

Green macroalgae blooms (Ulva spp.) influence trophic ecology of juvenile flatfish differently in sandy beach nurseries

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- 1 Green macroalgae blooms (*Ulva* spp.) influence trophic ecology of juvenile flatfish differently in sandy
- 2 beach nurseries
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23 1. Introduction

24 Sandy beaches are the most common littoral ecosystem, covering 70% of the global coastline free 25 from ice (McLachlan and Brown, 2006). This ecosystem, regulated mainly by tides, is characterized by 26 extreme environmental conditions (e.g. temperature, exposure to wind and waves, loose nature of the 27 substratum) (Defeo and McLachlan, 2005). Despite these conditions, specialized and diverse invertebrate 28 and vertebrate fauna are associated with the surf zone of sandy beaches (McLachlan and Brown, 2006). 29 During their first year of life, many flatfish species (e.g. Pleuronectes platessa, Scophthalmus maximus) 30 concentrate (Iles and Beverton, 2000) along sandy beaches (Gibson, 1994; McLachlan and Brown, 2006) 31 that function as nursery grounds (Beck et al., 2001). Flatfish nurseries are characterized by suitable abiotic 32 conditions over large spatial scales (e.g. temperature, depth, substratum) (Able et al., 2005), while local 33 biotic conditions (e.g. prey and predator abundance) determine their quality (Le Pape et al., 2007; Vinagre 34 et al., 2006). Overall, juvenile flatfish growth and survival are promoted in these habitats (De Raedemaecker 35 et al., 2012), whose quantity and quality strongly influence the annual recruitment of juveniles to the adult 36 stock (Gibson, 1994; Rochette et al., 2010).

Since the 1970s, blooms of opportunistic macroalgae have increased in frequency and intensity 37 38 worldwide (Smetacek and Zingone, 2013), affecting sandy beaches mostly during spring and summer, when 39 the algae are ultimately stranded and accumulate (Morand and Merceron, 2005). These short-lived 40 macroalgae blooms are a symptom of coastal eutrophication caused by excessive discharge of nitrate and 41 phosphate into aquatic ecosystems (Teichberg et al., 2010), related mainly to agricultural fertilization and 42 waste disposal (Cloern, 2001). Opportunistic macroalgae blooms are called green tides (GT) when they are 43 composed of seaweeds from the Phylum Chlorophyta (Smetacek and Zingone, 2013; Van Alstyne et al., 44 2015).

45 Shifts in fish assemblages have been related to GT (Paumier et al., 2018; Pihl et al., 1995; Quillien 46 et al., 2018; Wennhage and Pihl, 2007), and benthic fish species, such as flatfish, have been found to be the 47 most negatively impacted, with generally lower densities reported at sites with GT (De Raedemaecker et 48 al., 2012; Le Luherne et al., 2017, 2016). Overall, opportunistic macroalgae blooms can decrease the quality 49 of flatfish nurseries (De Raedemaecker et al., 2012; Jokinen et al., 2016), potentially leading to lower annual 50 recruitment rates to the adult stock (Pihl et al., 2005). Meio- and macrobenthic invertebrates, the main prey 51 of juvenile flatfish (Amara et al., 2001; Cabral et al., 2002), are also modified by macroalgae blooms in 52 terms of their taxonomic richness, composition, abundance, biomass and functional groups (Carrico et al., 2013; Pihl et al., 1995; Quillien et al., 2015a, 2015b). Furthermore, juvenile flatfish can experience lower 53 54 foraging success when drifting macroalgae are added to bare sand, as shown experimentally for *Platichthys* 55 flesus and S. maximus (Aarnio and Mattila, 2000; Nordström and Booth, 2007). Consequently, GT could 56 modify flatfish trophic ecology (e.g. diet, prey preference, energy intake) through their effects on flatfish 57 prey and on flatfish foraging, first leading to lower body conditions and growth rates (Andersen et al., 2005; Le Luherne et al., 2017; Pihl, 1994) and ultimately to lower recruitment rates (Pihl et al., 2005), through 58 59 food limitation (Le Pape and Bonhommeau, 2013).

60 Nonetheless, opportunistic and short-term macroalgae blooms can provide an additional source 61 of organic matter (*i.e.* basal resource) for sandy-beach invertebrates (Quillien et al., 2016; Robertson and 62 Lenanton, 1984) and lead to higher benthic invertebrate densities (Bolam et al., 2000; Quillien et al., 2015a, 63 2015b). Consequently, opportunistic macroalgae (e.g. Ulva spp.) could represent an additional source of 64 energy for juvenile flatfish via their benthic prev (Robertson and Lenanton, 1984), one that is traceable using stable isotopes. Indeed, Ulva spp. have distinctly ¹³C-enriched carbon isotopic compositions relative 65 to marine suspended particulate organic matter (SPOM) (*i.e.* mainly phytoplankton) and sediment organic 66 67 matter (SOM) (*i.e.* detritus, microphytobenthos, deposited phytoplankton) (Dubois and Colombo, 2014; Quillien et al., 2016), the two main basal resources available at bare sandy beaches. Furthermore, the 68 presence of extensive Ulva mats can modify the carbon isotopic compositions of dissolved inorganic carbon 69 70 (Van Alstyne et al., 2015), leading to ¹³C enrichment of SPOM (Quillien et al., 2016).

71 To our knowledge, few studies have investigated in situ effects of opportunistic macroalgae 72 blooms or related phenomenon (e.g. hypoxia) on the trophic ecology of juvenile flatfish (Andersen et al., 73 2005; Pihl, 1994; Robertson and Lenanton, 1984). Those that have were based on digestive tract contents, 74 which provide direct information about the prey ingested by a predator in the last hours or days before 75 sampling, depending on the predator's digestion rate (Nielsen et al., 2018). However, this source of 76 information can be biased by small sample sizes, asynchrony between a predator's foraging time and the 77 sampling time, and prey digestibility (Baker et al., 2014). Carbon and nitrogen isotopic compositions can 78 reflect the trophic resources assimilated by a consumer over much longer periods (Nielsen et al., 2018), as 79 well as strong environmental signals such as GT (Quillien et al., 2016).

80 In this study, the effects of GT (*Ulva* spp.) on the trophic niche, foraging behavior and additional 81 basal resource use of juvenile flatfish were investigated in macrotidal sandy beach nurseries. We combined 82 carbon and nitrogen isotopic compositions of predator (flatfish) and potential prey (benthic 83 macroinvertebrates), predator digestive tract contents and potential prey abundances in an approach 84 comparing a site not impacted by GT to a site impacted by GT. During the early summer GT peak, we 85 focused on three nursery-dependent flatfish species – the sand sole *Pegusa lascaris*, the plaice *P. platessa* and the turbot S. maximus (Gibson, 2005) – which co-occur in sandy beach nurseries in western Brittany, 86 87 France (Déniel, 1981; Quillien et al., 2018). For *P. lascaris*, which remains in the coastal nurseries for over 88 a year (Déniel, 1981), we also investigated temporal dynamics of its trophic ecology relative to the early 89 summer GT peak.



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Figure 1. Location (Brittany, France) of the two study sites: the sandy beach not impacted by green tides at
the western end of the Crozon peninsula (blue) and the sandy beach impacted by green tides on the eastern
side of the bay of Douarnenez (green).

94

95 2. Materials and methods

96 2.1. Study system and GT

97 We sampled the intertidal zone of two known flatfish nursery areas (Déniel, 1981; Quillien et al., 2018; Quiniou, 1986) located in the same part of the Iroise Sea (Fig. 1). This water mass is located just off 98 99 the western tip of Brittany at the junction of the English Channel, Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay. The nonimpacted site is a 2.3 km long sandy beach located at the western tip of the Crozon peninsula (48° 14.682' 100 101 N, 4° 32.908' W) that has never been impacted by GT (NIm). The impacted site (Im) is a 2.8 km long sandy 102 beach located on the eastern side of the Bay of Douarnenez (48° 10.22' N, 4° 17.775' W) that has been 103 impacted by GT every year since the 1970s due to the presence of intensive agricultural areas in the 104 neighboring catchment (Perrot et al., 2014). These two beaches have a similar mean breaking-wave height (1.4 m) and mean tidal regimes (6.5 m), which classify them as ultra-dissipative. Both also are characterized 105 106 by fine sand, gentle slopes (1.5%) and wide intertidal zones (up to 500 m during spring tides). These 107 similarities allow them to be compared in relation to the presence or absence of GT (Ouillien et al., 2018). All the environmental parameters that describe the morphology, sediment and overlaying water at each site 108 109 (Table S1) were retrieved from Quillien et al. (2015a, 2015b).

110 The GT at the Im site have been surveyed every month from April-October since 2007 (until 111 present) by the CEVA (Centre d'Etude et de Valorisation des Algues), using aerial overflight and field sampling, and in November 2012 by the authors of this study. These regular surveys led to the state of the 112 113 Bay of Douarnenez being classified as "poor" for the opportunistic macroalgae index of the European Union 114 Water Framework Directive in a 2012-2017 evaluation (Atlas DCE Loire-Bretagne, IGN/SHOM/Ifremer). 115 Based on the total area (ha) of the intertidal zone covered by green macroalgae calculated by the CEVA, 116 temporal dynamics of the GT has been characterized at the Im site in 2012 (Fig. 2). The period before June, with low Ulva cover, was considered "Pre GT". The period from June to mid-July, with peak Ulva cover, 117 118 was considered "Peak GT". Finally, the two periods from mid-July to October and after October, with 119 decreasing Ulva cover and little to no Ulva cover, respectively, were considered "Post GT1" and "Post 120 GT2", respectively (Fig. 2). The four periods identified at the Im site were also applied to the NIm site.

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122 *2.2. Sampling*

123 Macroinvertebrates, representing the flatfish prey reservoir, were sampled once during the 2012 Pre 124 GT (early May), Peak GT (early July), Post GT1 (early September) and Post GT2 (early November) periods 125 at both sites during low tide. To determine macroinvertebrate composition and abundance, nine replicate 126 sediment cores were randomly sampled on each sampling date along the NIm and Im beaches using a tube 127 corer (total area = 0.09 m^2). Samples were then sieved (1 mm mesh size) to retrieve the macroinvertebrates, 128 which were preserved in 4% buffered formalin (Ouillien et al., 2018). Later at the lab, the sediment samples 129 were sorted, and the macroinvertebrates were identified to the lowest taxonomic level (usually species) and counted to determine their abundance. To consider potential intra-site variability in macroinvertebrate 130 131 isotopic compositions, infaunal organisms were sampled at three points along each beach (min 500 m 132 between each point) by digging up organisms from the sand and sieving large volumes of sediment (ca. 4 133 L) with a 1 mm mesh sieve. Vagile epibenthic organisms were caught along each beach using a dip net. 134 Later at the lab, these organisms were sorted and identified before being stored at -20°C for stable isotope 135 analysis (Quillien et al., 2016).

Flatfish were sampled during the day at rising tide, using a beach trawl (5 m wide, 0.3 m high, with an 8 mm stretched mesh net in the cod-end) developed by <u>Quiniou (1986)</u>. The beach trawl was towed at least once along each beach by two operators in 50 cm deep water, sampling an area of 400-1300 m² (Quillien et al., 2018). The flatfish were identified on site to the species level, counted and individually measured (total length). A subsample was collected for digestive tract analysis and preserved in 4% buffered formalin, while a second subsample was collected for stable isotope analysis and preserved at -20°C. The remaining flatfish were immediately released after being counted and measured. Only a limited number of

- 143 fish could be collected according to the regulations of the National Marine Park of the Iroise Sea, where the
- study sites are located.



146 Figure 2. Monthly intertidal cover (%) of green macroalgae from April-November 2012 at the site impacted 147 by green tides (GT), calculated as the percentage of the intertidal zone covered by the sum of the beach area covered by stranded macroalgae and the area of the breaking-wave zone with macroalgae. The temporal GT 148 149 pattern at the impacted site is divided into four periods: the period before the GT (Pre GT), the peak GT 150 period (Peak GT) and two periods after the GT (Post GT1 and Post GT2). Data come from the Centre 151 d'Etude et de Valorisation des Algues. White, light gray and dark gray bands indicate the settlement periods of P. platessa, S. maximus and P. lascaris, respectively, in the coastal nurseries of the Bay of Douarnenez 152 (Déniel, 1981). 153

154 Since P. lascaris juveniles stay in the intertidal zone for up to two years (Déniel, 1981), individuals at both sites were sampled during the four GT periods, as reported by Quillien et al. (2018). Conversely, we 155 did not sample P. platessa during Post GT2, since juveniles had already moved to deeper waters, or S. 156 157 maximus during Pre GT, since larvae only arrive in June (Déniel, 1981). Consequently, we restricted 158 temporal investigation of the effects of GT on juvenile flatfish trophic ecology to P. lascaris and investigated 159 species-specific effects of GT only during Peak GT, when all three species were sampled at both sites. All 160 P. platessa and S. maximus sampled during Peak GT were categorized as young-of-the-year (G0) based on 161 a total length less than 130 mm and 110 mm, respectively (Déniel, 1981). During Post GT2, we sampled 162 G0 P. lascaris (total length \leq 90 mm) that had settled in 2012, while during Pre GT, the G0 P. lascaris 163 sampled (total length \leq 90 mm) had settled in 2011 (Déniel, 1981; Quillien et al., 2018). During Peak GT 164 and Post GT1, we sampled G0 (total length \leq 90 mm) and G1 (total length > 90 mm) *P. lascaris* that had 165 settled in 2012 and 2011, respectively.

166

167 *2.3. Sample preparation and analyses*

For the stable isotope analysis, muscle tissue was sampled for large prey species (bivalves, 168 169 echinoderms, some polychaetes) and the flatfish, while for the smallest prey species, pooled individuals (5-170 300 individuals), from which the gut had been removed, were used. For small echinoderms and crustaceans 171 that contained calcium carbonate, a subsample was acidified (10% HCl) and used to determine carbon 172 isotopic compositions, while a second subsample was kept intact and used to determine nitrogen isotopic 173 compositions. All samples were then rinsed with Milli-Q water, oven-dried (48 h at 60°C), ground to powder 174 and encapsulated in ultra-clean tin capsules. Isotope ratios of carbon and nitrogen were reported using the 175 standard δ notation of parts per thousand (‰) relative to international reference standards: $\delta X =$ $[(R_{sample}/R_{reference}) - 1] \times 1000$, where $X = {}^{13}C$ or ${}^{15}N$, and $R = {}^{13}C:{}^{12}C$ or ${}^{15}N:{}^{14}N$. Vienna-Pee Dee 176 177 Belemnite limestone and atmospheric nitrogen were used as reference standards for carbon and nitrogen, 178 respectively. The analytical precision for both carbon and nitrogen was < 0.1%. Full description of the 179 stable isotope analysis is available in Quillien et al. (2016). According to laboratory studies, juvenile white 180 fish muscle has an average isotopic turnover rate between a few days and a few weeks, depending on 181 temperature and growth rate (Bosley et al., 2002; Suzuki et al., 2005).

To characterize the flatfish prey, individuals were dissected, their digestive tract (stomach + gut) was fixed in 4% buffered formalin and the organisms present were identified to the lowest taxonomic level using a binocular magnifier. Some prey items were in an advanced phase of digestion (*e.g.* polychaetes), which limited our ability to identify them beyond their order.

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188 *2.4. Data analyses*

189 <u>2.4.1. Potential flatfish prey</u>

190 The macroinvertebrates considered as potential flatfish prey were grouped into "tropho-orders" 191 according to (1) their dominant trophic group (carnivore = CAR, omnivore = OMN, deposit feeder = DF or 192 suspension feeder = SF) following Fauchald and Jumars (1979), Guerra-García et al. (2014), Jumars et al. 193 (2015), Navarro-Barranco et al. (2013), Quillien et al. (2018) and online trait databases (*i.e.* Marine Species 194 Identification Portal, MarLIN, BIOTIC) and (2) their taxonomic order in the World Register of Marine 195 Species (http://www.marinespecies.org). The taxa included in each tropho-order and according to each 196 dataset (stable isotope, benthic community and digestive tract data sets) are shown in Table S2. Because 197 spatio-temporal changes in the isotopic composition of a consumer can be traced to the isotopic composition 198 of its assimilated prey (Nielsen et al., 2018; Yeakel et al., 2011), we tested the combined effect of time and 199 GT (2 sites: NIm and Im) on the δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N of the tropho-orders for which we had sufficient data (n \geq 3) 200 for each site, Table S3). Depending on the tropho-order, we performed one-way Type II analysis of variance 201 (ANOVA) with one period and the two sites or two-way crossed ANOVAS (Type II or III) with multiple 202 periods and the two sites using the 'car' package of R software version 3.4.0 (R Core Team, 2019). Type II 203 or III ANOVAs were used to account for the unequal sample sizes of each group, and their results were 204 reported if the interaction term was non-significant or significant, respectively (Shaw and Mitchell-Olds, 205 1993). If an interaction term was significant, Tukey HSD post-hoc tests were performed using the 'lsmeans' 206 package. For each model, residuals were checked visually for normality using a histogram and for 207 homoscedasticity by plotting them against the fitted values.

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209 2.4.2. Trophic ecology description and comparisons of trophic metrics

To test if the δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N of G0 and G1 *P. lascaris* were significantly different according to time 210 211 (four periods: Pre GT, Peak GT, Post GT1 and Post GT2) and GT (2 sites: NIm and Im), we performed 212 multiple pairwise comparisons (t-tests) using a permutation procedure and the Hommel p-value adjustment 213 method for multiple tests ('rcompanion' package). Multiple pairwise comparisons were chosen instead of 214 ANOVA because G1 and G0 P. lascaris were sampled only during certain periods ("missing cells"). 215 Permutation tests are non-parametric tests that address observations that are not normally distributed, which 216 was the case for several groups (Legendre and Legendre, 2012). The Hommel adjustment method was 217 chosen because it controls for family-wise error, does not assume that observations are normally distributed 218 and is more powerful than Holm's and Hochberg's adjustment methods (Shaffer, 1995). Finally, for 219 permutation tests with unequal sample sizes and unequal variances, a p-value of 0.05 is too liberal only if 220 the group with the smaller sample size has the larger variance (Mewhort et al., 2009), which never occurred 221 in our data. Consequently, a p-value of 0.05 was chosen without the risk of increasing Type I error. The

same procedure was used to test if the δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N of flatfish were significantly different according to group (G0 *P. lascaris*, G0 *P. platessa*, G0 *S. maximus* and G1 *P. lascaris*) and GT (2 sites: NIm and Im) during Peak GT. All differences in results were considered significant at $\alpha = 0.05$.

225 The digestive tract data were used to calculate each flatfish group's (a combination of site, period, 226 species and age-class) vacuity rate (percentage of digestive tracts that were empty) and to characterize its 227 diet according to each tropho-order's frequency of occurrence (percentage of digestive tracts in which the 228 tropho-order was found) and relative abundance (percentage of tropho-order prey items out of total prey 229 items). We also used the digestive tract data to measure the dietary similarity (DS) of two flatfish groups by 230 calculating their proportional similarity index (Schoener, 1970), as recommended by Wallace (1981). DS was calculated as 1-0.5 ($\sum |p_{xi} - p_{yi}|$), where p_{xi} and p_{yi} are the mean proportions of tropho-order i ingested 231 232 by group x and y, respectively and standardized between 0 and 1 ('spaa' package) with 1 indicating perfect 233 dietary similarity.

The macroinvertebrates (potential prey) were sampled a few weeks before the flatfish (their 234 235 predators) at each period. Consequently, the flatfish white muscle isotopic composition of a given period 236 reflect that of their prey sampled at the same given period. To visualize potential trophic changes (isotopic 237 niche width and position relative to tropho-orders) of P. lascaris (G0 and G1) in time and relative to the 238 GT, δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N of macroinvertebrate tropho-orders and *P. lascaris* at both sites (NIm and Im) were 239 plotted for each of the four GT periods. To represent each group's total isotopic niche width, we added the convex hull polygons which encompass all the δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N of each *P. lascaris* group (Layman et al., 240 2007). We chose to represent the convex hull polygons instead of the standard ellipse area because it is 241 easier to visualize on figures. The same kind of figure was plotted to visualize potential trophic changes in 242 243 the four co-occurring flatfish groups (G0 P. lascaris, G0 P. platessa, G0 S. maximus and G1 P. lascaris) 244 during Peak GT.

245 The standard ellipse area corrected for small sample sizes (SEA_c) developed by Jackson et al. (2011) 246 and the diet richness (number of prey tropho-orders) were calculated ('SIAR' and 'SIBER' packages) to estimate the isotopic niche width and diet niche width, respectively, of each flatfish group (population level). 247 The SEA_C (strictly positive, $\%^2$), which encompasses 40% of the isotopic compositions of each flatfish 248 249 group, was preferred to Layman's convex hull (Layman et al., 2007) because extreme isotopic compositions 250 bias it less (Brind'Amour and Dubois, 2013). This metric provides information on the level of isotopic prey 251 diversity assimilated by a flatfish group during a given period function of the isotopic turnover rate, without 252 providing any information on the intra-individual trophic diversity (*i.e.* individual specialization). To 253 compare the size of two flatfish groups' SEA_Cs, we considered their Bayesian distributions (Jackson et al., 254 2011) and calculated the probability that one SEA_C was smaller or larger than the other SEA_C ('SIAR' and 255 'SIBER' packages). Furthermore, to help interpret variations in flatfish isotopic niches, we calculated the 256 potential prey isotopic niches (macroinvertebrate SEA_C), excluding CAR-Nemerta (Table S2), CAR-other

257 (*Planaria* sp.) and DF-other (*Orbinia* sp.) because species of these tropho-orders were never mentioned in

studies of the diet of *P. lascaris*, *P. platessa* or *S. maximus* (e.g. Amara et al., 2001; Beyst et al., 1999;

259 Cabral et al., 2002).

260 Finally, we estimated the amount of potential prev isotopic diversity assimilated by a flatfish group 261 as the ratio of a flatfish group's SEA_C to the macroinvertebrate SEA_C (SEA_C ratio), expressed as a 262 percentage. Following Kempf et al. (2008), we also calculated the proportional similarity index (Schoener, 263 1970) between the digestive tract contents of a flatfish group and the benthic community to measure the 264 extent to which a flatfish group used the potential prey community (benthic community dataset in Table 265 S2). This measure, which we termed the dietary opportunism index (DO), was calculated as 1-0.5 ($\sum |p_{ii}|$ q_i), where p_{ii} is the mean proportion of the jth tropho-order in the ith flatfish group and q_i is the mean 266 proportion of the jth tropho-order in the sediment, and standardized between 0 and 1 ('spaa' package). A 267 268 group has either opportunistic foraging behavior (DO close to 1) or selective foraging behavior (DO close 269 to 0).

270

271 **3. Results**

272 *3.1. Isotopic compositions of the flatfish potential prey (macroinvertebrates)*

Across sites and periods, δ^{13} C of macroinvertebrate tropho-orders ranged from -24‰ to -16‰ and δ^{15} N ranged from 4 to 15‰. Despite no statistical testing, primary consumers (SF and DF) had the lowest δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N, secondary consumers (CAR) had the highest values, and OMN had intermediate and often highly variable values across sites and periods (Fig. 3, Table S3).

277 Seven of the nine tropho-orders investigated presented significantly higher mean $\delta^{13}C$ at the Im than 278 at the NIm site. The two bivalve tropho-orders, SF- and DF-Cardiida, presented this signal during all four 279 periods or from Peak GT-Post GT2, respectively. All the CAR tropho-orders investigated also presented it, 280 either during all four periods (Phyllodocida, Ophiurida) or during Peak GT and Post GT1 (Decapoda). 281 OMN-Decapoda did not present this signal during Peak GT or Post GT1, and DF-Cumacea did not present 282 it during Peak GT; conversely, DF-Sabellida did present it from Pre GT-Post GT1. Five of the nine trophoorders showed no significant difference in mean δ^{15} N between sites. CAR-Phyllodocida and DF-Cardiida 283 presented significantly lower mean δ^{15} N at the Im than at the NIm site, while the opposite was observed for 284 285 CAR-Ophiurida. SF-Cardiida presented significantly higher mean δ^{15} N at the Im than at the NIm site during 286 Pre GT, Post GT1 and Post GT2 but not during Peak GT.



Figure 3. δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N (‰) of *Pegusa lascaris* age class 0 (blacklined circles) and age class 1 (black lined squares) at the sandy beach not impacted by green tides (orange, NIm site) and the sandy beach impacted

by green tides (green, Im site) during the four green tide periods (Pre GT, Peak GT, Post GT1 and Post GT2), with the corresponding convex hulls (orange and green polygons for the NIm and Im site, respectively). The δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N of the macroinvertebrates sampled at the same site and period are represented using a combination of color (site and trophic group) and symbol (tropho-order). The orange and green diamonds represent the centroid of the macroinvertebrate community at the NIm and Im sites, respectively. CAR = carnivore, OMN = omnivore, DF = deposit feeder, SF = suspension feeder.

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3.2. Species-specific trophic ecology during Peak GT and changes linked to GT

298 3.2.1. Flatfish isotopic compositions and associated metrics

During the Peak GT, the isotopic composition of flatfish ranged from -20.2‰ to -16‰ for δ^{13} C and from 10.4‰ to 13.5‰ for δ^{15} N (Figs. 4A and 5). At the NIm site, the flatfish groups had similar mean δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N with variable ranges (Figs. 4A and 5). Two inter-group differences were significant: G1 *P. lascaris* had significantly higher δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N than *P. platessa* (t-stat = 2.92, adj. p = 0.03) and *S. maximus* (t-stat = 3.35, adj. p = 0.01), respectively. Age-class 0 *P. lascaris* had the widest isotopic niche (SEA_C), followed by *S. maximus*, G1 *P. lascaris*, and then *P. platessa* (Bayesian probabilities > 0.83).





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Figure 4. Mean and standard deviation of the δ^{13} C of (A) age class 0 *P. lascaris* (circles) and age class 1 *P. lascaris* (squares) during the four green tide periods (Pre GT, Peak GT, Post GT1 and Post GT2) and (B) age class 0 flatfish (circles) and age class 1 flatfish (squares) during the peak green tide period at the sandy beach not impacted by green tides (yellow) and the sandy beach impacted by green tides (green).



313 Figure 5. δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N (‰) of age class 0 (blacklined circles) and age class 1 (blacklined squares) of the three flatfish species at the sandy beach not impacted by green tides (orange, NIm site) and the sandy beach 314 impacted by green tides (green, Im site) during the peak green tide period, with the corresponding convex 315 hulls (orange and green polygons for the NIm and Im site, respectively). The δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N of the 316 317 macroinvertebrates sampled at the same site at the beginning of the peak green tide period are represented 318 using a combination of color (site and trophic group) and symbol (tropho-order). The orange and green 319 diamonds represent the centroid of the macroinvertebrate community at the NIm and Im sites, respectively. 320 CAR = carnivore, OMN = omnivore, DF = deposit feeder, SF = suspension-feeder.

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At the Im site, G1 *P. lascaris* had significantly higher mean δ^{13} C than *S. maximus* (t-stat = 3.62, adj. p = 0.005) and *P. platessa* (t-stat = 3.22, adj. p = 0.02). All other inter-group differences were non-significant for both δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N. *S. maximus* had a wider isotopic niche than the two other groups (probabilities > 0.97), followed by *P. platessa* and then G1 *P. lascaris* (Table 1), with somewhat weaker evidence for *P. platessa* having a wider isotopic niche than G1 *P. lascaris* (probability = 0.76).

None of the flatfish groups presented a similar change in their isotopic metrics at both sites, except in their mean $\delta^{15}N$, which did not differ significantly between sites. Only *P. lascaris* and *P. platessa* presented significantly higher mean $\delta^{13}C$ at the Im than at the NIm site for the same age class (Table 1) and different age classes (*P. lascaris*: t-stat = 3.88 adj. p = 0.002). There was strong evidence that *P. platessa* and *S. maximus* had a wider isotopic niche at the Im than at the NIm site and that *P. lascaris* had a narrower isotopic niche at the Im than at the NIm site (Table 1).

	_		l	NIm				Im		Bayesian	
Age class	Species	n	TL (mm)	Mean δ ¹³ C (‰)	SEA _c (‰²)	n	TL (mm)	Mean δ ¹³ C (‰)	SEA _c (‰²)	probability flatfish SEA (Im) < SEA (NIm)	t-stat (adj. p)
G0	P. lascaris	10	18- 88	-19.1	2.21	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
G1	P. lascaris	6	95- 115	-18.5	0.48	9	100- 156	-16.4	0.28	0.80	3.65 (0.004)
G0	P. platessa	5	71- 77	-19.5	0.08	5	69- 88	-17.5	0.49	0.005	2.91 (0.04)
G0	S. maximus	10	24- 56	-18.4	0.67	16	23- 70	-17.8	1.25	0.11	1.69 (0.4)

Table 1. Sample size (n), total length (TL, mm), mean δ^{13} C (‰), and the standard ellipse area corrected for small sample sizes (SEA_C) for age class 0 (G0) and 1 (G1) *Pegusa lascaris* and age class 0 (G0) *Pleuronectes platessa* and *Scophthalmus maximus* at the sandy beach not impacted by green tides (NIm) and the sandy beach impacted by green tides (Im) during the peak green tide period. The Bayesian probability comparing the Bayesian SEA of each flatfish group at the two sites and the result of inter-site pairwise comparisons (t statistic and adjusted p-value) of the δ^{13} C are also shown.

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340 3.2.2. Flatfish digestive tract contents and associated metrics

During Peak GT, we identified 15 tropho-orders in the digestive tracts of the flatfish groups.
Bivalves (SF, *Donax* spp.), crustaceans (OMN, *e.g. Gammarus crinicornis* and DF, *e.g. Bathyporeia* sp., *Urothoe* sp., Cumacea) and polychaetes (CAR, *e.g. Nephtys* sp., *Glycera* sp. and DF *e.g. Spiophanes bombyx*, *Owenia fusiformis*) were the main prey of *P. lascaris*, *P. platessa* and *S. maximus*. *Ulva* spp. was
never identified in the digestive tracts (Tables 2).

At the NIm site, SF-Cardiida was the most frequent (> 75%) and abundant (> 70%) prey in the diet of G1 *P. lascaris* and *P. platessa*. DF-Cumacea and DF-Amphipoda were the most frequent prey in the diet of G0 *P. lascaris* (95%) and *S. maximus* (73%), respectively. DF-Cumacea was also a frequent prey for *P. platessa* (79%) and G1 *P. lascaris* (50%), while SF-Cardiida was the second most frequent prey in the diet of *S. maximus* (64%) and G0 *P. lascaris* (40%) (Table 2). *S. maximus* and G0 *P. lascaris* had the highest prey richness (8), while *P. platessa* and G1 *P. lascaris* had a lower prey richness (Table 2). All groups had a low diet similarity with the benthic community (DO < 0.15).

At the Im site, DF-Cumacea was the most frequent and abundant prey in the diet of *P. lascaris* and *S. maximus* (Table 2). Other crustaceans were also abundant prey for these species (> 21%), mainly amphipods (DF and OMN) for *P. lascaris* and DF-Amphipoda and OMN-Mysida for *S. maximus*. OMN-Amphipoda and SF-Cardiida were the most abundant (32%) and frequent (94%) prey, respectively, in the diet of *P. platessa* (Table 2). DF-Cumacea was also frequent prey in the diet of *P. platessa* (50%). *P. platessa* and *P. lascaris* had higher prey richness than *S. maximus*. Overall, the groups had intermediate diet similarities with the benthic community (DO > 0.34) (Table 2).

All three flatfish groups had higher DO at the Im than at the NIm site. They also relied less on SF-Cardiida and more on a range of DF and OMN crustaceans, with species-specific differences (Table 2). *P. lascaris* (G1) and *S. maximus* had vastly different diets between the two sites (DS < 0.13), while that of *P. platessa* differed less between sites (DS = 0.52). *P. lascaris* and *P. platessa* had higher prey richness at the Im than at the NIm site, while *S. maximus* had a lower prey richness (Table 2).

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	Peak GT										
Species and age class	P. las	s G0	P. la	s Gl	P. pl	a G0	S. ma	x G0	P. la	s G0	
Total length (mm)	41-	87	101-	120	53-	82	36-	91	34-	89	
n (vacuity rate, %)	20 (0)%)	4 (0)%)	14 (0%)	11 (0%)	19 (1	7%)	
NIm site	0	А	0	Α	0	А	0	А	0	Α	
CAR-Eunicida	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.1	0.2	0	0	
CAR-Perciformes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CAR-Phyllodocida*	5.0	0.1	0	0	21.4	0.9	9.1	0.2	5.3	0.1	
DF-Amphipoda	25.0	0.8	0	0	0	0	72.7	6.7	10.5	2.4	
DF-Cumacea#	95.0	77.3	50.0	3.6	78.6	27.4	45.4	2.5	84.2	27.9	
DF-Other	20.0	2.1	0	0	14.3	0.7	0	0	5.3	0.6	
DF-Sabellida*	0	0	25.0	0.7	0	0	0	0	5.3	0.1	
DF-Spatangoida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.3	0.6	
DF-Spionida	5.0	0.3	0	0	7.1	0.7	0	0	10.5	1.5	
OMN-Amphipoda	5.0	0.1	0	0	0	0	27.3	1.1	10.5	1.8	
OMN-Decapoda#	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.1	0.2	0	0	
OMN-Isopoda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
OMN-Mysida	0	0	0	0	0	0	27.3	3.4	5.3	0.6	
OMN-Other	5.0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SF-Cardiida*	40.0	19.1	75.0	95.7	100	70.2	63.6	85.5	47.4	64.2	
Richness		8		3		5		8		10	
DO		0.14		0.11		0.15		0.13		0.32	
Total length (mm)			93-	141	70-	91	25-	-79	43-	67	
n (vacuity rate, %)	0		9 (0%)		16 (0%)		15 (0%)		10 (2	9%)	
Im site			0	Α	0	А	0	А	0	Α	
CAR-Eunicida			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CAR-Perciformes			0	0	0	0	6.7	0.9	0	0	
CAR-Phyllodocida*			0	0	25.0	6.9	6.7	0.3	10.0	0.1	
DF-Amphipoda			77.8	21.2	31.2	5.9	73.3	23.8	60.0	6.5	
DF-Cumacea#			88.9	44.8	50.0	25.8	73.3	49.4	20.0	0.5	
DF-Other			11.1	2.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
DF-Sabellida*			0	0	0	0	0	0	10.0	0.1	
DF-Spatangoida			0	0	6.2	1.6	0	0	0	0	
DF-Spionida			22.2	0.8	12.5	0.6	0	0	10.0	0.2	
OMN-Amphipoda			22.2	22.0	25.0	32.0	0	0	0	0	
OMN-Decapoda#			11.1	0.4	0	0	13.3	0.3	10.0	0.4	
OMN-Isopoda			22.2	1.2	6.2	0.6	0	0	0	0	
OMN-Mysida			11.1	6.0	18.7	2.0	46.7	25.2	0	0	
OMN-Other			11.1	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SF-Cardiida*			11.1	0.8	93.7	24.5	0	0	50.0	92.1	
Richness				10		9		6		7	

	DO	0.40	0.34	0.35	0.69
369	Table 2. Sample size (n), total length (TL, mm),	vacuity rate (%),	frequency of c	occurrence (O,	%) and
370	relative abundance (A, %) of tropho-orders identit	ified in age class	0 (G0) and ag	e class 1 (G1)	flatfish
371	(Pegusa lascaris (P. las), Pleuronectes platessa (P	P. pla) and Scopht	halmus maximu	s (S. max)) sar	npled at
372	the sandy beach not impacted by green tides (NIm	site) and the san	dy beach impac	ted by green ti	ides (Im
373	site) during the peak green tide (Peak GT) and the	second post-greer	-tide (Post GT2	e) periods. The	number
374	of tropho-orders (richness) and the dietary opportun	nism index (DO) a	are also shown.	Tropho-orders	marked
375	with * had significantly higher $\delta^{13}C$ at the Im than	at the NIm site (p	< 0.05 for the 1	main site effect	t), while
376	those marked with # had $\delta^{13}C$ that did not differ sig	gnificantly betwee	en the two sites	(p > 0.05 for t)	he main
377	site effect).				

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379 3.3. Temporal changes in the trophic ecology of P. lascaris and changes linked to GT

380 3.3.1. <u>P. lascaris isotopic compositions and associated metrics</u>

At the NIm site, G0 individuals were sampled during all four periods, but G1 were sampled only during Peak GT. At the Im site, G0 individuals were sampled during Pre GT, Post GT1 and Post GT2, while G1 were sampled during Peak GT and Post GT1 (Table 3). The isotopic composition of *P. lascaris* (G0 and G1) ranged from -20.2‰ to -16‰ for δ^{13} C and from 10.8‰ to 13.5‰ for δ^{15} N (Fig. 3). During Peak GT (NIm site) and Post GT1 (Im site), G1 had a narrower isotopic niche (SEA_C) than G0 (probabilities > 0.99). Age-class G1 also had higher δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N than G0 (but not significantly so) (Figs. 3 and 4B) and lower SEA_C ratios than G0 (Table 3).

At the NIm site, G0 *P. lascaris* had the highest mean δ^{13} C during Pre GT (Fig. 4B), a difference that was significant only when compared to Post GT2 values (t-stat = 3.51, adj. p = 0.012), and the highest mean δ^{15} N during Pre GT and Post GT2 (but not significantly so). The SEA_C of G0 *P. lascaris* increased from Pre GT to Peak GT, and decreased from Post GT1 to Post GT2, with maximum values measured during Peak GT and Post GT1. The SEA_C ratio followed the same trend (Table 3).

At the Im site, *P. lascaris* had the highest δ^{13} C during Peak GT (Fig. 4B). The differences were significant when compared to the values from all other periods (adj. p < 0.015), except for G1 during Post GT1 (t-stat = 2.77, adj. p = 0.09). *P. lascaris* had the highest mean δ^{15} N during Pre GT and Post GT2 (Fig. 3). The only significant differences were between Pre GT and Peak GT values (t-stat = 3.31, adj. p = 0.03) and between Pre GT and Post GT1 (G0) values (t-stat = 3.41, adj. p = 0.03).

					NIm						Im			— Bavesian	
Age class	Period	n	TL (mm)	Mean δ ¹³ C (‰)	Flatfish SEA _C (‰²)	Macro invert. SEA_C $(\%^2)$	SEA _C ratio (%)	n	TL (mm)	Mean δ ¹³ C (‰)	Flatfish SEA _C (‰²)	Macro invert. SEA _C (‰²)	SEA _C ratio (%)	probability SEA (Im) < SEA (NIm)	t-stat (adj. p)
G0	Pre GT	6	65-79	-18.1	0.31	6.87	4.5	8	35-80	-17.8	0.18	5.62	3.20	0.84	2.21 (0.3)
G0	Peak GT	10	18-88	-19.1	2.21	8.06	27.4	0	NA	NA	NA	8.04	NA	NA	NA
G1	Peak GT	6	95- 115	-18.5	0.48	8.06	5.6	9	100- 156	-16.4	0.28	8.04	3.50	0.80	3.65 (0.008)
G0	Post GT1	9	17-69	-18.9	1.94	6.25	31.0	34	9-90	-17.6	0.75	2.80	26.80	0.99	3.07 (0.04)
G1	Post GT1	0	NA	NA	NA	6.25	NA	6	119- 162	-16.8	0.26	2.80	9.30	NA	NA
G0	Post GT2	14	26-85	-19.0	0.28	4.16	6.7	5	48-64	-17.7	0.05	2.14	2.3	0.96	3.93 (0.003)

Table 3. Sample size (n), total length (TL, mm), mean δ^{13} C (‰), and the standard ellipse area corrected for small sample sizes (SEA_C) for age class 0 (G0) and age class 1 (G1) *Pegusa lascaris* and the macroinvertebrate community (macroinvert.) at the sandy beach not impacted by green tides (NIm) and the sandy beach impacted by green tides (Im) during the four green tide periods (Pre GT, Peak GT, Post GT1 and Post GT2). The ratio of the SEA_C of *P. lascaris* to the macroinvertebrate SEA_C, the Bayesian probability comparing the Bayesian SEA of *P. lascaris* at the two sites, and inter-site pairwise comparisons (t statistic and adjusted p-value) of the δ^{13} C are also shown.

404 The SEA_C was low during all four periods, except for G0 during Post GT1. The SEA_C ratio was lowest 405 during Pre GT, Peak GT and Post GT2, with higher values during Post GT1 (Table 3).

During all four periods, there was strong evidence for *P. lascaris* having a narrower isotopic niche (SEA_C) at the Im than at the NIm site when comparing the same age class (Table 3) and different age classes (Peak GT probability = 1.00, Post GT1 probability = 0.99). From Peak GT-Post GT2, *P. lascaris* presented a significantly higher mean δ^{13} C at the Im than at the NIm site when comparing the same age class (Table 3) and different age classes (Peak GT t-stat = 3.88 adj. p = 0.004, Post GT1 t-stat = 3.07 adj. p = 0.04). No significant inter-site differences were observed in mean δ^{15} N for *P. lascaris*, although δ^{15} N for G1 were lower at the Im than at the NIm site during Peak GT (Fig. 3).

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3.3.2. <u>P. lascaris digestive tract contents and associated metrics</u>

During Peak GT, only G1 were sampled at the Im site, while G0 and G1 were sampled at the NIm site. During Post GT2, G0 were sampled at both sites. We identified 13 tropho-orders in the digestive tracts of *P. lascaris*. The main prey of *P. lascaris* were bivalves (SF), crustaceans (OMN and DF) and polychaetes (CAR and DF). *Ulva* spp. was never identified in the digestive tracts (Tables 2).

419 At the NIm site, SF-Cardiida was the most frequent (75%) and abundant prey (96%) in the G1 diet 420 during Peak GT. DF-Cumacea was the most frequent and abundant prey (>77%) in the G0 diet during the 421 same period (Table 2), resulting in a low diet similarity between age-class (DS = 0.23). Age-class G1 422 consumed a much lower diversity of tropho-orders than G0, and the diet of both age classes had a low 423 similarity with the benthic community (DO \leq 0.14). During Post GT2, DF-Cumacea and SF-Cardiida were 424 the most frequent (84%) and abundant prey (64%) in the G0 diet, respectively. P. lascaris consumed a 425 higher diversity of tropho-orders and had a slightly higher diet similarity with the benthic community then 426 during Peak GT (Table 2).

427 At the Im site, DF-Cumacea was the most frequent (89%) and abundant prey (45%) in the G1 diet 428 during Peak GT. DF-Amphipoda was also a frequent prey (78%). During Post GT2, SF-Cardiida and DF-429 Amphipoda were the most abundant (92%) and frequent prey (60%) of G0, respectively. *P. lascaris* had 430 lower prey richness and higher DO during Post GT2 than Peak GT (Table 2).

During Peak GT and Post GT2, *P. lascaris* had higher DO at the Im than at the NIm site (Table 2). Inter-site differences were period-specific for the other diet metrics. During Peak GT, G1 switched from a diet dominated in abundance by SF-Cardiida (96%) to a diet dominated by DF-Cumacea (45%) and Amphipoda (21-22%), resulting in a very low inter-site diet similarity (DS = 0.04). The dietary change was smaller for G0 at the NIm site, and the inter-site diet similarity was higher (DS = 0.49). Regardless of the age class, *P. lascaris* had higher prey richness at the Im than at the NIm site. During Post GT2, the abundance of SF-Cardiida in the diet of *P. lascaris* was higher at the Im site (92%) than at the NIm (64%), and the diet similarity was high (DS = 0.68). Age-class G0 had lower prey richness at the Im than at the NIm site (Table
2).

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441 **4. Discussion**

442 We presented data for juvenile flatfish and their potential prey (benthic macroinvertebrates) sampled 443 at one sandy beach that has never been impacted by GT (NIm site) and another that has been impacted by 444 GT every year since the 1970s (Im site) (Perrot et al., 2014), separated by 20 km. Since juvenile flatfish 445 have high fidelity for their nursery, moving alongshore no more than 4 km over the course of several months 446 (Burrows et al., 1994; Le Pape and Cognez, 2016; Riley, 1973), movement between the two beaches should 447 be non-existent, preventing any potential mixing of individuals. Among the environmental parameters 448 measured by Quillien et al. (2015a) in 2012, algal mat density, organic matter content and two sediment 449 characteristics (median grain size and sorting index) were the only ones that differed significantly between 450 the two sites. According to these authors, these two beaches generally have fine and well-sorted sediment 451 with less than 6% organic matter (low effect sizes, Table S1). Since algal mat density had the largest effect 452 size (Ouillien et al., 2015a), we considered GT to be the main effect explaining the changes in juvenile 453 flatfish trophic ecology observed between sites. Nonetheless, these changes could also be due to parameters 454 that were not measured, such as nutrient concentrations, which differ between the inshore waters of the two 455 beaches studied (Dussauze and Menesguen, 2008) and generally cause coastal eutrophication and associated 456 GT (Cloern, 2001; Teichberg et al., 2010).

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458 *4.1. Relating consumer isotopic compositions and niche to diet data*

Determining accurate proportions of prey in a predator's diet using isotopic compositions is especially challenging when the predator has a diversified diet and its potential prey have similar isotopic compositions (Yeakel et al., 2011), like in this study and others (Déniel, 1974; Kostecki et al., 2012; Rodriguez, 1996). According to the optimal foraging theory (Gill, 2003), juvenile flatfish are most likely to consume organisms that maximize their energy gain relative to the capture effort. Such organisms are expected to be highly vulnerable and energy-rich macroinvertebrates with relatively high *in situ* abundances (Table S4).

Furthermore, comparing flatfish isotopic niche width and digestive tract data can help assess the accuracy of the diet results, which may be biased by predator feeding time (*e.g.* nocturnal feeding, but diurnal sampling) and prey digestibility (Baker et al., 2014). For example, prey with hard structures (*e.g.* bivalves, crustaceans) are identifiable for a longer period than prey with softer structures (*e.g.* polychaetes) (Macdonald et al., 1982). According to Yeakel et al. (2016), a consumer's isotopic niche width (SEA_C) is a function of the isotopic distribution of its potential prey and its dietary strategy (*i.e.* degree of specialization). This relation holds for a given isotopic space that encompasses all potential prey available to the consumer (macroinvertebrate SEA_C) and when the individuals in the consumer group have close mean isotopic compositions (isotopic variance lower than *ca*. 2‰). In a static framework, a consumer's SEA_C is predicted to peak when it is moderately specialized on prey that have a large offset; the offset being calculated as the prey isotopic mean minus the centroid of the potential prey mixing space (Layman et al., 2007). In a temporal framework, the SEA_C of a consumer group is expected to peak during gradual diet transitions.

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479 *4.2. Juvenile flatfish trophic ecology in a non-impacted sandy beach nursery*

480 4.2.1. <u>Species-specific trophic ecology during Peak GT</u>

During Peak GT, *P. platessa* foraged on a low diversity of tropho-orders (5), and all individuals consumed SF-Cardiida (high specialization *sensus* Yeakel et al. (2016)), a tropho-order relatively close to the potential prey centroid in the isotopic niche space (low offset). In this case, the isotopic niche of *P. platessa* should be narrow (Yeakel et al., 2016), as we observed. In the Mont Saint Michel Bay and Wadden Sea, *P. platessa* also has a diet dominated by bivalves and cumaceans (Braber and De Groot, 1973; Kostecki et al., 2012) but generally forages on a much higher diversity of prey (Beyst et al., 1999; Kostecki et al., 2012), a difference potentially caused by classifying prey into tropho-orders.

S. maximus foraged on a higher diversity of tropho-orders (8), with DF-Amphipoda and SF-Cardiida observed in 73% and 64% of the digestive tracts, respectively. As both tropho-orders had low offsets, the isotopic niche of *S. maximus* should be narrow and due to a lower specialization (Yeakel et al., 2016), wider than that of *P. platessa*, as we observed. Bivalves and amphipods were reported as frequent prey items for juvenile *S. maximus* along the German coast (De Groot, 1971) and in the Bay of Douarnenez (Déniel, 1974), respectively. Conversely, bivalves were rarely recorded by Déniel (1974) but frequently recorded in this study, a difference possibly related to their local availability, as each study sampled a different nursery.

495 Age-class G0 P. lascaris also foraged on a relatively high diversity of tropho-orders (8), with 95% 496 occurrence of DF-Cumacea, indicating high specialization (Yeakel et al., 2016) on this tropho-order. In this 497 case, the isotopic niche of G0 P. lascaris should be relatively narrow (Yeakel et al., 2016), which is not 498 what we observed. Consequently, our sampling likely underestimated the importance of certain tropho-499 orders in the *P. lascaris* diet due to its nocturnal foraging and rapid digestion (De Groot, 1971). To achieve the wide isotopic niche and the measured δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N, G0 *P. lascaris* likely had a more generalist diet 500 501 and foraged more frequently than estimated on tropho-orders with higher mean δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N, such as CAR-502 Phyllodocida and CAR-Ophiurida (Table S3), previously reported as prey (Cabral et al., 2002; Rodriguez, 503 1996). Furthermore, the relatively high specialization of G1 P. lascaris on a tropho-order with a low offset 504 (SF-Cardiida) should yield a relatively narrow isotopic niche (Yeakel et al., 2016), as we observed. 505 Nonetheless, the relatively high δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N of G1 *P. lascaris* cannot be explained by a diet composed 506 mainly of low δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N tropho-orders (SF-Cardiida and DF-Cumacea, Table S3), indicating we 507 probably missed important prey with higher mean δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N (*e.g.* CAR-Phyllodocida, Table S3), as 508 expected with a sample size of 4.

509 Overall, our digestive tract data seem to accurately reflect the diet of *P. platessa* and *S. maximus*, 510 which are daytime feeders, but probably does not accurately reflect the diet of *P. lacaris*, a nocturnal feeder 511 (De Groot, 1971). In the future, samples should be collected at night to characterize the diet of *P. lascaris* 512 correctly and avoid the risk of missing important highly digestible prey such as polychaetes (Macdonald et 513 al., 1982). Despite their relatively low *in situ* abundance (Table S4), SF-Cardiida appeared to be positively 514 selected by all three species (at varying degrees), likely due to their high vulnerability and high energy 515 content (Brey, 2001). Indeed, Donax spp., members of SF-Cardiida, live near the sediment surface and 516 extend their siphons above the sediment to feed on POM (Quillien et al., 2015a, 2015b). which makes them 517 more vulnerable to predation than the most abundant tropho-order DF-Spionida (mainly Spiophanes *bombyx*, Tables S2 and S5), a sessile polychaete that can quickly withdraw into its tube (Jumars et al., 2015; 518 519 Quillien et al., 2015b). Consequently, consumption of SF-Cardiida likely maximizes the energy gain of the 520 flatfish relative to prev search, detection and capture (Gill, 2003).

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2 4.2.2. <u>Temporal variability in the trophic ecology of juvenile *P. lascaris*</u>

The settlement period of *P. lascaris* larvae (June-October) in the Bay of Douarnenez (Déniel, 1981) led us to consider our sampling periods according to a different chronology. The G0 sampled from Peak GT-Post GT2 settled in 2012 and were the youngest individuals, while the G0 sampled during Pre GT and the sampled G1 settled in 2011 and were older.

527 Considering G0, P. lascaris assimilated the most isotopically diversified prey (high SEA_C) during Peak GT and Post GT1. In autumn (Post GT2), potential prey isotopic diversity (macroinvertebrate SEA_C) 528 529 and assimilated prey diversity (flatfish SEA_{c}) were much lower. Based on Yeakel et al. (2016), the 530 maximum isotopic niche of P. lascaris measured during Peak GT could reflect transition from the pelagic-531 based diet of the larvae to the benthic-based diet of the juveniles (Gibson, 1997). Similarly, the widening of 532 Post GT1 isotopic niche could reflect transition from the Peak GT diet to the Post GT2 diet. Juvenile flatfish 533 are known to go through gradual diet transitions during their first year of life in coastal nurseries (Beyst et 534 al., 1999; Cabral et al., 2002; Rodriguez, 1996), and the digestive tract data revealed a change in diet 535 between these two periods. During Post GT2, P. lascaris continued to consume DF-Cumacea frequently, 536 consumed a higher diversity of prey, and shifted to a diet dominated by SF-Cardiida, reflecting the very 537 strong increase of the in situ abundance of SF-Cardiida (Table S4).

538 Considering older individuals, *P. lascaris* switched to a lower isotopic diversity of prey (small 539 SEA_C) in autumn and maintained this characteristic until the next summer (Peak GT), despite the increase in potential prey isotopic diversity (macroinvertebrate SEA_C). From G0 to G1 age-classes, the diet of *P. lascaris* had lower prey richness and higher dominance in occurrence and abundance of SF-Cardiida, despite the lower *in situ* abundance of the cardid *Donax* during Peak GT (Table S4). These results tend to disagree with the continuously narrow isotopic niche observed from Post GT2 onward, which was likely caused by underestimating less common prey items in the G1 *P. lascaris* diet. From younger to older individuals, the δ^{13} C of *P. lascaris* also increased from *ca.* -19‰ to *ca.* -18‰, probably indicating an increasing assimilation of prey with higher δ^{13} C by G1 (*e.g.* CAR-Phyllodocida, Table S3).

547 Over time, *P. lascaris* had relatively selective foraging behavior (low DO) that was likely related to 548 preferential consumption of organisms that maximized its energy intake and to the low vulnerability of the 549 most abundant tropho-order, DF-Spionida (Table S4). Two energy-rich (Brey, 2001) and more vulnerable 550 tropho-orders (SF-Cardiida and DF-Cumacea) are preferentially consumed (positive selection) by juvenile 551 *P. lascaris*, as reported in previous studies (Cabral et al., 2002; Quiniou, 1986; Rodriguez, 1996).

552

553 *4.3. Broad changes in juvenile flatfish trophic ecology related to GT*

554 Despite the relatively small sample sizes for the diet analyses, we identified broad trophic changes 555 that juvenile flatfish experience at an exposed and dissipative sandy beach impacted by GT. During Peak 556 GT, the diet data collected at the two sites indicated that the Ulva bloom did not prevent juvenile flatfish 557 from foraging (vacuity rates of 0% at both sites). At the NIm site, all flatfish preferentially consumed SF-558 Cardiida despite its low in situ abundance (6%) whereas at the Im site, the flatfish consumed less SF-559 Cardiida despite a continuously low abundance (Table S4). Conversely, the flatfish increased their 560 consumption of amphipods (DF and OMN) and mysids between the NIm and Im site, following the overall 561 in situ abundance increase of these tropho-orders (Table S4). This result suggests that during Peak GT 562 juvenile flatfish had lower foraging efficiency at the Im site and a preference for more abundant epifauna 563 and mobile organisms (e.g. amphipods, mysids), which may have been easier to detect and capture than 564 infauna organisms (cardid); a shift in agreement with optimal foraging theory (Gill, 2003).

565 Combining the digestive tract data and benthic community data (nine samples at each site during 566 Peak GT) revealed that flatfish relied more on the *in situ* macroinvertebrates at the Im site, hence displaying 567 a more opportunistic foraging behavior. Studies based on digestive tract data also observed more 568 opportunistic foraging behavior of bottom-feeding fish during GT and hypoxic events (Andersen et al., 569 2005; Pihl et al., 1992) such as P. flesus in a fjord impacted by a GT. Andersen et al. (2005) interpreted this 570 behavior as reflecting a random prey selection linked to a disturbed foraging activity. Experimentally adding 571 habitat complexity (eelgrass) also induced a switch from a positive prey selection to a random feeding in 572 young-of-the-year Pomatomus saltatrix (Buckel and Stoner, 2000). In the current study, either the greater 573 habitat complexity (Nelson and Bonsdorff, 1990) and/or the exudates released by Ulva spp. (Engström-Öst and Isaksson, 2006) may have reduced flatfish foraging efficiency (*i.e.* prey detection and/or capture), as
previously reported for *S. maximus* (Nordström and Booth, 2007) and *P. flesus* (Aarnio and Mattila, 2000).
Consequently, the more opportunistic foraging behavior of flatfish at the Im site is probably the combined
result of (1) changes in the juvenile flatfish potential prey (Table S4), (2) higher vulnerability of abundant
tropho-orders (*e.g.* tube-dweller, shallow infauna and mobile epifauna are expected to be increasingly
vulnerable to visual predatory fish, De Groot, 1971) and (3) decrease in the foraging efficiency of juvenile
flatfish.

581 A seven-year study (2007-2013) of eight exposed sandy beaches (five impacted by GT and three 582 not impacted) along the Brittany coast revealed consistent and long-lasting effects (six months after the end 583 of the Ulva bloom) of GT on benthic macroinvertebrates (Quillien et al., 2015b). Across sites and years, 584 DF-Amphipoda (mainly Urothoe spp.), DF-Sabellida (mainly Owenia fusiformis) and DF-Cardiida 585 (Macomangulus tenuis) benefited from the presence of GT, while SF-Cardiida (Donax spp.) was negatively 586 affected by GT. Consequently, even though we sampled only one site for each treatment (impacted or not 587 impacted by GT), the replacement of SF-Cardiida with more abundant tropho-orders (e.g. small crustaceans) 588 in the diet of juvenile flatfish can likely be generalized to other exposed sandy beaches impacted by GT.

589

590 *4.4. Species-specific trophic changes during the Peak GT*

Following results in Quillien et al. (2016), we qualified a consumer with a significantly higher δ^{13} C at the Im site than at the NIm site as presenting an "*Ulva* isotopic signal". A consumer (*e.g. P. platessa*, macroinvertebrate tropho-order) with this signal has derived a significant proportion of its energy from *Ulva* spp. and/or indirectly from GT-modified SPOM (Quillien et al., 2016) or by foraging on prey presenting an *Ulva* isotopic signal. Despite their abundance at the Im site, we never identified *Ulva* fragments in flatfish digestive tracts, meaning flatfish presenting an *Ulva* isotopic signal can only have acquired it via their prey.

598

599 4.4.1. <u>*P. platessa* is least disturbed by GT</u>

The diet of *P. platessa* differed only slightly between the NIm and Im sites. At the Im site, *P. platessa* still relied mainly on SF-Cardiida and DF-Cumacea (with a slight decrease in occurrence and abundance) but foraged on a higher diversity of tropho-orders, such as epifauna and mobile tropho-orders (DF-Amphipoda, OMN-Amphipoda, OMN-Isopoda, OMN-Mysida). This small dietary shift suggests that *P. platessa* was only slightly disturbed in its prey preference by GT, maybe due to its use of both visual and chemical cues to detect prey (De Groot, 1971) and its April-May settlement period in coastal nurseries (Déniel, 1981). Indeed, older post-settlement *P. platessa* are exposed to the GT, and tolerance to such

607 environmental disturbance is likely to increase with size, as shown during severe hypoxia (Nilsson and608 Ostlund-Nilsson, 2008).

609 *P. platessa* presented an *Ulva* isotopic signal likely due to the high occurrence of SF-Cardiida in its 610 diet and to the consumption of CAR-Phyllodocida. Indeed, both tropho-orders presented an *Ulva* isotopic 611 signal acquired directly by consuming GT-modified SPOM (Quillien et al., 2016) for the first and indirectly 612 by consuming *Ulva* spp. and SPOM for the second (Jumars et al., 2015). Le Luherne et al. (2017) also 613 reported higher δ^{13} C of *P. platessa* at a GT-impacted beach than at a beach not impacted by GT in another 614 flatfish nursery (the Bay of Saint-Brieuc), a result confirming this species continues foraging in coastal 615 nurseries despite GT.

Nonetheless, the higher abundance of DF-Amphipoda, a tropho-order that increased in abundance
during Peak GT (Table S4) and across several GT sites (Quillien et al., 2015b), in the diet of *P. platessa*seems to indicate that this species adapted its foraging behavior to the macroinvertebrates available locally.
Finally, *P. platessa* remained relatively specialized on a tropho-order with a relatively low offset in the
isotopic space (SF-Cardiida), normally resulting in a narrow isotopic niche (Yeakel et al., 2016). Where GT
occur, *P. platessa* had a narrow isotopic niche that was nonetheless wider than that at the NIm site, a small
shift likely related to the increase in prey richness.

623

624

4.4.2. <u>S. maximus is strongly disturbed by GT</u>

625 Conversely, at the Im site, S. maximus stopped consuming SF-Cardiida, a key prey at the NIm site, 626 and shifted to a diet based mainly on DF and OMN crustaceans. This dietary shift, confirmed by the small 627 inter-site diet similarity, suggests that the foraging efficiency of S. maximus is strongly disturbed by GT 628 (Nordström and Booth, 2007). Indeed, the higher structural complexity at the Im site linked to the GT 629 (Holmquist, 1997) probably hindered the search and detection of prey by S. maximus, an exclusively visual 630 predator (De Groot, 1971). Furthermore, the June-July settlement of S. maximus in coastal nurseries (Déniel, 631 1981), exposes very young post-settlement juveniles to the GT, which are potentially less tolerant to the 632 disturbance (Nilsson and Ostlund-Nilsson, 2008).

633 At the Im site, S. maximus foraged mainly on tropho-orders that did not present an Ulva isotopic 634 signal (DF-Cumacea, OMN-Decapoda) or likely did not present it (*i.e.* small sample size, DF-Amphipoda, 635 OMN-Mysida), probably explaining the absence of an Ulva isotopic signal for S. maximus. Consequently, 636 S. maximus derived little or no energy from the additional basal resource (Ulva spp), a result possible linked 637 to its higher dependence on mobile organisms like fish (Déniel, 1974; Quiniou, 1986) that can avoid GT 638 and potentially benefit less from the additional basal resource. Finally, the high specialization of S. maximus 639 on two tropho-orders – DF-Cumacea and DF-Amphipoda – with relatively high offsets in the isotopic space, 640 likely explains its wider isotopic niche at the Im than at the NIm site (Yeakel et al., 2016).

641

642 4.4.3. *P. lascaris* appears the most disturbed by GT

643 Despite a larvae settlement period normally starting in June in the Bay of Douarnenez (Déniel, 644 1981), no G0 were sampled during Peak GT at the Im site (July), but over 30 were sampled during Post 645 GT1 (September), a result close to the one reported in July 2013 by Quillien et al. (2018). This absence 646 during Peak GT suggests that GT have negative effects on pre-settlement larvae and/or post-settlement 647 juveniles, probably related to higher mortality rates and/or temporary avoidance of impacted coastal 648 nurseries. Indeed, experiments have shown that juvenile flatfish prefer unvegetated substrata to vegetated 649 substrata (Carl et al., 2008; Wennhage and Pihl, 1994) and Ulva blooms, which can cause temporary hypoxia 650 (Cloern, 2001, authors personal observations) and release exudates (Van Alstyne et al., 2015), are known to 651 increase the mortality of crab larvae and juveniles (Johnson and Welsh, 1985; Van Alstyne et al., 2015), Clupea harengus eggs (Aneer, 1987) and P. platessa larvae (Larson, 1997). 652

653 The diet of G1 *P. lascaris* shifted from the NIm to the Im site (very low inter-site diet similarity): 654 they nearly stopped consuming SF-Cardiida, consumed more DF-Cumacea (in occurrence and abundance) 655 and seven new tropho-orders (e.g. DF-Amphipoda, OMN-Amphipoda) at the Im site. This seems to indicate 656 that GT disturbed the foraging of G1 P. lascaris strongly, likely due to the low nocturnal dissolved oxygen 657 concentrations that often occur during Ulva blooms (Johnson and Welsh, 1985) (August 2012: 6%, authors 658 personal observations). Since, temporary hypoxia decreases locomotor activity of Solea solea (Dalla Via et 659 al., 1998), another Soleidae and decreases predation efficiency of juvenile *P. flesus* (Tallqvist et al., 1999), 660 nocturnal hypoxia could reduce prey search activity (*i.e.* swimming to search for prey) and foraging 661 efficiency of P. lascaris (Tallqvist et al., 1999), a nocturnal predator (De Groot, 1971). As a result, P. 662 lascaris probably foraged more randomly and consumed the most abundant and vulnerable (e.g. mobile 663 epifauna) tropho-orders, as indicated by the more opportunistic foraging behavior.

664 The G1 P. lascaris also presented an Ulva isotopic signal, which can not be explained by the main 665 tropho-orders identified in the digestive tracts. Furthermore, the specialization of P. lascaris on DF-666 Cumacea and DF-Amphipoda (high offset) at the Im site rather than on SF-Cardiida (lower offset) at the 667 NIm site should have widened its isotopic niche (Yeakel et al., 2016) and not, as we observed, narrowed it. 668 These results suggest that we missed important prev for *P. lascaris* at the Im site. Based on the isotopic data, 669 we hypothesize that, despite the GT, G1 P. lascaris continued to forage at the Im site and additionally 670 consumed DF-Sabellida and CAR-Phyllodocida, two previously identified prey, using chemical cues (De 671 Groot, 1971). Indeed, both tropho-orders are more abundant at the Im site than at the NIm site (Quillien et 672 al., 2015b) (Table S4) and have Ulva isotopic signals acquired directly by consuming Ulva spp. (Quillien et 673 al., 2016) for the first and indirectly via *Ulva* spp. and SPOM for the second (Jumars et al., 2015).

During all four periods, the narrower isotopic niche of *P. lascaris* at the Im than at the NIm site likely reflects the generally lower potential prey offset at the former, related to the narrower macroinvertebrate isotopic niche (Yeakel et al., 2016). The *Ulva* isotopic signal detected during all periods except before the GT, suggests that *P. lascaris* derives via its prey a significant proportion of its energy from *Ulva* spp. and from GT-modified SPOM.

Due to the later arrival of G0 *P. lascaris* at the Im site (after Peak GT), their wide isotopic niche measured during Post GT1 is likely the result of transitioning from a pelagic to a benthic-based diet (Gibson, 1997). As *P. lascaris* also presented an *Ulva* isotopic signal during this period, its new benthic diet probably included grazing on DF-Sabellida crowns, on parts of CAR-Phyllodocida and on SF-Cardiida siphons, tropho-orders which are relatively abundant in the sediment (Table S4) and present *Ulva* isotopic signals.

686 During Post GT2, P. lascaris appeared to consume mainly SF-Cardiida and DF-Amphipoda at the 687 Im site, two tropho-orders that cannot solely explain the Ulva signal of P. lascaris. Consequently, P. lascaris 688 likely foraged more on DF-Sabellida and CAR-Phyllodocida, than suggested by the digestive tract contents. 689 Overall, the diet of *P. lascaris* at the Im site was likely composed of the most abundant *in situ* tropho-orders, 690 as found at the NIm site (Post GT2). P. lascaris also appeared to have more opportunistic foraging behavior 691 at the Im than at the NIm site, probably linked to the higher vulnerability of the dominant tropho-orders 692 (Table S4) at the Im site (SF-Cardiida) than at the NIm site (DF-Spionida). The narrow isotopic niche 693 measured during Post GT2 is probably linked to the very low isotopic diversity of potential prey 694 (macroinvertebrate SEA_C).

From G0 to G1 age-classes, *P. lascaris* shifted from a diet dominated by SF-Cardiida and DF-Amphipoda to one dominated by DF-Cumacea and DF-Amphipoda (which probably present no *Ulva* signal), probably explaining the isotopic niche widening (Yeakel et al., 2016) and the absence of an *Ulva* signal during Pre GT. Finally, during Peak GT and Post GT1, the isotopic niche of G1 *P. lascaris* was wider than that during Pre GT. This increase may have been related to the higher isotopic diversity of potential prey during Peak GT and the assimilation of tropho-orders with *Ulva* isotopic signals during Peak GT and Post GT1, such as the relatively abundant DF-Sabellida and CAR-Phyllodocida (Table S4).

Over time, *P. lascaris* appeared to present more opportunistic behavior at the Im than at the NIm site, likely because during Peak GT its foraging behavior was disturbed and because the benthic community shifted from less vulnerable (DF-Spionida or DF-Cardiida) to more vulnerable tropho-orders during the other periods (*e.g.* DF-Amphipoda during Pre GT, SF-Cardiida during Post GT1 and Post GT2).

706

707 Conclusion

708 Combining stable isotopes, digestive tract data and benthic community data revealed that Ulva 709 blooms modified the trophic ecology of the three flatfish species. The GT directly and indirectly resulted in 710 dietary changes and more opportunistic foraging behavior of flatfish juveniles. These changes were likely 711 caused by (1) potential prey shifts (tropho-order abundance) and (2) reduced foraging efficiency of juvenile 712 flatfish related to environmental changes associated with the GT (e.g. structural complexity, Ulva exudates, 713 temporary hypoxia). More precisely, the flatfish relied less on SF-Cardiida and more on DF-Cumacea and 714 DF-Amphipoda where the GT occurred, a shift that could result in lower body conditions for the flatfish 715 (De Vlas, 1979; Veer et al., 2010). Indeed, small crustaceans content less energy than bivalves (Brey, 2001; 716 De Vlas, 1979) and the juvenile flatfish likely spend more energy to forage (harder prey detection and/or 717 capture for P. platessa and S. maximus) or reduce their prey search activity (P. lascaris) in nurseries 718 impacted by GT.

719 Based on the literature, we hypothesize that the investigated flatfish species respond differently to 720 the GT mainly according to the dominant sense they use to detect prey (vision or olfaction) and to when 721 they forage (day or night), with potentially an additional effect of when they settle relative to the GT peak. 722 GT appeared to strongly disturb the larval settlement of *P. lascaris* and the juvenile foraging behavior of *P.* 723 lascaris and S. maximus, while P. platessa appeared to be overall less disturbed by the GT. Furthermore, P. 724 platessa and P. lascaris likely derived significant proportions of their energy from the new basal resource 725 (Ulva spp.) via their prey, while S. maximus did not seem to do so. Our findings challenge the use of a broad 726 "benthic fish" or "flatfish" category when investigating impacts of human disturbances, such as eutrophication (Le Luherne et al., 2016; Paumier et al., 2018), on the functioning of coastal ecosystems. 727

728

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Supplementary data

Table S1. Environmental characteristics measured monthly at the non-impacted sandy beach (NIm) and at the sandy beach impacted by green tides (Im) from April to December 2012 and expressed as means, maximal and minimal values.

		NIm			Im	
	Mean	Max.	Min	Mean	Max	Min
Wave height (m)	1.3	2.0	0.7	1.4	2.1	0.7
Beach slope (%)	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.2
SWT (°C)	14.6	18.9	8.7	14.7	21.4	8.2
Surface water chl <i>a</i> concentration (µg.L ⁻¹)	15.8	33.7	5.1	15.8	33.7	5.1
Algal mat density	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.65	4.02	0.0
(kg _{WW} .m ⁻²)						
Dissolved oxygen content (%)	103.4	106.5	99.9	103.9	108.1	100.0
Median grain size (µm)	180.4	260.0	155.0	158.5	180.0	140.0
Sediment organic matter content (%)	4.5	5.4	3.3	4.1	6.2	3.0
Sediment sorting index	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0

Wave height was retrieved from the PREVIMER public database considering the WW3 model (grid = 200m) and one monthly value was obtained for each site. Monthly surface water chlorophyll a concentration was also retrieved from the PREVIMER database which provides estimates of plankton concentration using the ECO-MARS-3D model (grid = 4 km). Beach slope was calculated by Quillien et al. (2015a) for each site on one occasion by dividing the maximal tide by the shore width. Seawater temperature (SWT) and dissolved oxygen content were measured monthly just above the sediment using a YSI-OMS v2 probe by Quillien et al. (2015a). One monthly measure was obtained for each site. Algal mat density was calculated by dividing the 1 min drained *Ulva* biomass (monthly field sampling by Quillien et al. (2015a) by the monthly surface covered by *Ulva* estimated by the CEVA aerial surveys. Median grain size, sediment organic matter content and sediment sorting index were measured by Quillien et al. (2015a) using a single sediment core (inner diameter: 11.3 cm; depth: 15 cm) sampled monthly at each site. "Grain sizes were measured by dry-sieving, using a series of 16 sieves from 63 to 10 000 μ m. The sorting index was calculated based on the first and third quartile ratio of the sediment grain size (Trask sorting index) and the median was equal to the second quartile of the sediment grain size value. Organic matter content was measured by weight loss after combustion at 450°C for 5 h" (Quillien et al., 2015a).

Table S2. Macroinvertebrate species or taxonomic entities (family, order) included in each tropho-order according to the data set considered. The first data set is composed of the macroinvertebrates sampled in the sediment to determine their carbon and nitrogen isotopic compositions (stable isotope data set). The second data set is composed of the macroinvertebrates sampled in the sediment to determine the potential prey community (benthic community data set). The third data set is composed of the macroinvertebrates identified in the flatfish digestive tracts (digestive tract data set).

Tropho-orders	Stable isotope data set	Benthic community data	Digestive tract data
		set	set
CAR-Decapoda	Crangon crangon	Crangon crangon	
CAR-Eunicida	Scoletoma impatiens	Lumbrineris sp.	Lumbrineris sp.
CAR-Nemerta*	Lineus acutifrons	Lineus acutifrons	
	Nemertea	Nemertea	
	Amphiphorus		
	langiaegeminus		
	Cerebratulus roseus		
CAR-Ophiurida	Acrocnida brachiata	Acrocnida brachiata	
CAR-	Glycera convoluta	Glycera tridactyla	<i>Glycera</i> sp.
Phyllodocida	Nephtys assimilis	Mysta picta	<i>Mysta</i> sp.
	Nephtys hombergii	Nephtys assimilis	Nephtys sp.
	<i>Nephtys</i> sp.	Nephtys cirrosa	Syllidae
	Sigalion mathildae	Nephtys hombergii	
	Phyllodoce mucosa	Nephtys sp.	
	Aphroditidae	Eteone longa	
		Pholoe inornata	
		Malmgreniella spp.	
		Sigalion mathildae	
		Phyllodoce lineata	
DF-Amphipoda	Bathyporeia pelagica	Bathyporeia pelagica	<i>Bathyporeia</i> sp.
	Urothoe poseidonis	Urothoe poseidonis	<i>Urothoe</i> sp.
		Urothoe pulchella	
		Perrierella audouiniana	
		Haustorius arenarius	
		Melita palmata	
DF-Cardiida	Macomangulus tenuis	Macomangulus tenuis	
DF-Cumacea	Cumopsis fagei	Cumopsis fagei	Cumacea
	Eocuma dollfusi	Cumopsis goodsir	
		Cumopsis longipes	
		Eocuma dollfusi	
DF-Sabellida	Owenia fusiformis	Owenia fusiformis	Owenia fusiformis
DF-Spatangoida	Echinocardium		Echinocardium
	cordatum	~	cordatum
DF-Spionida	Spiophanes bombyx	Spiophanes bombyx	Spiophanes bombyx
	Magelona mirabilis	Spio martinensis	Spionidae
		Scolelepis (Scolelepis)	
		squamata	
		Magelona mirabilis	
		<i>Dispio</i> sp.	

		<i>Laonice</i> sp. Spionidae	
OMN- Amphipoda	Gammarus crinicornis Gammarus sp. Pontocrates arenarius	Dexamine spinose Gammarus crinicornis Pontocrates arenarius Synchelidium maculatum	Gammarus crinicornis
OMN-Decapoda	Diogenes pugilator Liocarcinus sp. Portumnus latipes	Diogenes pugilator Liocarcinus holsatus Portumnus latipes	Paguridae Portumnus latipes
OMN-Isopoda	Idotea baltica Idotea pelagica Eurydice pulchra	Idotea linearis Eurydice pulchra Lekanesphaera sp.	Idotea neglecta Eurydice pulchra
OMN-Mysida	Mysida	Acanthomysis longicornis Gastrosaccus sanctus Haplostylus normani Schistomysis parkeri Mysida	Mysida
SF-Cardiida	Donax vittatus Donax trunculus	Donax vittatus Donax trunculus	Donax vittatus Donax trunculus Donax spp. (siphons/feet) Donax spp.
CAR-other*	Planaria sp.	Actiniaria sp. Planaria sp.	
DF-other*	<i>Orbinia</i> sp.	Sipunculus nudus Capitella sp. Phylo foetida Scoloplos armiger Orbiniidae Paradoneis armata Chaetozone gibber	Harpacticoida
OMN-other		Apseudes talpa	Crustacea (larva) Ostracoda
SF-other	Ensis sp. Chamelea gallina Mactra stultorum Mactra sp.	Lucinella divaricata	

The tropho-orders with a * were not included in the calculation of the macroinvertebrate isotopic niche and centroid because we didn't find mention of these species in juvenile flatfish diet and so we didn't consider them as potential prey.

Table S3. Mean (and standard deviation = SD) of the δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N values measured for the different organic matter sources at the base of each food web (marine suspended particulate organic matter = SPOM, sediment organic matter = SOM and *Ulva* spp. = ULV), the macroinvertebrate tropho-orders (see Table S3) and age 0 (0G) and age 1 (1G) flatfish species (*Pegusa lascaris, Pleuronectes platessa* and *Scophthalmus maximus*) sampled at the non-impacted sandy beach (NIm) and at the sandy beach impacted by green tides (Im) during the pre green tide (Pre GT), the peak green tide (Peak GT) and the two post green tide periods (Post GT1 and Post GT2).

Period		NIm			Period		Im		
		δ ¹³ C (SD)	δ ^{15N} (SD)	n			δ ¹³ C (SD)	δ ^{15N} (SD)	n
Pre GT	POM	-25.09 (0.51)	6.54 (0.67)	3	Pre GT	POM	-24.52 (0.05)	6.61 (0.69)	3
_	SOM	-21.37 (1.68)	6.34 (0.37)	8		SOM	-21.05 (1.37)	6.23 (0.92)	9
-	CAR- Nem.	-18.29 (0.61)	14.17 (0.56)	14		ULV	-19.06 (0.00)	7.19 (0.13)	3
-	CAR- Oph.	-18.94 (0.98)	13.09 (0.64)	14		CAR- Dec.	-18.19 (0.43)	10.29 (0.77)	5
-	CAR- Phy.	-17.36 (0.67)	12.25 (0.83)	19		CAR- Eun.	-17.77 (0.47)	13.19 (0.59)	6
-	DF- Amph.	-19.16	8.36	1		CAR- Nem.	-16.74	14.65	1
_	DF- Card.	-19.17 (0.60)	9.13 (0.36)	28		CAR- Oph.	-18.39 (0.16)	13.81 (0.79)	4
	DF- Sab.	-19.03 (0.46)	10.91 (0.27)	5		CAR- Phy.	-16.48 (0.19)	11.37 (0.31)	5
	DF- Spi.	-21.20 (0.56)	9.73 (0.75)	5		DF- Sab.	-18.08 (0.26)	10.82 (0.28)	10
_	OMN- Amph.	-24.09	8.08	1	· _	OMN- Dec.	-18.71 (1.37)	10.66 (1.53)	7
-	OMN- Dec.	-17.82	12.68	1		OMN- Mys.	-18.54 (0.43)	11.94 (0.57)	8
_	OMN- Iso.	-19.29 (0.86)	10.64 (0.65)	2		SF- Card.	-19.42 (0.59)	8.32 (0.45)	19
	SF- Card.	-19.98 (0.90)	8.01 (0.93)	33		0G P. lascaris	-17.76 (0.14)	12.64 (0.40)	8
	SF- other	-19.01 (1.21)	9.70 (1.16)	3					
_	0G P. lascaris	-18.15 (0.38)	13.08 (0.26)	6	-				
	POM	-21.46 (1.18)	6.93 (0.51)	3		POM	-20.09 (0.05)	6.75 (0.92)	3

	SOM	-21.59 (1.60)	5.62 (0.83)	9		SOM	-20.02 (0.23)	6.12 (0.55)	9
	CAR-Dec.	-17.89 (0.68)	12.16 (0.37)	5		ULV	-18.14 (1.08)	11.91 (2.50)	6
Peak GT	CAR-Eun.	-18.35	13.7	1	Peak GT	CAR- Dec.	-16.47 (0.40)	12.49 (0.30)	5
	CAR- Nem.	-18.09 (0.57)	13.77 (0.47)	12		CAR- Eun.	-17.50 (0.32)	13.48 (0.61)	5
	CAR- Oph.	-19.18 (1.61)	13.56 (0.70)	11		CAR- Nem.	-16.94 (0.36)	13.02 (1.08)	4
	CAR- Phy.	-18.08 (0.91)	12.06 (0.79)	24		CAR- Oph.	-18.39 (1.24)	13.35 (0.76)	7
	DF- Amph.	-20.23	9.72	1		CAR- Phy.	-17.38 (0.44)	11.54 (0.90)	15
	DF- Card.	-19.12 (0.77)	8.99 (0.37)	27		DF- Amph.	-19.31 (1.70)	6.77 (1.72)	8
	DF- Cum.	-21.31 (2.38)	7.74 (1.08)	6		DF- Card.	-18.39 (0.38)	8.67 (0.30)	12
	DF- Sab.	-19.64 (1.22)	10.86 (0.36)	7		DF- Cum.	-19.76 (0.62)	6.94 (1.02)	5
	DF- Spat.	-18.58	11.44	1		DF- Sab.	-17.99 (0.35)	11.20 (0.68)	15
	OMN- Amph.	-20.64 (4.12)	9.86 (1.11)	3		OMN- Dec.	-21.41 (0.35)	10.03 (0.50)	5
	OMN- Dec.	-19.83 (1.04)	10.64 (1.37)	6		OMN- Iso.	-21.48 (0.09)	10.32 (0.97)	2
	OMN- Iso.	-19.87 (1.57)	8.49 (1.04)	3		OMN- Mys.	-19.90 (1.06)	12.12 (0.11)	3
	OMN- Mys.	-19.14 (0.94)	11.05 (0.57)	2		SF- Card.	-18.70 (0.33)	8.31 (0.51)	31
	SF- Card.	-19.23 (0.74)	8.34 (0.49)	28		SF- other	-17.4	9.25	1
	SF- other	-19.39 (0.98)	8.90 (1.20)	2		1G P. lascaris	-16.36 (0.23)	11.53 (0.40)	9
	DF- other	-19.26 (0.18)	9.84 (0.31)	2		0G P. platessa	-17.46 (0.37)	11.55 (0.32)	5
	0G P. lascaris	-19.09 (0.85)	12.12 (0.83)	10		0G S. maximus	-17.84 (0.82)	10.92 (0.51)	16
	1G P. lascaris	-18.50 (0.28)	12.57 (0.49)	6					
	0G P. platessa	-19.50 (0.13)	11.57 (0.16)	5					
	0G <i>S</i> .	-18.41 (0.76)	11.11 (0.41)	10					

	maximus								
	POM	-22.79 (1.28)	7.61 (0.25)	3		POM	-21.04 (1.15)	7.73 (0.14)	3
	SOM	-20.16 (0.17)	4.28 (0.56)	3		SOM	-20.14 (0.13)	6.76 (0)	3
	CAR- Dec.	-18.26 (0.56)	11.34 (0.72)	4		ULV	-18.51 (1.14)	9.95 (0.78)	10
Post	CAR- Eun.	-18.86 (0.40)	13.11 (0.34)	2	Post	CAR- Dec.	-17.36 (0.25)	11.58 (0.47)	7
GT1	CAR- Nem.	-18.45 (0.25)	13.82 (0.62)	4	GTI	CAR- Eun.	-17.81 (0.57)	13.00 (1.90)	4
	CAR- Oph.	-18.79 (0.52)	12.71 (1.09)	9		CAR- Nem.	-17.18 (0.63)	13.38 (0.75)	6
	CAR- Phy.	-17.87 (0.99)	11.60 (0.67)	9		CAR- Oph.	-16.89 (0.4)	13.25 (0.95)	3
	DF- Amph.	-18.83 (0.75)	6.42 (2.61)	2		CAR- Phy.	-17.77 (0.64)	11.21 (0.55)	19
	DF- Card.	-20.16 (2.04)	8.75 (0.28)	31		DF- Amph.	-18.29	9.2	1
	DF- Cum.	-19.22 (1.57)	6.37 (1.24)	3		DF- Card.	-18.63 (0.79)	8.84 (0.27)	10
	DF- Sab.	-19.89 (0.56)	10.59 (0.46)	9		DF- Sab.	-18.30 (0.37)	10.39 (0.55)	27
	DF- Spio.	-20.85 (0.12)	9.55 (0.07)	2		DF- Spio.	-18.43 (0.09)	9.67 (0.55)	3
	OMN- Dec.	-20.03 (0.83)	8.93 (0.14)	4		OMN- Dec.	-19.07 (0.25)	10.02 (0.43)	7
	OMN- Iso.	-22.23	7.68	1		OMN- Mys.	-17.57	12.17	1
	OMN- Mys.	-19.10 (0.03)	10.90 (0.24)	3		SF- Card.	-19.01 (0.91)	8.74 (0.45)	36
	SF- Card.	-19.81 (0.63)	8.32 (0.41)	63		CAR- other	-19.01 (0.33)	9.78 (0.41)	3
	0G P. lascaris	-18.94 (0.99)	11.76 (0.64)	9		0G P. lascaris	-17.56 (0.68)	11.91 (0.48)	34
				2		1G P. lascaris	-16.80 (0.18)	12.16 (0.37)	6
	POM	-22.86 (0.17)	6.77 (0.14)	3		POM	-21.75 (0.16)	7.22	3
Dost	SOM	-20.30 (0.19)	4.16 (0.41)	3	Post	SOM	-20.08 (0.13)	4.79 (0.86)	3
GT2	CAR- Nem.	-17.09	14.99	1	GT2	ULV	-16.72 (0.29)	9.74 (0.82)	7

CAR- Oph.	-18.98 (0.28)	12.22 (0.97)	3	CAF Nen	R17.37 (0.32) n.	13.36 (0.37)	3
CAR- Phy.	-19.08 (1.17)	11.84 (0.81)	16	CAR	R17.00 (0.50) n.	13.49 (1.19)	2
DF- Amph.	-20.03	8.49	1	CAP	R18.36 (0.37)	11.30 (0.69)	16
DF- Card.	-18.86 (1.07)	9.04 (0.32)	21	DF	18.26 (0.49) d.	8.80 (0.29)	14
DF- Cum.	-20.47 (0.27)	6.28 (1.47)	2	DF	18.61 n.	4.25	1
DF- Sab.	-20.43 (0.91)	10.34 (0.00)	2	DF Sab	18.24 (0.30) o.	10.90 (0.31)	27
DF- Spio.	-20.64 (0.69)	9.76 (0.34)	3	DF Spic	18.56 (0.12) b.	9.88 (0.09)	5
OMN- Dec.	-18.98 (1.36)	9.04 (0.54)	2	SF	18.96 (0.43) d.	8.74 (0.41)	37
OMN- Iso.	-20.51	9.64	1	0G I lasca	P17.71 (0.22) ris	12.59 (0.22)	5
SF- Card.	-19.63 (0.45)	8.39 (0.60)	47				
0G P. lascaris	-18.97 (0.24)	12.77 (0.50)	14				

Table S4. Mean density (ind/m²) and relative abundance (%) of the sediment macroinvertebrates grouped by tropho-orders during the four periods (pre green tide period (Pre GT), peak green tide period (Peak GT), first post green tide period (Post GT1), second post green tide period (Post GT2)) at the non-impacted sandy beach (NIm) and at the sandy beach impacted by green tides (Im). See appendix S2 for the species considered in each tropho-order.

		Pre GT				Peak GT				Post GT1				Post GT2			
	NIm	1	Im		NIm	1	Im		NIm	1	Im		NIm	1	Im		
	ind/m^2	%	ind/m^2	%	ind/m^2	%	ind/m ²	%	ind/m^2	%	ind/m^2	%	ind/m^2	%	ind/m^2	%	
CAR-Decapoda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
CAR-Eunicida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CAR-Nemerta	1	1	4	2	9	2	6	3	4	1	10	1	6	1	11	1	
CAR-Ophiurida	2	1	2	1	6	1	1	1	7	2	4	0	7	1	1	0	
CAR-Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	
CAR-Phyllodocida	1	1	7	4	23	5	17	9	25	6	40	4	23	4	22	3	
DF-Amphipoda	48	21	78	44	12	3	62	31	51	12	57	6	15	3	44	5	
DF-Cardiida	75	34	10	6	44	10	7	4	58	14	7	1	54	9	16	2	
DF-Cumacea	17	8	6	4	27	6	12	6	65	15	23	2	9	2	5	1	
DF-Other	0	0	0	0	2	1	5	2	10	2	5	1	9	2	1	0	
DF-Sabellida	0	0	5	3	2	1	31	15	1	0	246	26	1	0	172	21	
DF-Spionida	1	1	33	19	269	61	20	10	49	12	47	5	242	42	33	4	
OMN-Amphipoda	15	7	0	0	17	4	7	4	7	2	0	0	57	10	0	0	
OMN-Decapoda	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	19	2	2	0	1	0	
OMN-Isopoda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	2	0	0	
OMN-Mysida	0	0	1	1	0	0	10	5	2	1	22	2	0	0	5	1	
OMN-Other	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SF-Cardiida	62	27	27	15	28	6	19	9	147	34	478	50	136	24	522	62	
SF-Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SF-Veneroida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	