

**Dr. James Robinson**

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Dear Professor Fox,

Please find attached our revised manuscript "*Habitat and fishing control grazing potential on coral reefs*". In response to suggestions from the Associate Editor, we have now edited the main manuscript to address concerns from Reviewer #1. In our revised version, we:

- Further justify our approach of combining survey methods, citing two large-scale studies which combine point count and belt transect methods for Indo-Pacific reefs (McClanahan et al. 2011 *PNAS*, MacNeil et al. 2015 *Nature*) and three which combined the datasets we analysed (Cinner et al. 2016 *Nature*, Graham et al. 2017 *Curr. Biol.*, Darling et al. 2017 *Coral Reefs*) ([L141-144](#))
- Added three citations to justify measuring reef fish feeding behaviours with short acclimation periods (Choat & Clements 1993 *Mar. Biol.*, Pratchett 2005 *Mar. Biol.*, Feary et al. 2018 *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.*), and details that diver effects on fish behaviour were minimal (<5% avoidance) in our study ([L182-185](#))
- Explained that fish and benthic surveys were conducted at spatial scales which are relevant for understanding habitat influences on herbivore assemblages (Russ et al. 2015 *Mar. Biol.*, Nash et al. 2016 *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.*) ([L223-228](#))
- Ensured that all reviewer #2 comments were addressed with revisions to the main text

We confirm that all authors have approved this submission in its final form. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr James PW Robinson



Senior Research Associate  
Lancaster Environment Centre  
Lancaster University, UK

On behalf of coauthors Jamie McDevitt-Irwin, Jan-Claas Dajka, Jeneen Hadj-Hammou, Samantha Howlett, Alexia Graba-Landry, Andrew Hoey, Kirsty Nash, Shaun Wilson, Nicholas Graham.