

Interactive
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***Interactive comment on* “Temporal variations in microbial activities and carbon turnover in subtidal sandy sediments” by S. I. Böer et al.**

Anonymous Referee #2

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This manuscript investigates the temporal and vertical patterns in bacterial abundances and activities in a shallow subtidal sand flat in the North Frisian Wadden Sea in Germany. Several sophisticated methods have been applied to follow the microbial activity in this mud flat and relate it to gross benthic respiration and microphytobenthic density. There are two main issues in this study. i) The single site sampling does not allow evaluating how representative are the results at the ecosystem scale. ii) Despite the large number of methods used the results remain rather descriptive. As a consequence the discussion contains too many assumptions regarding: i) the mechanisms at stake to explain the variations of the activity rates measured, ii) the interpretation of the calculated correlations among variables and iii) the consequences of the rates and microbial densities measured at a larger scale.

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