



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Zoology
University of British Columbia
2212 Main Mall
Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Z4

Dr. Just Cebrian
Marine Ecology Progress Series
Inter-Research Science Center
Nordbunte 23 (+ 3, 5, 28, 30)
21385 Oldendorf/Luhe, Germany

Dear Dr. Cebrian,

We are pleased to submit a manuscript entitled “Spatiotemporal variation in eelgrass-associated animal biodiversity in Barkley Sound, British Columbia” for exclusive consideration of publication as a research article in *Marine Ecology Progress Series*.

Our manuscript documents spatiotemporal patterns of invertebrate diversity across a seascape, and shows that these patterns in the benthic system may be partially explained by the influence of an estuarine gradient and a discrete transition likely due to circulation patterns. This work is particularly exciting because it is one of the few papers to describe eelgrass biodiversity within and among meadows in the context of possible drivers of variation, and because we used a sophisticated null model to distinguish expected from observed patterns of beta diversity. Furthermore, our manuscript represents one of the first comprehensive assessments of eelgrass-associated biodiversity in the Pacific Northwest.

We appreciate your consideration of our work, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nicole Knight