



Streblospio benedicti

General

1. A small, segmented, tube-dwelling infaunal polychaete.
2. A surface-deposit feeding species.

Geography and Habitat

1. Occurs along the Atlantic US coast from Maine south to Florida.
2. Also occurs on the US Pacific coast.
3. Common in muddy/soft sediment estuarine habitats including mud flats, seagrass beds, and marshes.
4. Occurs in soft, suitable sediment habitats.
5. Among the most abundant and characteristic taxa occurring in the Gulf of Maine mud flats.
6. Moderately euryhaline.
7. Populations exhibit a decrease in abundance as salinity decreases within the estuary.



Management

1. Individuals tend to be relatively long-lived (30-75 weeks)
2. Fall cohort females live for 5-6 months and over-winter to produce spring cohorts.
3. Cold water temperature can be a limiting factor for the spring and winter occurrences of *S. benedicti* in some Gulf of Mexico subtidal habitats.
 1. Relatively tolerant to elevated levels of organic sediments.
 2. *S. benedicti* is a resource specialist and habitat generalist, and a capable competitor when resources are limited.
 3. *S. benedicti* is consumed by a variety of epibenthic predators
 4. Grass shrimp (*Palaemonetes pugio*), blue crabs (*Callinectes* spp), juvenile fish (*Leiostomus xanthurus*), flounder.

Environmental and Ecological Impacts

1. Ingestion of fine sediments and their consolidation and deposition may lead to an increase in the percentage of fine sediments in the upper benthos.

Sources

1. http://www.sms.si.edu/irlspec/Streblospio_benedicti.htm
2. <http://manayunkia.files.wordpress.com/2007/07/streblospio-benedicti.jpg>