

### **Intertidal *Mytilus edulis* beds on mixed and sandy sediments**

EUNIS Code: A2.7211 and A2.7212

National Marine Habitat Classification for UK & Ireland code: LS.LMX.LMus.Myt.Mx and LS.LMX.LMus.Myt.Sa

Sediment shores characterised by beds of the mussel *Mytilus edulis* occur principally on mid and lower shore mixed substrata (mainly cobbles and pebbles on muddy sediments) but also on sands and muds. In high densities (at least 30% cover) the mussels bind the substratum and provide a habitat for many infaunal and epibiota species. This habitat is also found in lower shore tide-swept areas, such as in the tidal narrows of sealochs. A fauna of dense juvenile mussels may be found in sheltered firths, attached to algae on shores of pebbles, gravel, sand, mud and shell debris with a strandline of fucoids. Mussel beds on intertidal sediments have been reported all along the coast of Europe, particularly in UK, France, Netherlands and Germany.

*See OSPAR Agreement 2008-07 for references*