

Baltic Sea mussels in the Latvian coast

Soft-Shelled Clam

Mya arenaria

It reaches 18 cm in length, but in the Latvian coast usually finds 4 to 5 cm long, oval, white, characterized by very long siphons - shell is about ¼ of the length of the siphon. Adult animals live digging in soil 30-40 cm deep; the young live not so deep. As the residents of deeper layers clams need to have 10 times less oxygen than other mollusks and able to regulate breathing. Live 19 years, the largest clam of the Baltic Sea.

North Blue mussel

Mytilus edulis

Shell elongated, triangular, thin, 2-3 cm long. Shell of the outer surface is brownish-blue or blue, inside - a pearly dark. Lives 8-10 years in shallow coastal waters attached on various underwater objects. Water birds and many fishes feed with the mussels.

Baltic tellin

Macoma balthica

Shells are characteristic with a color variation - they can be yellow, pink and white. It is just under 2 cm long. Clams live digging in 3-6 cm deep in the soil. They are most popular species in the Baltic Sea These clams, especially the siphons are main food for several marine fishes.

Lamarka Lagoon cockle

Cerastoderma glaucum

Shell white or grey blue, in the shape of heart, about 2 cm long. Shell is longitudinally ribbed. Live in 1 - 5 m depth entrenched in the sand or sludge 5 cm deep. They can live also on the ground. One cockle filters 1 litter of water within an hour. Gulls, sea magpie, duck, and fish feed with the cockles.

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