



BALTIC INVERTS 5

SADURIA ENTOMON

(*Saduria entomon*)

Saduria entomon is the largest isopod found in the Baltic Sea!

They thrive in the cold, deeper waters of the Baltic, making it a unique and vital resident of this region.

They can grow to 84mm and are a crucial part of the marine ecosystem, serving as a scavenger and a predator of benthic species, and as a food source for cod.

The loss of oxygen in the Baltic Sea bottoms has caused some declines in the population.

1





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BLUE MUSSEL

(*Mytilus edulis*)

The blue mussel is an intertidal species that forms dense masses along coastlines.

With shells that can be purple, blue, or brown, they typically grow to 5-10 cm in size.

Blue mussels are filter-feeders, playing a vital role in cleaning our waters and supporting marine ecosystems.

However, they face threats from pollution, climate change, and from non-indigenous species like the round goby.



2



BALTIC INVERTS 5

COMMON SEA STAR

(*Asterias rubens*)

These fascinating echinoderms, a group that also includes sea urchins and sea cucumbers, can be found in the western Baltic.

They can grow up to 52 cm and are predators feeding on molluscs, polychaetes, and small crustaceans

Pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change are disrupting their delicate ecosystems.



3



BALTIC INVERTS 5

MOON JELLY

(*Aurelia aurita*)

Moon jellies are a versatile resident of the Baltic Sea, thriving in a wide temperature range and tolerating lower salinity levels.

They have stinging cells called nematocysts to capture small crustaceans, molluscs, fish eggs, and other tiny jellies. Don't worry though, they don't sting humans!

But they are also part of the diet for some birds and fish, underscoring the delicate balance of marine ecosystems in the Baltic Sea.



4



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RED-FINGERED CORYPHELLA

(*Coryphella verrucosa*)

This translucent sea slug, belongs to the molluscs, which includes mussels, clams, snails, and octopuses.

It is mainly found in the western Baltic and preys on sessile animals like hydroids. It can absorb and use their stinging cells for protection.

However, it is also a target for predators including fish, crabs, and sea stars.



5