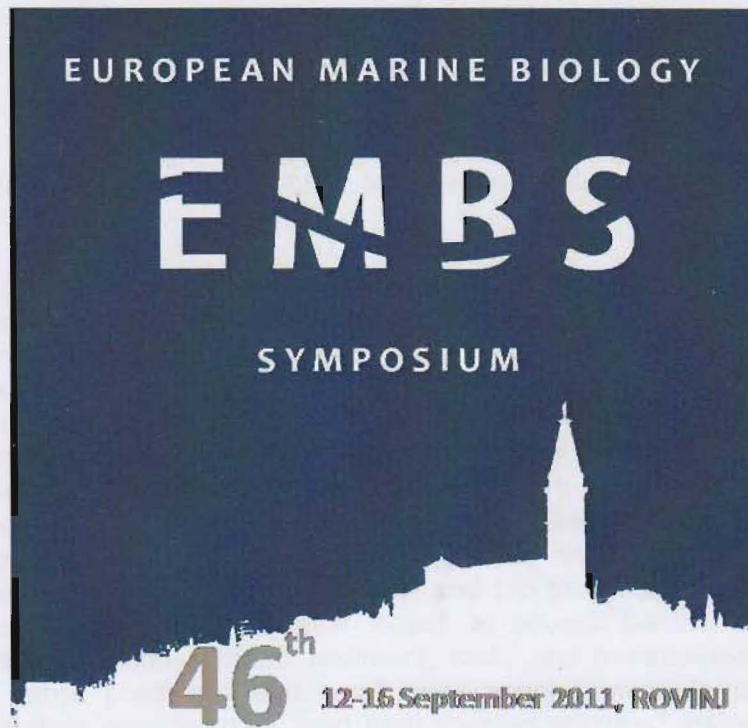


46th European Marine Biology Symposium



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



12-16 September 2011 ROVINJ, CROATIA

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Macrobenthic communities of Yarnishnaya Bay (Barents sea)

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Yarnishnaya Bay is one of the most well studied bays on Russian coast of Barents sea. There have been made benthic surveys in 1930s (by dredge and grab), in 1960s (by scuba method) and in late 1980s (by scuba and grab). In 2009 a team from our lab has made a benthic soft bottom survey in Yarnishnaya Bay. There were taken 20 stations by 0.1m² grab in 3 replications. By quantitative data we could determine 3 main communities. Community with dominance by biomass of *Macoma calcarea* were found on 4 stations in inner part of Yarnishnaya Bay on muddy bottom. Community with dominance of *Galatowenia oculata* were found in outer part of the bay on depths more then 50m on silty sand. In the middle part of Yarnishnaya Bay on sandy bottom with rocks and gravel we found community, which could be subdivided by qualitative data on community with dominance of *Heteranomia aculeata* and on community with dominance of *Spisula elliptica*. Communities with dominance of *Galatowenia oculata* and *Spisula elliptica* were not described in previous surveys from Yarnishnaya Bay. By our data, biomass and density of large, long living clam *Arctica islandica* is much lower, than in previous times. Also we have found 2 species of clams and at least 2 species of polychaetes which are new for Russian waters of Barents Sea. The reasons of such changes can be climat change and influence of introduced red king crab (*Paralithoides camthaticus*).

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