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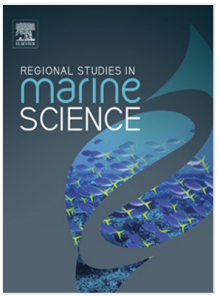

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Dynamics (from 2010-2011 to 2014) of *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs on the western coast of Cotentin (English Channel, France)

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ABSTRACT

The polychaeta *Sabellaria alveolata* (Linnaeus, 1767), commonly known as the honeycomb worm, is a gregarious polychaete present on the European coasts from Scotland to Portugal. It is an important reef-building species which enhances topographic complexity in colonized areas. In Europe, the most extensive reef formation is found in France in the Bay of Mont Saint-Michel. Nevertheless, since 2006, *Sabellaria* bio-constructions (platforms and reefs) have developed on hard substrates along the west coast of Cotentin and in the north of the Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel. The aim of this study is to compare the area covered by bio-constructions in 2010-2011 and in 2014 along 60 km of the west coast of Cotentin, focusing on the temporal changes at four target sites: Champeaux, Lingreville, Blainville-sur-Mer, and