**Table 2.** Common macrobenthic invertebrate taxa recorded across Nova Scotian eelgrass beds based on Wong et. al. (2016) and Wong (2018). Larger, mobile decapod crustaceans were surveyed at 8 sites (Wong et al., 2016), whereas infaunal and epifaunal macroinvertebrates were sampled across 10 sites (Wong, 2018). Density and biomass of each taxon are shown based on publicly-available field data (Wong, 2020a, 2020b) and inferred lifestyle. Also included is the detection record of each taxon in 2019/2023 eDNA datasets. For the six taxa not recorded in either eDNA dataset, the availability of reference COI sequences in NCBI/BOLD is indicated.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Mean | Mean |  | Present in: | |  |
| Classification | # of sites present | Density (#/m2) | Biomass (mg/m2) | Lifestyle | 2019 eDNA | 2023 eDNA | Reference DNA? |
| Annelida |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Polychaeta |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Alitta spp.* | 5 | 68.7 | 222.9 | Infaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
| *Capitella spp.* | 10 | 691.1 | 60.2 | Infaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
| *Clymenella torquata* | 5 | 159.5 | 877.6 | Infaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
| *Clymenella zonalis* | 7 | 627.0 | 1303.8 | Infaunal | **No** | **No** | Yes |
| *Harmothoe spp.* | 5 | 65.6 | 120.9 | Epifaunal | Yes | No |  |
| *Heteromastus filiformis* | 6 | 163.8 | 308.2 | Infaunal | **No** | **No** | Yes |
| *Leitoscoloplos sp.* | 8 | 191.1 | 439.8 | Infaunal | **No** | **No** | Yes |
| *Parexogone hebes* | 5 | 2387.3 | 60.3 | Infaunal | **No** | **No** | Yes |
| *Pholoe minuta* | 7 | 87.4 | 19.8 | Infaunal | Yes | No |  |
| *Polydora cornata* | 6 | 151.1 | 11.7 | Epifaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
| *Streblospio benedicti* | 5 | 637.6 | 22.5 | Infaunal | No | Yes |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Arthropoda |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Crustacea |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Caprellidae* | 7 | 103.0 | 24.2 | Epifaunal | Yes | No |  |
| *Cancer irroratus1* | 5 | 0.08 | n/a | Epifaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
| *Carcinus maenas1* | 8 | 2.00 | n/a | Epifaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
| *Corophiidae* | 10 | 715.1 | 30.7 | Infaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
| *Crangon septemspinosa1* | 7 | 1.19 | n/a | Epifaunal | No | Yes |  |
| *Gammarus spp.* | 7 | 176.0 | 76.4 | Infaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
| *Idotea spp.* | 7 | 19.7 | 10.0 | Epifaunal | No | Yes2 |  |
| *Palaemon vulgaris1* | 5 | 0.08 | n/a | Epifaunal | **No** | **No** | Yes |
| *Phoxocephalus holbolli* | 6 | 404.0 | 28.0 | Infaunal | **No** | **No** | Yes |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mollusca |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bivalvia |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Gemma gemma* | 5 | 1080.8 | 95.0 | Infaunal | No | Yes |  |
| Mytilidae | 5 | 107.1 | 5282.4 | Epifaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
| Gastropoda |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Ecrobia truncata* | 5 | 938.9 | 78.0 | Epifaunal | No | Yes |  |
| *Ilyanassa spp.* | 5 | 87.4 | 1565.1 | Epifaunal | Yes | No |  |
| *Lacuna vincta* | 6 | 1311.8 | 548.9 | Epifaunal | Yes | No |  |
| *Littorina spp.* | 7 | 1197.2 | 356.8 | Epifaunal | Yes | Yes |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1Taxa sampled as part of a study of fish and large decapods in eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds on the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia by Wong et al., 2016.

2 *Idotea balthica* was recorded in our 2023 eDNA dataset, but it was not included in our final species list because of low read numbers.