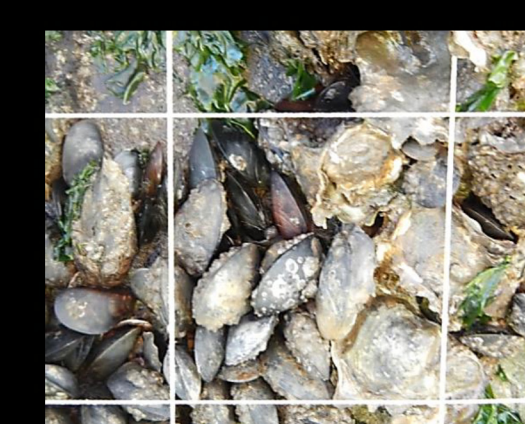
Cirratulidae sp.

What & how?

- Monitoring **SOFT SUBSTRATE MACROBENTHOS**
 -> Zeekat + Van Veen grab (250 cm²)



- Monitoring **HARD SUBSTRATE EPIFAUNA**
 -> 2 scrape subsamples (10x10 cm) from 1 aluminium frame (50x50 cm)



HARD SUBSTRATE EPIFAUNA + ALGAE

SESSILE EPIFAUNA

MOBILE EPIFAUNA

Higher tidal zone

- algae
- oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*)
- *Anurida maritima*
- *Polydora* sp.

Lower tidal zone

- less algae + oysters
- more mussels (*Mytilus edulis*)
- more amphipods (*Melita palmata*)



brown algae



Electra pilosa



Aora gracilis



Idotea granulosa



Anurida maritima



Elminius modestus



Acarina



Idotea granulosa



Odostomia scalaris



Isotomidae



Telmatogeton larve



Corophium sp.



Jaera albifrons



Hydrophorus larve



Melita palmata

Higher tidal zone

- brown algae
- oysters (*C. gigas*)
- mites (Acarina)
- *A. maritima*

Lower tidal zone

- green algae
- as much oysters
- more mussels (*M. edulis*)
- less mites
- *Telmatogeton* larvae

HARBOUR WALL = BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT WITH AT LEAST 40 EPIFAUNA SPECIES OR TAXA!