

Review of article bg-2016-294 “Food selectivity and processing by the cold-water coral *Lophelia pertusa*”

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General comments

This is well-written, well-designed concise paper on food selectivity of the CWC *Lophelia pertusa*. The experimental design, experimental procedure and sample and data analysis are sound and reflect the extensive experience of the team of authors on the study of CWC reefs and isotope tracers experiments in general. I highly recommend publication of the present manuscript with only minor modifications.

Specific comments

It is mentioned that the selectivity index normalises the food uptake for the differences in the availability of food sources. Does that mean that the different bacterial: algal C ratio in the high load treatment compared to the other two does not affect the result?

Technical comments

All the subheadings in section 2 should be corrected (e.g. 2.1 experimental design instead of 1.1).

Page 2, line 24: consider changing the word “feasible” to “effective”.

Page 5, line 5: After “incorporation”, add “of isotopic tracers”.

Page 7, lines 2-4: these lines would fit better into section “2.5 Data Analysis”

Figure 2: For the “sum” (open circles), there are error bars only for the calcium incorporation. Keep it consistent, either present only the mean or add error bars to all graphs. Also, I would remove the lines connecting the “sum” between the treatments, as these are appropriate to use in time series rather than independent concentration treatments.