

Interactive comment on “Microbial assemblages on a cold-water coral mound at the SE Rockall Bank (NE Atlantic): interactions with hydrography and topography” by J. D. L. van Bleijswijk et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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This manuscript describes the microbial community in a cold water coral environment and links it to environmental parameters including water flow and topography. For the first time, Archaea are detected in coral mucus.

Major point: Neulinger et al and Kellogg et al report on two potential symbionts of *Lophelia* and Hansson et al. on one of *Madrepora*. It is somewhat startling that the authors completely ignore that. It is imperative to address this question: do their data support that or not.

Minor points: Where are the sequences deposited

The size of the collected corals is not mentioned. Is there information on the type of
C2123

branches (old vs young)? How long lasted the incubation for collecting mucus?

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 12, 1509, 2015.