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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 “Eelgrass meadow biodiversity across seascapes: Local predictors don’t reflect observed variation” 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, nor biotic and abiotic factors, suggesting that seagrass meadows in this region exhibit diversity patterns indicative of a metacommunity. This is particularly exciting because it provides valuable insight into the temporal and spatial scales at which seagrass meadows should be managed. 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, and it is not submitted or under consideration at any other journal. We appreciate your consideration, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ross Whippo

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