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

Dr. X  
Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Canadian Science Publishing (NRC Research Press) 65 Auriga Drive, Suite 203   
Ottawa, ON K2E 7W6 ‎Canada

Dear Dr. X,

We are pleased to submit an original manuscript entitled “Faunal diversity among eelgrass meadows suggests metacommunity structure” for exclusive consideration of publication as a research article in *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*.

Our manuscript documents spatiotemporal patterns of invertebrate diversity across a seascape of eelgrass meadows in western Canada. It shows that observed patterns cannot be explained by an estuarine gradient, or other abiotic factors, suggesting that seagrass meadows in this region exhibit diversity patterns indicative of spatially-structured community dynamics in a metacommunity. This is particularly exciting because it provides valuable insight into the temporal and spatial scales at which seagrass meadows should be managed to protect biodiversity. Our work is also the most comprehensive study of seagrass-associated faunal diversity in Canada that we are aware of.

There are no conflicts of interest associated with this work. We appreciate your consideration, and look forward to hearing from you. Please address all correspondence related to this manuscript to Ross Whippo (whippor@si.edu).

Sincerely,

Ross Whippo