Benthic quality assessment for estuarine sediments

In framework of a Sediment Quality Triad approach in Flanders

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- First selection and evaluation of benthic indices for estuarine sediments
- Assessment of the benthic community, sediment characteristics and their relationships at different intertidal areas (mudflats) along the Sea Scheldt river

**Chemical analysis**
Degree and nature of pollutant contamination

**Ecotoxicological analysis**
Ecotoxicological effects (lab tests)

**Biological analysis**
Effects on the biological community

- No evidence of ecotoxicological/biological effects
- No evidence of biological effects in the field

- M-AMBI Index
- Occurrence Intactness Index
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Sampling at 4 mudflat areas in the fysiotope ‘middle high intertidal’ (different salinity zones)

Analysis of the benthic invertebrate community

Analysis of sediment characteristics (nutrients, organic carbon, grain size)

Further Steps: Optimization of reference values and species lists