

Review of: "Effects of sediment disturbance by the heart urchin *Echinocardium cordatum* on the sediment–seawater solute exchange: an exclusion experiment"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

No comments on the Abstract and Introduction, as well as the majority of the methodology.

Mapping software would be better for Figure 1. The inset map should include the entire country since not everyone knows the geography of New Zealand.

The statistical analysis used was ANOVA followed by Tukey HSD post-hoc, but Figure 3 would suggest that the data analyzed were not normally distributed since box plots are most used to visualize non-normal data. The box plots also lack the horizontal lines that indicate the min/max values, and the figure description does not indicate whether the lines inside the boxes represent mean or median values.

The first two paragraphs of the discussion may need references to support the explanations provided.