

THE INFLUENCE OF GLACIERS AND ICE ON POLAR ZOOBENTHOS

Summary

The information about the disturbance processes associated with the activity of glaciers (melt water influence and inorganic suspension matter inflow) as well as ice scour disturbance with focus on ice-berg disturbance is given. Characteristics of the faunal communities associated with the disturbed sites are presented, including information on the species composition, species richness and diversity, as well as biomass. Information about the rate and stages of community recovery are presented. Detailed data on

recolonization processes are given including information about pioneer species, migration processes and interspecific competition. The discussion upon possible scenarios of changes in the polar benthic communities, associated with increasing frequency of disturbance after climate changes are also presented including such processes as range and bathymetrical changes, distortions in the trophic webs and threats from the invasive species.