

13 Benthic Life Habits

**Notes for Marine Biology:
Function, Biodiversity, Ecology**

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Benthos - size classification

- **Macrobenthos - shortest dimension > 0.5 mm**
- **0.1 mm $<$ Meiobenthos < 0.5 mm, greater**
- **Microbenthos < 0.1 mm**

Life in Mud and Sand

Sediments: Particle size – 3 measures

- 1. Grain diameter: estimate of current strength**
-Median grain diameter - measured usually
by sieving and weighing size fractions
- 2. Silt-clay fraction** - % of weight of sediment
< 62 μ m
- 3. Sorting:** spread of particle sizes, well-sorted
vs. poorly sorted; **estimate of variation of
current strength**