Archipelago Sea species

Sand gaper (Mya arenaria)

Sand gapers are suspension feeders that live

buried in the sand or sediment

Eats: Plankton, diatoms and suspended

particles

Lifespan: 10-12 years. Maximum 28 years

Temperature tolerance: Up to 29 °C

Size: Up to 5 cm

Blue mussel (Mytilus trossulus)

A bivalve that attaches to hard surfaces and can filter up to 25L of seawater per day.

**Eats:** Plankton and microalgae **Lifespan:** Lives for up to 10-12 years **Temperature tolerance:** Around 25-28 °C

**Size:** 1-4 cm

Perch (Perca fluviatilis)

This fish lives in both fresh and brackish waters and is known for its striped appearance.

Eats: Mainly crustaceans and smaller fish.

Lifespan: 10-12 years

Temperature tolerance: Up to 31 °C

Size: Up to 50 cm

Harris mudcrab (Rhithropanopeus harrisii)

Native to North America; now invasive in parts of Europe including the Baltic Sea. **Eats:** Omnivorous, feeds on mussels, clams, amphipods isopods and detritus.

Lives for 1-3 years

Temperature tolerance: Up to 36 °C

Size: Up to 2 cm

Who eats whom?

Detritus, phytoplankton and microalgae

Bladderwrack (Fucus vesiculosus)

A seaweed, providing shelter for many species, lives on rocky substrates.

Eats: sunlight

Lifespan: 2-5 years at depths of up to 6

meters

Temperature tolerance: Around 25-27 °C



Snails, amphipods and isopods *Hydrobia, Idotea, Gammarus, Jaera...* 

Some of the species that live in bladderwrack

Eats: Green, red and brown algae

Lives for 1-2 years

**Temperature tolerance:** Varies – some are more sensitive than others

**Size:** 0.1-1 cm



Drawings: Lukkaush