

There are a few areas where tense usage is not consistent.

Line 25 : “characterize” should be “characterized”

Line 26 : “ find” should be “found”

Lines 37-38: I think it should be “Mangroves span tidal zones that are characterized by periodic tidal flooding, such that environmental conditions, such as salinity, vary greatly across small spatiotemporal scales.

Line 39: This sentence is a bit awkward because it sounds like you are describing and impact. Instead, you could say something about what tidal zones mangroves span. This might be good as you don’t really mention Sublittoral, Intertidal, or Supralittoral anywhere in your introduction.

Lines 54-56: Awkward wording, try to make a little clearer.

Line 69: “as” should be “is”

Line 79: Remove “Importantly”

Line 108: make sure you put “gene” after “16S rRNA”

Line 129: Make sure you mention that vegan is an R package. You don’t seem to mention R in this section or the citation for R. Additionally Jari Oksanen is the creator of the vegan package. I’m not sure where the Dixon 2003 citation comes from.

<https://www.rdocumentation.org/packages/vegan/versions/2.4-2>

Line 135 & 136: “As we are using 16S rRNA amplicon sequencing a crucial limitation must be considered in evaluating our results”. The tense is incorrect and it would be good to elaborate a little more on what the crucial limitation is and why it should be considered.

Lines 196 – 200: It seems like you need to report more information on these results. What are the 8 families you found to be significantly different between/amongst zones? What 4 families were least abundant in the intertidal zone?

Lines 201-206: Needs clarification similar to comment above. Which 7 families contributed to carbon metabolism, etc. It is also important to cite the figure at some point in this paragraph.

Line 207: Spacing between words is off

Lines 299-300. The last sentence is a bit repetitive and unclear

Figure 3. It is a good idea to include the number of dimensions used and the stress for the nMDS analysis

Figure 4. When you say “To have been labelled with a metabolic pathway” are you referring to pathway enrichment? If so maybe point that out so that the reader can see the connection between this and the figure legend.