1	Connectivity, neutral theories, and the assessment of species vulnerability to				
2	global change in temperate estuaries				
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19	ABSTRACT				
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21	One of the main adaptation strategies to global change scenarios, aiming to preserve				
22	ecosystem functioning and biodiversity, is to maximise ecosystem resilience. The				
23	resilience of a species metapopulation can be improved by facilitating connectivity				
24	between local populations, which will prevent demographic stochasticity and				
25	inbreeding. The objective of this investigation is to estimate the degree of connectivity				

26 among estuarine species along the north-eastern Iberian coast, in order to assess 27 community vulnerability to global change scenarios. To address this objective, two 28 connectivity proxy types have been used based upon genetic and ecological drift 29 processes: 1) DNA markers for the bivalve cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*) and seagrass 30 Zostera noltei, and 2) the decrease in the number of species shared between two sites 31 with geographic distance; neutral biodiversity theory predicts that dispersal limitation 32 modulates this decrease, and this has been explored in estuarine plants and 33 macroinvertebrates. Results indicate dispersal limitation for both saltmarsh plants and 34 seagrass beds community and Z. noltei populations; this suggests they are especially 35 vulnerable to expected climate changes on their habitats. In contrast, unstructured 36 spatial pattern found in macroinvertebrate communities and in C. edule genetic 37 populations in the area suggests that estuarine soft-bottom macroinvertebrates with 38 planktonic larval dispersal strategies may have a high resilience capacity to moderate 39 changes within their habitats. Our findings can help environmental managers to 40 prioritise the most vulnerable species and habitats to be restored.

41

42 1. INTRODUCTION

43

The most important direct drivers of global biodiversity loss and ecosystem service changes are habitat change, climate change, invasive alien species, overexploitation, and pollution (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005). The undergoing destruction and degradation of natural habitats (Halpern et al., 2008) and, as a consequence, the increasing number of threatened species (He and Hubbell, 2011), are particularly severe at the coast, where human population is concentrated (Costanza et al., 1997; McGranahan et al., 2007) and the artificialization and urbanization is increasing at a greater rate than for inland areas (European Environment Agency, 2006). Climate
change is also considered as one of the major threats to coastal and estuarine ecosystems
for the 21st Century (FitzGerald et al., 2008; Defeo et al., 2009; Reid et al. 2009;
Philippart et al., 2011).

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56 In this context, the conservation of estuarine biota is a priority. One of the main 57 adaptation strategies to global change scenarios to preserve ecosystem functioning and 58 biodiversity is to maximise ecosystem resilience (Mawdsley et al., 2009). The resilience 59 is the system's ability to absorb rapid environmental change (Heller and Zavaleta, 2009). The resilience of a species metapopulation can be improved by facilitating 60 61 connectivity among local populations, which will prevent demographic stochasticity 62 and inbreeding (Loew, 2000). Despite the fundamental role played by dispersal and 63 population connectivity in determining the resilience of populations (e.g. Hastings and 64 Botsford 2006; Cowen et al., 2007; Bradbury et al., 2008; Cowen and Sponaugle, 2009), 65 there is still a limited knowledge about the dispersal strategies of many marine species 66 due to the difficulty of tracking the trajectory and fate of propagules (e.g. Shanks, 2009; 67 Weersing and Toonen 2009; Selkoe and Toonen, 2011). In the seascape, the 68 connectivity among populations is mainly determined by the ocean currents and the 69 dispersal capacity of organisms (e.g. Gawarkiewicz et al., 2007; Alberto et al., 2011; 70 Coleman et al., 2011), as well as by the demographic prospects of reproduction, 71 mortality, and migration rate (Hubbell, 2001). In the particular case of ecotones such as 72 estuaries, the movement of organisms or propagules can be very different between 73 species depending on both habitat specificity and dispersal strategies (Boström et al., 74 2010). Thus, it is difficult to anticipate, for a given spatial scale, whether estuarine 75 species circumvent habitat discontinuities, or on the contrary, are dispersal limited. The

analysis of highly polymorphic molecular markers is a powerful tool for the study of
connectivity among marine populations (e.g. Bradbury et al., 2008; Galindo et al., 2010;
Selkoe et al., 2010; Alberto et al., 2011). Although dispersal limitation factors has been
recognised to be a common process shaping both species and genetic diversity (Vellend
and Geber, 2005), the first empirical evidence has been recently proved in aquatic
beetles (Baselga et al., 2013).

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83 The main objective of this contribution is to estimate the degree of connectivity among 84 the structural estuarine species (plants and macroinvertebrates) along the Basque coast 85 (south-eastern Bay of Biscay), in order to assess community vulnerability in the face of global change scenarios. Basque estuaries have been radically transformed by 86 anthropogenic activities during the 20th century (Cearreta et al., 2004; Chust et al., 87 2009), and they are expected to be impacted throughout the 21st century by a sea level 88 89 rise of 29 to 49 cm (Chust et al., 2010), storm surges (Marcos et al., 2012), warming of 90 surface air (especially heat wave episodes) and sea of 1.5 to 2.0 °C (Chust et al., 2011), 91 and the intensification of extreme daily rainfall of 10% (Chust et al., 2011). Thus, the 92 specific objectives are: 1) to determine and compare the connectivity between species 93 communities across two estuarine taxa groups (i.e. plants of saltmarshes and intertidal 94 seagrass meadows, and soft-bottom macroinvertebrates in intertidal and shallow 95 waters); 2) to determine and compare the genetic connectivity between estuarine 96 populations along the North Atlantic Iberian coast of two species with different 97 dispersal strategies and life traits: the seagrass Zostera noltei and the bivalve cockle 98 (Cerastoderma edule). Recent studies determining population genetic structure of 99 sympatric marine species (e.g. Kinlan & Gaines, 2003; Selkoe et al., 2010; Nikula et al., 2011) has provided insightful information on gene flow through the seascape. 100

Estimating and understanding marine connectivity can also help environmental
managers to guide and prioritise local restoration plans for both species and habitats, as
well as to define strategies for climate change adaptation.

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105 To address these objectives, two proxies of connectivity have been used, based upon 106 genetic and ecological drift processes and dispersal limitation factors (Vellend and 107 Geber, 2005). Under a 'stepping stone model' of dispersal, in which populations tend to 108 exchange migrants (or propagules) with nearest neighbours along the coastline, the 109 Isolation By Distance (IBD) theory suggested that pairwise genetic variation (for 110 instance the Wright's fixations index F_{ST}) will increase with the geographic distance 111 between the pair of populations (Wright, 1943; Kimura, 1953; reviewed in Selkoe and 112 Toonen, 2011). IBD assumes neutral alleles (not affecting fitness) and populations at equilibrium between dispersal and genetic drift (Hutchison and Templeton, 1999). In 113 114 contrast, in a metapopulation where all populations exchange migrants equally, F_{ST} is 115 not correlated with geographic distance. Therefore, the slope of IBD is commonly used 116 for estimating dispersal distance with genetic markers. The IBD theory is a central 117 concept of the neutral theory of molecular evolution (Kimura, 1983), which states that 118 most of evolutionary changes at the molecular level is the result of randomly genetic 119 drift acting on neutral alleles (not affecting fitness). In ecology, although disentangling 120 whether the regional distribution of species arises from dispersal limitation (MacArthur 121 and Wilson, 1967) or by niche adaptive processes (Hutchinson, 1957) have long 122 debated, the emergence of the concept of neutrality (Hubbell, 2001) appeared more 123 recently than in population genetics. The neutral theory of biodiversity developed by 124 Hubbell (1997, 2001) is *neutral* because all individuals are assumed to have the same 125 prospects for reproduction and death (Chave, 2004). Under a Hubbell's model, where a

126 metacommunity is composed by a set of communities exchanging individuals of 127 different species with a migration rate, the variability in relative abundances across 128 species is solely due to demographic stochasticity or 'ecological drift'. When migration 129 rate is low in such a model (i.e. species are dispersal limited), species cross-site 130 similarity (i.e. the opposite of β -diversity) is predicted to decline logarithmically with 131 increasing geographical distance (Hubbell, 2001; Chave and Leigh, 2002). This pattern, 132 named 'distance decay', has been observed for different taxonomic groups: rainforest 133 trees (e.g. Condit et al., 2002; Chust et al., 2006a), coral reefs (Hubbell, 2001), marine 134 bacteria (e.g., Martiny et al., 2011), and plankton (Irigoien et al., 2011; Chust et al., 135 2013; but see Cermeño et al., 2010). The estimated correlation and rate of change (i.e. 136 slope) in species similarity with increasing geographic distance, hence, can be used to 137 compare the degree of dispersal limitation among different communities, (Chust et al., 138 2006b). However, species distributions and environmental variables tend to be spatially 139 autocorrelated (Legendre, 1993), hence, distance decay might be a result from the 140 relation between species composition and environmental niche factors. In such case, 141 appropriate statistical techniques need to be applied in order to disentangle both effects 142 (e.g. Chust et al., 2013). Within this framework, our expectations in estuarine species is 143 that the group of species more limited by dispersal at the community level should also 144 have more fragmented genetic population structure, in accordance to recent findings in 145 aquatic beetles (Baselga et al., 2013).

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147 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

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149 2.1 Study area

151 The study area is located within the Basque Country (Spain), in the southeastern part of 152 the Bay of Biscay (Fig. 1). The total length of this section of the coast is ca. 150 km, 153 with 13 main estuaries (Borja and Collins, 2004) (Fig. 1). The maritime climate along 154 the Basque coast is related mainly to its location within the Bay of Biscay and the NE 155 Atlantic (González et al., 2004). In relation to its location and orientation, this part of 156 the coast is exposed to large storms from the NW, produced by evolution of the North 157 Atlantic low pressure systems. Strong NW swell waves dominate and are the most 158 common sea state within the study area. The tidal wave is semi-diurnal in character 159 within the Bay of Biscay (Uriarte et al., 2004). Along the Basque coast, the mean tidal 160 range is approximately 1.65 m on neap tides and 4.01 m on springs (Chust et al., 2010). 161 Despite the importance of tidally-induced surface water fluctuations, the contribution of 162 the tides to the generation of currents is somewhat modest (except within the estuaries) 163 (Uriarte et al., 2004). The coast is dominated by rocky substrata with vertical cliffs 164 intercalated with small estuaries and sandy beaches. The continental shelf in the Basque 165 Country is characterised by its narrowness; it ranges from 7 km to 20 km (Galparsoro et 166 al., 2010). As a consequence of this coastal configuration, salt-marshes are few, 167 fragmentary and restricted to the inner parts of the estuarine areas (Cearreta et al., 168 2002).

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172 2.2.1 Zostera noltei

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The seagrass *Zostera noltei* (Hornemann, 1832) is an estuarine flowering plant which forms meadows at the muddy and sandy flats within the intertidal zone. The seagrass 176 colonisation mainly proceeds through clonal growth through rhizomes. It is distributed 177 widely within the coastal zones from the southern coasts of Norway to the 178 Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, the Canary Islands, with the southern limit on the 179 Mauritanian coast (Valle et al., 2011). Z. noltei has been reported to occur along most 180 northern Spanish estuaries, and there are also historical references about its presence 181 along the Basque Country estuaries, but nowadays is present only in three (Oka, Lea 182 and Bidasoa) of them (Valle et al., 2011; Fig. 1). The general degradation in quality of 183 Basque estuaries over the last two centuries, due to human pressures (Borja et al., 184 2006a), might explain the decline (from 6 to 3 vegetated estuaries) of this species within 185 the region (Valle et al., 2011).

186

187 Zostera noltei samples were collected from nine estuaries in Northern Spain and 188 Western France: three in the Basque Country region (Oka, Lea and Bidasoa) (Fig. 1) in 189 which the plant is still present (Valle et al., 2011), three estuaries in Cantabria (St. 190 Vicente de la Barquera, Santoña, Santander) and one in Asturias (Ribadesella) regions, 191 one estuary in France (Arcachon), and one population from Galicia region, Ria de Vigo 192 estuary (42°21'2.95"N and 8°36'57.76"W) as a distant reference population. Shoots 193 (between 17 and 70 per estuary) were collected randomly with at least 2 meter distant 194 between samples.

195

Genomic DNA was extracted from silica dried plant material by a CTAB (2%
hexadecyl trimethylammonium bromide) method. Seven microsatellite loci (Genbank
accession codes: ZnB1, ZnB8, ZnD6, ZnF11, ZnF8, ZnH10, ZnH8 were PCR amplified
using fluorescently labeled primers (Coyer et al., 2004). PCR products were visualized
using an ABI-3130XL automated sequencer (Applied Biosystems). Raw allele sizes

201 were scored with STRAND (http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/informatics/STRand/), binned

202 using the R package MsatAllele (Alberto, 2009) in R software (R Development Core

203 Team, 2011), and manually reviewed for ambiguities.

204

205 2.2.2 Cerastoderma edule

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207 The common cockle, Cerastoderma edule (Linnaeus 1758), is a bivalve with a north 208 Atlantic distribution. This species inhabits in estuaries and sandy bays and its 209 development include a planktonic larval phase (Young et al., 1996). Planktonic larvae 210 dispersal has been reported to last up to 3-6 weeks in the water column (Marine Life 211 Information Network; available at: <u>http://www.marlin.ac.uk</u>). A total of 479 individuals 212 of C. edule were sampled at the estuaries of Butron, Bidasoa, Deba, Lea and Oka 213 (Basque Country, Fig. 1) and at Carril (Ria de Arousa, Galicia, NW Spain, 42° 21' 57" 214 N, 8° 27' 46" W). Cockles were sampled at intertidal sandy areas by sieving, and froze 215 in a freezer until analyses.

216

217 Genomic DNA was extracted from 25 mg of muscle tissue for each individual using 218 Nucleospin® 96 Tissue Kit (Macherey-Nagel). The amount and quality of DNA from 219 each sample was subsequently quantified in a NanoDrop ND-8000 spectrophotometer 220 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The 12 polymorphic microsatellites developed by Martinez 221 et al. (2009) were genotyped for the 479 C. edule individuals as to account for genetic 222 diversity and relatedness. These markers were amplified in two independent multiplex 223 polymerase chain reactions (PCR). The two multiplexed reactions, namely COCKLE1 224 and COCKLE2, included, respectively, 8 and 4 markers. While COCKLE1 included 225 CeATC1-5, CeATC1-36, CeATC1-52, CeATC2-4, CeATC2-11, CeATC2-34,

226 CeATC2-44 and CeATC2-46, microsatellite loci, COCKLE2 consisted of CeATC1-22, 227 CeATC1-54, CeATC2-12 and CeATC2-51 ones. All PCR reactions were carried out in 228 a final volume of 12.5 µl in a Veriti[™] Thermal Cycler (Applied Biosystems). Each 229 multiplex PCR reaction contained 5-10 ng DNA. While COCKLE1 reaction contained 1 230 μ l MgCl₂ (25 mM), 0.30 μ l of each primer (10 μ M), except for 0.50 μ l of CeATC2-46 231 ones, 1.25 µl GeneAmp® PCR Buffer II (Applied Biosystems), 1 µl dNTPs (2.5 mM 232 each), 0.48 µl AmpliTag Gold DNA Polymerase (5 U/µl ;Applied Biosystems) and 2.07 233 µl ultrapure H₂0, COCKLE2 reaction included 1.25 µl MgCl₂, 0.30 µl of each primer, 234 except for 0.50 µl of CeATC2-51 ones, 1.25 µl PCR Buffer, 1 µl dNTPs (2.5 mM each), 235 0.24 μ l DNA Polymerase and 4.46 μ l ultrapure H₂0. Both multiplex PCRs were 236 performed using the following conditions: 5 min initial denaturation at 95°C, followed 237 by 34 cycles of denaturation for 30 s at 95 °C, 30 s at annealing temperature ($T_a = 60$ 238 °C), and 30 s at 72 °C for extension. An extra final extension for 10 min at 72 °C was 239 included after the last cycle. PCR products were analysed in two independent 240 electrophoresis runs with an ABI Prism 3100 Avant Genetic Analyzer (Applied 241 Biosystems). Raw data were processed with GENESCAN 3.7.1 and allele calling was 242 performed with GENOTYPER 3.7 software (Applied Biosystems). Only the nine, out of 243 twelve, microsatellite loci that were successfully genotyped, meaning that were 244 polymorphic and reliably scored, were considered for further analysis (CeATC1-5, 245 CeATC1-36, CeATC2-4, CeATC2-11, CeATC2-34, CeATC2-44, CeATC1-22, 246 CeATC1-54 and CeATC2-12).

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248 2.3 Statistical analysis: Genetic diversity and divergence

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250 In Zostera noltei, after removal of duplicate multilocus genotypes (ramets, i.e. shoots, 251 belonging to the same genet, which is a group of genetically identical individuals), 252 heterozygosity (He and Ho) and inbreeding coefficient (FIS) were calculated using 253 Genetix version 4.05 software (Belkhir et al., 2004). Genotypic diversity, the proportion 254 of different genets in each sample, was estimated as R following Dorken and Eckert 255 (2001): R = (G-1)/(N-1), where N corresponds to the number of collected individuals 256 and G to the number of genets (i.e. clonal colony). R ranges from 0 (all samples belong 257 to the same genet) to 1 (all samples are unique genetic individuals). Also, the genetic variation was calculated as the allelic richness (Â) standardized for sample size 258 259 (standArich package for R language, see Alberto et al. 2006). In Cerastoderma edule, 260 FSTAT v.2.9.3 software (Goudet, 2001) was used to estimate allelic richness (AR), 261 heterozygosity (H_e and H_o) and inbreeding coefficient (F_{IS}).

262

263 The presence and frequency of null alleles was tested for both species using the 264 expectation maximization algorithm of Dempster et al. (1977) implemented in FreeNA 265 (Chapuis and Estoup, 2007). Genetic divergence between populations was assessed by means of calculating two differentiation measures: 1) fixation index (F_{ST}; Weir and 266 267 Cockerham, 1984) using FreeNA software (Goudet, 1995; 2001) that provides null 268 allele corrected F_{ST} values, and 2) D (Jost, 2008). Statistical significance of F_{ST} was 269 obtained bootstrapping over loci; probability was p < 0.05 when the 95% confidence 270 interval did not include 0 (F_{ST} statistically different from zero).

271

272 2.4 Genetic metrics of dispersal

274 Interconnectivity of populations was examined through use of cluster analysis and by 275 calculation of isolation by distance. Isolation by distance was tested for both Z. noltei 276 and C. edule species by searching for correlation between genetic and geographic 277 distance matrices with Mantel approach (Legendre and Legendre, 1998). This test 278 computes a statistic r_M which measures the correlation between two matrices and is 279 tested by a non-parametric permutation test. Geographic distance was measured as the 280 minimum path distance between two estuaries along the coastline, i.e. circumventing 281 the terrestrial zone, using geographic information system tools (Fig. 1b). Genetic 282 distance was estimated by $F_{ST}/1$ - F_{ST} (Rousset, 1997).

283

284 Population structure was analysed using the Bayesian clustering techniques 285 implemented in the software STRUCTURE 2.3.1 (Pritchard et al., 2000). STRUCTURE 286 uses individual multilocus genotype data to cluster individuals into K groups while 287 minimising Hardy-Weinberg disequilibrium and gametic phase disequilibrium between 288 loci within groups. First we calculated the mode of ΔK (Evanno, 2005) which is a good 289 predictor for the real number of clusters in the data. Then STRUCTURE was run for the 290 modal value with 100000 burnin and 1000000 Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) 291 iterations.

292

293 2.5 Floristic and faunal β -diversity across estuaries

294

The floristic (flowering plants) inventory of mudflats and saltmarshes, and soft-bottom macroinvertebrates have been analysed in order to test whether population isolation among estuarine communities takes place at the geographic scale of the study area (Basque coast). To this end, the correlation strength and slope between species similarity among estuaries and the oceanographic distance is interpreted as a surrogate of dispersal limitation (Chust et al., 2006b). Thus, the greater the isolation the lower the capacity of the community species, in average, to adapt to new conditions. Dataset on these species, together with information on dispersal modes, are given below.

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304 Plant (angiosperms) inventory of saltmarshes and seagrass beds was obtained from 305 Silván & Campos (2002). The sampling considered all plant species found in 306 saltmarshes, exclusive of halophytic wetlands and intertidal seagrass meadows, and 307 excluded exotic species and those associated to inland habitats. The sampling was 308 undertaken in 2001 over 9 estuaries (Barbadun, Butron, Oka, Lea, Deba, Urola, 309 Iñurritza, Oria, Bidasoa) since Nervion, Urumea and Oiartzun did not present saltmarsh 310 habitats. Overall dataset presented 31 plant species (Table S1). The estuarine occurrence 311 of Zostera noltei seagrass was updated from Valle et al. (2011). The flowering plants 312 have different dispersal modes (Table S1): 13 species (41%) are dispersed by water 313 exclusively or also by other modes, 5 by wind only, 4 by animals only, and 9 are 314 unassisted (i.e. seeds drop to the ground close to or beneath the parent plant). In terms 315 of dispersal efficiency, it is also important to take into account the pollinization modes 316 (Friess et al., 2011) (Table S1): 20 species (65%) by wind only, 7 by insects only, 2 by 317 water only, and 2 species use multiple modes.

318

The soft-bottom macroinvertebrate data were obtained from the abovementioned water monitoring network (see Borja et al., 2009b; Pascual et al., 2011). The sampling considered all macroinvertebrates taxa found in 3 replicates of 0.25 m^2 within the lower to mid intertidal zone (*circa* 1-2 m above minimum astronomic low tide), except for Nervion and Oiartzun, where the subtidal was sampled, using a van Veen grab of 0.07

 m^2 (for details, see Borja et al., 2009b). Data considered here corresponded to the period 324 325 from 2002 to 2008, with samples taken once a year, in winter, over 12 estuaries 326 (Barbadun, Nervion, Butron, Oka, Lea, Artibai, Deba, Urola, Oria, Urumea, Oiartzun, 327 Bidasoa). The number of sampling sites per estuary was different (from 2 to 5 sites), 328 depending on the size of the estuary. For the analysis, species presence was counted 329 over all sites of an estuary. Only species taxonomically identified at, at least, the genus 330 level were considered. Overall dataset presented 321 species (Table S2). Among all 331 species found in Basque estuaries, 49 of them had information available on dispersion 332 mode of their larvae (Table S2): 39 species (80%) are planktonic, 4 planktonic and 333 benthic, 3 benthic only, 2 with no larvae phase, and 1 reptant.

334

335 The correlation between species similarity and oceanographic distance across estuaries 336 was estimated using Mantel test (Legendre and Legendre, 1998). In our case, the 337 number of species of each estuary greatly differs mainly because of different sampling 338 effort, as a consequence of different estuary size. This is due to the well-known species-339 area relationship (e.g. Rosenzweig, 1995; Rumohr et al., 2001; Ricotta et al., 2002; 340 Sabetta et al., 2007). Hence, the quantification of similarity (i.e. β -diversity) is 341 problematic (Koleff et al., 2003). One of the most used similarity measure in equal 342 sampling areas is the Jaccard index (Koleff et al., 2003), which is the number of species 343 shared between the two sites (a), divided by the total number of species observed (a + b)344 (+ c), where b is the total number of species that occur in site 1 and c is the total number 345 of species that occur in site 1. If there is a large difference in richness between sites 346 (here, estuaries), Jaccard index will always be small. To address this problem, we used 347 two "narrow sense" dissimilarity indices that focus on compositional differences

348 independent of species richness gradients (Koleff et al., 2003): β_{sim} (Lennon et al., 349 2001), and β_{-3} (Williams, 1996):

350
$$\beta_{sim} = 1 - \frac{a}{\min(b,c) + a}$$
 (Lennon et al., 2001)

which express the proportion of shared species with respect to the minimum number ofspecies of the two sites; and

353
$$\beta_{-3} = \frac{\min(b,c)}{a+b+c}$$
 (William, 1996, re-expressed by Koleff et al., 2003)

354 which was proposed to map species turnover adjusting for sites with different sizes.

355 Dissimilarity measures were converted to similarity indices (= 1 - dissimilarity).

356

357 Oceanographic distance was measured as in the case of *Z. noltei* and *C. edule* 358 populations. We also used Mantel tests to determine the correlation between species 359 similarity matrices and geographic distance. The rate of change (i.e. slope) in species 360 similarity with increasing geographic distance (i.e. distance decay) was calculated 361 fitting a linear model.

362

363 Since distance decay may also result from the relation between species composition and 364 environmental niche factors (Chust et al., 2013) of the estuary, partial Mantel tests were 365 undertaken to determine the relative contribution of geographic distance and 366 environmental distance in accounting for species composition similarity. Environmental 367 features comprised eight geomorphological and hydrological variables of the estuary 368 extracted from Uriarte et al. (2004): drainage area, mean river flow, estuary length, 369 estuary volume, subtidal volume, estuary area, intertidal area, and tidal prism. Pairwise 370 environmental distances was computed using Euclidean distance.

371

- 372 3. RESULTS
- 373
- 374 3.1 Genetic analysis of Zostera noltei
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376 The number of alleles per marker showed values ranging from 11 to 18, H_e values 377 varied from a minimum of 0.29 to a maximum of 0.81 (meaning 1 total absence of 378 homozygotes). All loci show significant positive F_{IS} except for ZnF8 (Table 1). Null 379 allele frequencies estimated for Z. noltei loci were negligible (r<0.05, according to 380 Chapuis and Estoup (2007)) or nearly negligible (0.06-0.07). Genotypic diversity (R) 381 ranged from a low (0.20) in Lea to a high value (1.00) in Arcachon and Santoña (Table 382 2). Z. noltei patches in Lea were dominated by a single clone, while in Ria de Vigo almost each collected shoot was a genetically an unique individual. Observed 383 384 heterozygosity ranged from 0.26 to 0.62. There was significant deviation from Hardy-385 Weinberg equilibrium as shown by positive F_{IS} values in all estuaries except for Lea, 386 Ribadesella and San Vicente de la Barquera, resulting in heterozygote deficiency. 387 Allelic richness, when standardized for the minimum genet number (Lea, G=10), was 388 2.65 in Bidasoa but much higher in Oka, Ria de Vigo and Lea.

389

Although no correlation was observed between geographic distance and genetic distance ($r_M = 0.12$ and p < 0.223 for F_{ST} , $r_M = 0.04$ and p = 0.294 for *D*, see Fig. 2), populations of *Zostera noltei* in the studied estuaries were highly differentiated as estimated by high pairwise F_{ST} and *D*, indicating distinct and dynamically independent populations (Table 3). Moreover, estuaries closer than 65 km had F_{ST} and *D* lower than those separated farther than that distance (t-test p-value = 0.0011, and 0.0002, respectively; see Fig. 2). These results indicate low connectivity. Regarding patterns within estuaries, we detected large clones in all three Basque estuaries (results not shown). Each site
contained at least one dominant clone covering an area of *ca*. 3 hectares (i.e. shoots
collected across the sampling area in different patches belonged to the same multilocus
genotype).

401

402 In STRUCTURE analysis, the most probable number of clusters (ΔK) when considering 403 all populations resulted in K=2 and a less supported solution of K=3 and K=8 (Fig. 3a). 404 The K=2 plot (Fig. 3b) shows clustering between Vigo and Bidasoa separated from the 405 others. However, after repeating the STRUCTURE analysis with only those two 406 populations resulted also in K=2 and clearly show that Bidasoa and Vigo are different. 407 With K=8, all populations are separated from each other, except Lea that is clustered 408 with Ribadesella (Fig. 3b). The K=3 plot, which has a similar L(K) than K=8, shows 409 Vigo and Bidasoa together and also Santander and Santoña are clustered.

410

411 3.2 Genetic analysis of *Cerastoderma edule*

412

As stated previously, only nine microsatellites (out of the twelve that were genotyped) were considered for *C. edule* population genetics. While the number of alleles per marker showed values ranging from 11 to 51 (Table 4), H_e values varied from a minimum of 0.418 to a maximum of 0.902 (meaning 1 total absence of homozygotes). Non-negligible null allele frequencies were reported for seven of the microsatellite markers (Table 4).

419

When comparing within genetic diversity among the different estuaries, sample from
Ria de Arousa showed the highest values of H_e and AR (Table 5). Nevertheless, only 3

422 out of 30 pairwise comparisons were statistically significant using Wilcoxon test: 423 Arousa vs. Deba for both H_e (p = 0.028) and AR (p = 0.021), and Arousa vs. Lea for AR 424 (p = 0.028).

425

426 Regarding genetic differentiation among estuaries, the pairwise comparison of fixation 427 index (F_{ST}) values showed significant values only when comparing Butron estuary 428 against both Deba and Arousa estuaries, and when comparing Arousa against Lea. This 429 last comparison became non-significant when applying null allele correction (Table 6). 430 The geographically farthest estuaries (Arousa and Bidasoa, Fig. 1) showed a F_{ST} value 431 of 0.0030 (non-significant; null allele corrected).

432

433 In the estuaries where more than one sampling point was surveyed, a pairwise F_{ST} test 434 was performed without obtaining any significant value. While regarding Oka estuary, 435 F_{ST} values among sampling locations ranged between 0.000 and 0.009 (11 sample points), a range of 0.000-0.011 corresponded to Deba estuary (3 sample points) and a 436 437 sole value of 0.008, corresponding to the presence of two sampling points, was found 438 within Butron estuary. No correlation was found when comparing genetic and geographical distances (for F_{ST} : $r_M = 0.017$; p = 0.553; for D: $r_M = -0.14$, p = 0.627). 439 440 STRUCTURE analysis was not performed since it has been described that the 441 performance in STRUCTURE to detect the correct clusters number within a given 442 dataset increases with F_{ST} , and that the test fails at F_{ST} values of 0.01-0.02 (Latch et al. 443 2006).

444

445 3.3 Floristic and faunal β -diversity across estuaries

The Mantel correlations between species similarity (for the two measures used: $1-\beta_{sim}$, 447 448 $1-\beta_{-3}$) and the oceanographic distance was statistically significant in plants, whilst in 449 macroinvertebrates were not statistically significant (Fig. 4, Table 7). Environmental 450 distances were not statistically correlated with species similarity in any of the taxa 451 group. The partial Mantel correlations between plant species similarity and the 452 oceanographic distance, partialling out environmental distance, were statistically 453 significant. This indicates that plants were dispersal limited. In contrast, 454 macroinvertebrates did not present a patchy structure, suggesting that species did not 455 have important movement barriers and populations (in average) were highly connected.

456

457 4. DISCUSSION

458

459 Results indicate that similarity of plant assemblages of saltmarshes and seagrass beds 460 decreases with oceanographic distance among estuaries, while is unrelated with 461 environmental niche factors. This is interpreted as plants are more isolated between 462 estuaries than soft-bottom macroinvertebrates. As it has been seen, 59% of salt-marsh 463 species are dispersed by modes other than water (i.e. wind, animals or unassisted) and 464 23% of species are pollinated by insects. Given the steep geomorphological 465 configuration of the Basque coast, with few and fragmentary salt-marshes restricted to 466 inner parts of the estuaries, and separated apart by hilly reliefs and seacliffs, it is 467 possible that most of these plant species (especially those having wind, animal or 468 unassisted modes of seed dispersal, and those pollinated by insects) are constrained to 469 spread (Friess et al., 2011). In contrast, most of the soft-bottom macroinvertebrates 470 (80%) spread through the planktonic larvae; this could explain the unstructured spatial 471 distribution of those communities, suggesting no dispersal barriers at this regional scale. 472 Chang et al. (2007) also concluded that medium to long distance diaspore dispersal is473 rare in saltmarsh systems except in extreme weather events.

474

475 Z. noltei had highly population differentiation in north Iberian estuaries as estimated by 476 high pairwise F_{ST} and D values and clustering techniques. Although no correlation was 477 observed between geographic distance and seagrass genetic distance, estuaries closer 478 than 65 km had F_{ST} and D lower than those separated farther than that distance. Highly-479 structured populations of this seagrass could be attributed to 1) small effective 480 population size (the resulting genetic drift may be higher than migration rates), and 2) 481 founder effects (Z. noltei is a clonal plant with potential long-lived generations). This 482 suggests a low recolonization rate in agreement with Thayer et al. (1975) and Diekmann 483 et al. (2005). In particular, Diekmann et al. (2005) found genetic population differentiation in the West Iberian coast, as a result of habitat isolation, small 484 485 populations and near-shore currents. Friess et al. (2012) also pointed out that large-scale 486 exchange of genetic material is potentially constrained by distance between saltmarsh 487 populations due to poor diaspore buoyancy and flotation. The combination of limited 488 dispersal capacity of Z. noltei, its clonal strategy and the genetic drift, might be 489 problematic for long-term conservation perspective in the face of habitat changes, which 490 might exacerbate its declining situation (from 6 to 3 vegetated estuaries through the 20th 491 Century) within the Basque Country (Valle et al., 2011). At the community level, salt-492 marshes and seagrass beds, and especially those species with low occurrence, and those 493 with animal-based dispersal mode or unassisted, can be also considered as vulnerable to 494 habitat changes because of dispersal limitation.

495

496 Pairwise F_{ST} and D results for C. edule individuals collected from five different Basque 497 estuaries and a NW Spain location showed a lack of genetic structure for this species in 498 the studied area. Therefore, C. edule in the Northern coast of the Iberian Peninsula 499 would conform a panmictic population. The high degree of polymorphism (denoted by 500 allelic richness and observed heterozygosity values) of the molecular markers applied in 501 this study implies a high discriminatory power when identifying sub-populations and 502 thus gives further support to the reported pattern. Moreover, present results point to a 503 high degree of connectivity among C. edule assemblies along the north Iberian estuaries 504 and suggest cockle being a highly mobile species, through the planktonic larvae 505 dispersal, that has been reported to last up to 3-6 weeks in the water column (Marine 506 Life Information Network; available at: http://www.marlin.ac.uk). On the other hand, 507 large effective population size may also explain the lack of significant structure. The 508 genetic analysis of C. edule coincides with the community analysis in terms of high 509 connectivity at population and community levels, respectively, suggesting no dispersal 510 barriers at this regional scale for the soft-bottom macroinvertebrates, most of them 511 spreading through planktonic larvae. Within this panmictic population of C. edule along 512 the north Iberian coast, all estuarine populations would contribute a certain percentage 513 of offspring to a larval pool with homogeneous redistribution to all populations (Selkoe 514 and Toonen, 2011). Lack of population structure applying a similar number of 515 microsatellites over long coastal areas has been also reported for other mollusc species 516 (e.g. Bester-van der Merwe et al., 2011; Donald et al., 2011; but see Coscia et al., 2013). 517 High connectivity would imply a high resilience and, therefore, a low vulnerability to 518 moderate environmental change and the putative loss of intertidal habitat. On the other 519 hand, high connectivity can also impede local adaptation (e.g., Lenormand, 2002; but 520 see Clarke et al., 2010 and Sanford and Kelly, 2011). On the contrary, warming of the

521 sea of 1.5 to 2.0 °C within the area (Chust et al., 2011) might trigger a reduction in the 522 dispersion period of planktonic bivalve larvae such as *C. edule*. Moreover, bivalves are 523 not able to regulate osmotic pressure and the intensification of extreme daily rainfall of 524 10%, would provoke punctual changes in salinity and intense mortality of the post-525 larvae.

526

527 Our findings suggest that populations of species dwelling exclusively within the 528 estuarine soft-bottom intertidal zone, such as the seagrass Z. noltei and most of salt-529 marsh plants, can be separated apart by large functional distances along the coastline. In 530 contrast, other estuarine sessile species but with planktonic larval dispersal and dwelling 531 different habitats, such as C. edule and other soft-bottom macroinvertebrates, could 532 exchange migrants from the metapopulation pool without strong barriers to gene flow. 533 In comparison with other ecosystems, the role played by dispersal limitation in 534 saltmarsh plants is similar to the one reported for inland plants (e.g. Condit et al. 2002, 535 Chust et al. 2006a,b), whilst the gene flow in intertidal soft-bottom macroinvertebrates 536 seems to move almost with no barriers as in most of the pelagic organisms (e.g., Kinlan 537 and Gaines, 2003; Cermeño and Falkowski, 2009).

538

The projected scenario of sea level rise induced by climate change (Chust et al., 2010), could threaten the smallest populations of some of saltmarsh species. Although the morphodynamic evolution of mudflats with sea level rise in the estuaries is site specific, and saltmarshes are capable of responding to sea level rise being near equilibrium in relation to sea level (e.g. Friedrichs and Perry, 2001; Friess et al., 2012; Leorri et al., 2013), the suitable habitat for vegetation could be reduced in some cases. This is the case, for instance, where the coastal margin is squeezed between the fixed landward boundary (artificial or natural) and the sea level rise, i.e. the so-called 'coastal squeeze'
effect (Schleupner, 2008). In the Basque estuaries, habitat squeeze induced by present
artificial barriers is expected to be more severe in the upper tidal zone than in the mid or
lower intertidal zone (Chust et al., 2011).

550

551 As commented, Basque estuaries have been dramatically transformed by anthropogenic activities during the 20th Century (Cearreta et al., 2004), supporting many human 552 553 pressures (Borja et al., 2006a). However, in recent times, these estuaries have 554 experienced some recovery, due to water treatment (Borja et al., 2009a; 2010). Hence, some habitat restoration experiments have been undertaken, after recovery of the 555 556 aquatic quality (Marquiegui and Aguirrezabalaga, 2009). Since genetic connectivity of 557 some species is very low, it may affect recovery and restoration success, as shown in 558 other areas for Zostera species (Campanella et al., 2010a; Tanaka et al., 2011). Moreover, the low genetic diversity in Z. noltei at the estuary level weakens the 559 560 population's ability to overcome physical disturbances (Campanella et al., 2010b), 561 including also habitat loss due to sea-level rise. In contrast, the connectivity of soft-562 bottom macroinvertebrate communities indicate high recolonization capacity, in 563 agreement with that reported in azoic parts of some Basque estuaries after 10-15 years 564 (Borja et al., 2006b; 2009b; 2010). Hence, the proxies of connectivity used and 565 compared in the present study, based on genetic and ecological drift processes and 566 dispersal limitation factors, can be applied to assess the vulnerability of species to 567 global change; likewise, to help environmental managers to prioritise local restoration 568 plans for the most vulnerable species and habitats. Further research should focus on 569 applying the genetic analysis to a large number of species enough to represent the 570 diversity of estuarine communities, thus, in order to test if species dispersal limitation

drives similarly both genetic population structure and community patterns, as recentlyshown in aquatic beetles (Baselga et al., 2013).

573

574 5. CONCLUSIONS

575

576 Two proxies of connectivity at community and species levels, based on genetic and 577 ecological neutral theories, respectively, provided similar results in estuarine biota. 578 Although salt-marsh and seagrass plants share a sedentary life history with soft-bottom 579 macroinvertebrates and they inhabit in a similar environment, the latter disperse at 580 larger scales and this is attributed to differences in biological dispersal modes between 581 these two taxa. The proxy at community level indicates that plant populations of 582 saltmarshes and seagrass beds are partially isolated among estuaries, as a result of 583 dispersal limitation. One of these species is the seagrass Z. noltei; their populations 584 within the Basque estuaries were found genetically differentiated. This suggests that 585 main processes operating to the seagrass populations are genetic drift and low gene 586 flow, especially for the most distant populations, probably because seagrass 587 colonisation mainly proceeds locally through clonal growth. The chances that 588 recolonization would occur naturally if populations get extinct would be highly 589 unlikely. In contrast, estuarine soft-bottom macroinvertebrates did not present a spatial 590 structure, suggesting that species do not have strong movement barriers and 591 populations, in average, are highly connected. Accordingly, the cockle (C. edule) 592 assemblages within the Basque estuaries were found genetically undifferentiated, 593 indicating they own to a unique panmictic population. Thus, C. edule seemed to be a 594 highly mobile species, probably throughout the planktonic larvae dispersed by ocean 595 currents, with a high recolonization capacity.

597 Overall, our findings suggest that C. edule, and other similar estuarine soft-bottom 598 macroinvertebrates, with planktonic larval dispersal strategies, would have a high 599 resilience capacity in the face of moderate changes within their habitats. In contrast, 600 saltmarsh plants and seagrass beds are especially vulnerable to these changes because of 601 their dispersal limitation, in particular those changes reducing species habitat extent 602 such as those induced by anthropogenic impacts and sea level rise. As shown, the 603 seagrass Z. noltei is a particularly threatened species within the Basque estuaries 604 because of fragmented, few and genetically low diverse populations. These findings can 605 help environmental managers to guide species and habitat restoration plans as well as 606 climate change adaptation strategies.

607

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609

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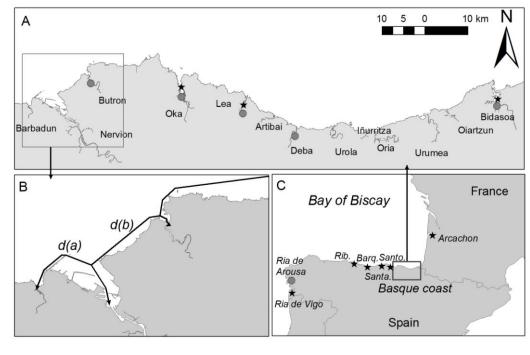
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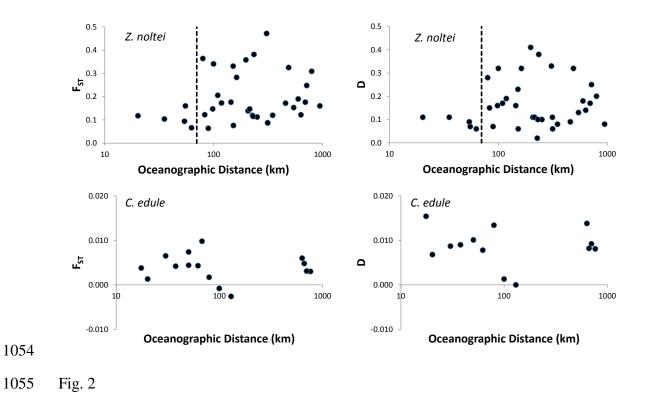
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1029 Figure legends 1030 1031 Fig. 1. A) Estuaries of the Basque coast, C) Galician (Ria de Vigo and Ria de Arousa), 1032 Asturian (Rib.: Ribadesella), and Cantabrian (Barq: Sant Vicente de la Barquera, Santa.: 1033 Santander, Santo.: Santoña) sampling stations, in the northwestern Spain, and Arcachon 1034 (France) station. B) Detail of the minimum path distances (d) between adjacent 1035 estuaries. Stars: genetic sampling stations for Z. noltei. Circles: genetic sampling 1036 stations for *C. edule*. 1037 1038 Fig. 2. Pairwise genetic distance (F_{ST} and D) of Z. noltei and C. edule against the 1039 oceanographic distance. Estuaries closer than 65 km (discontinuous line) had F_{ST} and D 1040 for Z. noltei lower than those separated farther than that distance. 1041 1042 Fig. 3. A) $\Delta(K)$ as a function of K groups in STRUCTURE analysis. B) Barplot 1043 showing results from STRUCTURE with K groups (colors) for Zostera noltei. On the y-1044 axis is the individual membership proportion. 1045 1046 Fig. 4. Pairwise species similarity $(1-\beta_{sim})$ of plants (saltmarshes and seagrass meadows) 1047 and benthic macroinvertebrates against the oceanographic distance. The Mantel 1048 correlation between species similarity and geographic distance are given in Table 7.

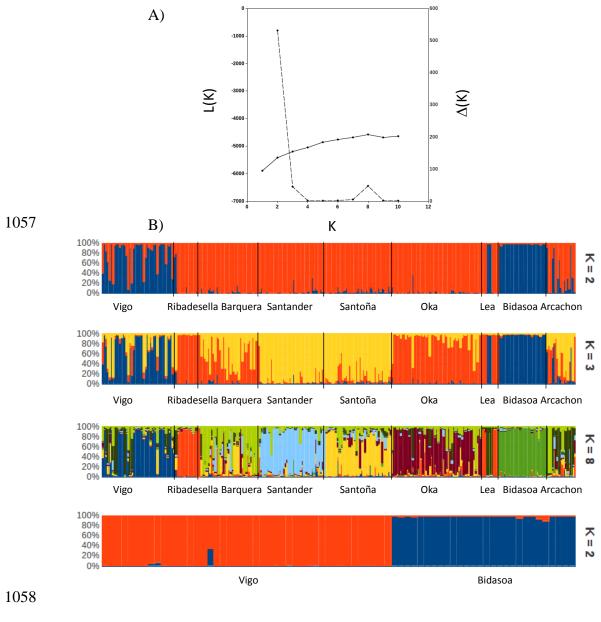


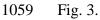


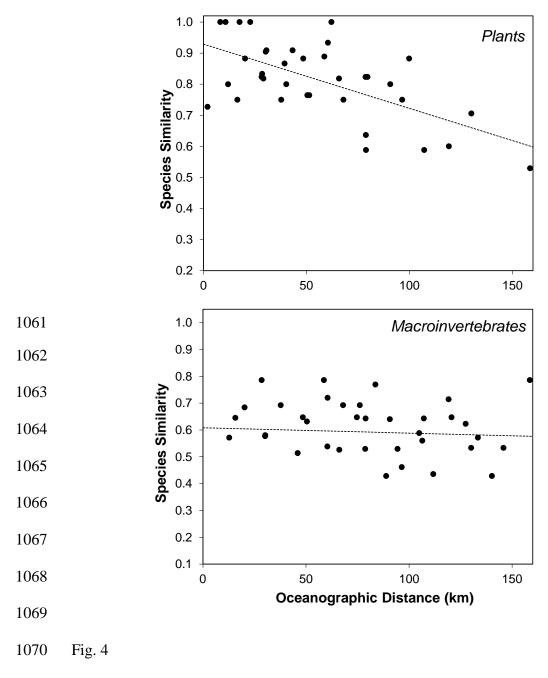
1051 Fig. 1.











- 1072 Table 1. Allele number, observed heterozygosity (H_o), expected heterozygosity (H_e),
- 1073 and inbreeding coefficient (F_{IS} ; *: p<0.05, NS = Not Significant) for three sampling
- 1074 locations of Zostera noltei from the Basque estuaries and one from a distant location in

Locus	Number of Alleles/locus	H _e	H _o	F _{IS}	Null allele frequency
ZnB1	18	0.81	0.71	0.13*	0.02
ZnB8	18	0.71	0.47	0.35*	0.06
ZnD6	15	0.68	0.44	0.35*	0.07
ZnF11	15	0.64	0.46	0.27*	0.05
ZnF8	10	0.29	0.27	$0.07^{\text{ NS}}$	0.01
ZnH10	15	0.74	0.60	0.20*	0.02
ZnH8	12	0.64	0.55	0.14*	0.06

1075 the Galicia region (Ria de Vigo, NW Spain).

1076

1077

1079Table 2. Number of collected individuals (N), number of genets (G), genotypic diversity1080(R) and standardized genetic diversity or allelic richness (AR), inbreeding coefficient,1081and observed (H_o) and expected (H_e) heterozygosities for three sampling locations of1082*Zostera noltei* from the Basque estuaries and one from a distant location in the Galicia1083region (Ria de Vigo, NW Spain).

Location	Ν	G	R	AR (G=10)	He	H_{o}	F _{IS}
Vigo	48	44	0.91	4.343 ± 0.485	0.557	0.508	0.0993*
Ribadesella	40	14	0.33	2.654 ± 0.112	0.350	0.415	-0.1496*
San Vicente de la Barquera	50	35	0.69	4.463 ± 0.335	0.537	0.548	-0.0076
Santander	40	38	0.95	4.623 ± 0.305	0.587	0.544	0.0867
Santoña	40	40	1.00	5.209 ± 0.404	0.646	0.615	0.0605
Oka	70	52	0.74	4.263 ± 0.422	0.537	0.492	0.0934*
Lea	47	10	0.20	$3.857{\pm}0.000$	0.487	0.582	-0.1379
Bidasoa	54	28	0.51	2.651 ± 0.181	0.310	0.263	0.1716
Arcachon	17	17	1.00	5.08 ± 0.336	0.569	0.424	0.2864

1084 * Significant F_{IS} (p<0.05)

1086 Table 3. Pairwise F_{ST} and *D* values for *Zostera noltei*. Significant F_{ST} (at p<0.05) are in

F _{ST}	Vigo	Ribadesella	Barquera	Santander	Santoña	Oka	Lea	Bidasoa	Arcachon
Vigo	-	0.32	0.15	0.19	0.12	0.18	0.25	0.31	0.16
Ribadesella		-	0.16	0.21	0.18	0.14	0.12	0.47	0.17
Barquera			-	0.09	0.06	0.08	0.15	0.38	0.09
Santander				-	0.10	0.15	0.17	0.36	0.12
Santoña					-	0.07	0.12	0.28	0.09
Oka						-	0.12	0.34	0.11
Lea							-	0.36	0.11
Bidasoa								-	0.33
Arcachon									-
D	Vigo	Ribadesella	Barquera	Santander	Santoña	Oka	Lea	Bidasoa	Arcachon
Vigo	-	0.32	0.13	0.18	0.14	0.17	0.25	0.20	0.08
Ribadesella		-	0.07	0.17	0.16	0.11	0.02	0.33	0.09
Barquera			-	0.09	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.38	0.06
Santander				-	0.11	0.16	0.19	0.41	0.08
Santoña					-	0.06	0.15	0.32	0.11
Oka						-	0.11	0.32	0.10
Lea							-	0.28	0.10
Bidasoa								-	0.23
Arcachon									

1087 bold (see Materials and Methods for null allele correction and significance testing).

1089	Table 4. Allele number, observed heterozygosity (H _o), expected heterozygosity (H _e),
1090	inbreeding coefficient (F _{IS} ; *: p<0.001, NS: Not Significant) and estimated null allele
1091	frequency values for each of the markers considered for population genetics analysis in
1092	C. edule (see Material and Methods for further information). According to Chapuis and
1093	Estoup (2007) non-negligible null allele frequencies (in bold) are categorized as
1094	moderate $(0.05 \le r < 0.20)$ or large $(r \ge 0.20)$.

Microsatellite	Allele number	H _o	H _e	F _{IS}	Null allele frequency
CeATC1-5	26	0.445	0.902	0.507*	0.240
CeATC1-36	11	0.346	0.418	0.171*	0.075
CeATC2-4	15	0.400	0.682	0.413*	0.171
CeATC2-11	51	0.658	0.887	0.259*	0.122
CeATC2-34	15	0.620	0.790	0.215*	0.095
CeATC2-44	11	0.600	0.633	0.051^{NS}	0.030
CeATC1-22	11	0.710	0.797	0.109*	0.049
CeATC1-54	31	0.426	0.794	0.464*	0.202
CeATC2-12	13	0.221	0.666	0.668*	0.274

Estuary	H _e	AR
Bidasoa	0.722 ± 0.160	6.21 ± 2.37
Deba	0.729 ± 0.154	6.51 ± 2.30
Lea	0.711 ± 0.152	5.91 ± 2.28
Oka	0.725 ± 0.155	6.43 ± 2.38
Butron	0.725 ± 0.152	6.66 ± 2.41
Ria de Arousa	0.748 ± 0.142	7.15 ± 2.73

Table 5. Expected heterozygosity (He) and allelic richness (AR) when pooling
individuals per estuary in *C. edule*.

1101	Table 6. Pairwise F_{ST} values with (below diagonal) and without (above diagonal)
1102	applying null allele correction in C. edule (see Material and Methods; significant values
1103	in bold). Matrix below show pairwise D values in C. edule.

F _{ST}	Bidasoa	Deba	Lea	Oka	Butron	Arousa
Bidasoa	-	0.0040	0.0017	-0.0006	-0.0044	0.0024
Deba	0.0043	-	0.0065	0.004	0.0096	0.0038
Lea	0.0017	0.0038	-	0.0023	0.0039	0.0121
Oka	-0.0008	0.0042	0.0013	-	0.0053	0.0055
Butron	-0.0026	0.0098	0.0044	0.0065	-	0.0057
Arousa	0.0030	0.0031	0.0074	0.0048	0.006	-
D	Bidasoa	Deba	Lea	Oka	Butron	Arousa
Bidasoa	-	0.0078	0.0134	0.0013	0.0000	0.0081
Deba		-	0.0154	0.0090	0.0218	0.0092
Lea			-	0.0068	0.0101	0.0301
Oka				-	0.0087	0.0082
Butron					-	0.0138
Arousa						_

1105 Table 7. Mantel and partial Mantel tests between species similarity indices $(1-\beta_{sim}, 1-\beta_{-3})$, oceanographic distance and environmental variables. r_M : Mantel correlation; p: 1107 probability of significance.

		1-	β_{sim}	1-	β ₋₃
		r _M	р	r _M	р
	Species × Distance	-0.63	< 0.001	-0.58	0.001
Plants (saltmarshes and seagrass beds)	Species × Environ.	-0.15	0.176	-0.14	0.259
	Species × Distance (Environ. partially out)	-0.62	0.002	-0.57	0.002
	Species × Distance	-0.06	0.323	-0.01	0.519
Macroinvertebrates	Species × Environ.	-0.08	0.673	-0.29	0.937
	Species × Distance (Environ. partially out)	na	na	na	na

Supplementary material

1113 Table S1. Flowering plants in Basque estuaries, polinization and dispersal modes, and reproduction type. 1115

Species	Number of	Polinization modes	Dispersal modes	Vegetative reproduction	References and/or source
Apium butronensis	estuaries 1	Insects	Water	No	Tela Botanica ¹
Apium graveolens	5	Insects	Water	No	Bañares <i>et al.</i> (2004)
Aster tripolium	9	Insects	Wind	No	Tela Botanica ¹
Carex extensa	9	Wind	Unassisted	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Carex punctata	2	Wind	Unassisted	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Cochlearia	4	Insects	Unassisted	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
aestuaria					
Festuca littoralis	7	Wind	Unassisted	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Glaux maritima	5	Wind	Unassisted	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Halimione	8	Wind	Wind	Yes	Tela Botanica ¹
portulacoides			Water		
Inula crithmoides	7	Incasta	Wind	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
	7	Insects			
Juncus gerardi	5	Wind	Animal	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Juncus maritimus	9	Wind	Animal	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Limonium humile	2	Insects	Animal	Yes	Tela Botanica ¹
		Wind			
Limonium ovalifolium	1	Insects	Wind	Yes	Tela Botanica ¹
Limonium vulgare	4	Insects	Unassisted	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
		Wind			
Parapholis strigosa	2	Wind	Unassisted	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Puccinellia maritima	8	Wind	Unassisted	Yes	Tela Botanica ¹
Ruppia maritima	3	Water	Water	Yes	Tela Botanica ¹
			Wind		
			Animal		
Salicornia dolichostachya	5	Wind	Water	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Salicornia lutescens	4	Wind	Water	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Salicornia obscura	2	Wind	Water	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Salicornia ramosissima	2	Wind	Water	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Sarcocornia	4	Wind	Water	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
fruticosa					4
Sarcocornia	3	Wind	Water	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
perennis Scirpus compactus	8	Wind	Wind	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Spartina maritima	3	Wind	Unassisted	Yes	Tela Botanica ¹
-					
Spergularia media	7	Insects	Wind	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Suaeda albescens	2	Wind	Water Animal	NA	Tela Botanica ¹

Species	Number of estuaries	Polinization modes	Dispersal modes	Vegetative reproduction	References and/or source
Suaeda maritima	3	Wind	Water Animal	NA	Tela Botanica ¹
Triglochin maritima	8	Wind	Animal	Yes	Tela Botanica ¹
Zostera noltei	3	Water	Water	Yes	BIOTIC ²
			Animal		

¹ Tela Botanica – Le réseau de la botanique francophone. Available from: <u>http://www.tela-</u>

botanica.org/site:botanique; searched on January 2012. ² BIOTIC - Biological Traits Information Catalogue. Marine Life Information Network. Plymouth:

Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. [Cited insert date] Available from:

www.marlin.ac.uk/biotic; searched on January 2012.

1125 1126 Table S2. Macroinvertebrate species in Basque estuaries, dispersal modes and dispersion distance.

Species name	Number of estuaries	Dispersal modes	Distance	Reference and/or source
Abarenicola claparedi	2			
Abludomelita obtusata	1			Marine Life Information Network
Abra alba	2	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Abra prismatica	3			
Abyssoninoe hibernica	2			
Acanthocardia paucicostata	2			
Acanthocardia tuberculata	1			
Achelia sp.	1			
Alkmaria romijni	9	Benthic	10-100	Marine Life Information Network
Allomelita pellucida	2		m	Marine Life Information Network
Ampelisca brevicornis	1			
Ampelisca tenuicornis	1			
Ampharete finmarchica	2			
Amphiglena mediterranea	1			
Amphipholis squamata	2			
Amphiura filiformis	1	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Anapagurus hyndmanni	2			
Anapagurus laevis	1			
Antalis novemcostata	1			
Anurida maritima	11			
Aonides oxycephala	3			
Aonides paucibranchiata	2	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Aphelochaeta marioni	1			Marine Life Information Network
Aponuphis bilineata	1			
Aricidea (Acmira) cerrutii	1			
Aricidea suecica meridionalis	1			
Armandia cirrhosa	1	Planktonic		Marine Life Information Network
Balanus sp.	1	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Bathyporeia elegans	2			
Bathyporeia Pelagica	1		10-100 m	Marine Life Information Network
Bathyporeia pilosa	1			
Bathyporeia sarsi	2			Marine Life Information Network
Bela nebula	1			
Bittium reticulatum	2			
Bledius sp.	1			
Boccardia polybranchia	1			
Boccardia proboscidea	1	Planktonic and/or Benthic		Marine Life Information Network
Boccardia semibranchiata	5			
Boccardiella ligerica	1			
Bodotria scorpioides	1			Marine Life Information Network

Species name	Number of estuaries	Dispersal modes	Distance	Reference and/or source
Branchiomaldane sp.	1			
Brania pusilla	1			
Brissopsis lyrifera	1	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network ¹
Callianassa subterranea	1	Planktonic and/or Benthic		Marine Life Information Network ¹
Capitella capitata	11	Planktonic and/or Benthic		Marine Life Information Network ¹
Caprella acanthifera	1			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Caprella penantis	1			Marine Life Information Network
Carcinus maenas	8	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Caulleriella alata	3			
Caulleriella bioculata	1			
Caulleriella killariensis	2			
Caulleriella zetlandica	1			
Cavernularia pusilla	1			
Cerastoderma edule	8	Planktonic		Marine Life Information Network
Cerastoderma glaucum	4	Planktonic		Marine Life Information Network
Cerebratulus marginatus	1			
Cerianthus sp.	2		>10 km	Langmead et al. (2010)
Chaetozone gibber	2			
Chaetozone setosa	1			
Chamelea gallina	1			
Chartella papyracea	1			
Chone sp.	1	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Chrysallida terebellum	1			
Chthamalus montagui	1		>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Cirriformia tentaculata	2			
Cirrophorus furcatus	1			
Corbula gibba	2	Planktonic		Marine Life Information Network
Corophium multisetosum	10			Günter (1992)
Corophium urdaibaiense	1			Günter (1992)
Corophium volutator	2		<10 m	Marine Life Information Network
Cossura sp.	2			
Crassostrea gigas	3	Planktonic		Marine Life Information Network
Cumopsis fagei	2			Marine Life Information Network
Cumopsis longipes	1			Marine Life Information Network
Cyathura carinata	11			Reise (2003)
Cyclope neritea	2			Minelli (2009)
Cylichna cylindracea	2			
Desdemona ornata	5			
Diastylis bradyi	1			Marine Life Information Network
Diogenes pugilator	1			
Diopatra neapolitana	2			
Diplocirrus glaucus	1			
- Tiocining Summas	1			

Species name	Number of estuaries	Dispersal modes	Distance	Reference and/or source
Dispio uncinata	1			
Dorvillea sp.	1			
Dosinia lupinus	4			
Echinocardium cordatum	1	Planktonic		Marine Life Information Network
Echinogammarus stoerensis	1			Marine Life Information Network
Edwardsia sp.	2			
Ensis siliqua	1			
Epitonium clathrus	1			
Epizoanthus sp.	1			
Eteone foliosa	1			
Euclymene oerstedi	1			
Eudorella truncatula	1			Marine Life Information Network
Eumida bahusiensis	2			
Eumida ockelmanni	1			
Eumida sanguinea	1			
Eurydice affinis	2			Marine Life Information Network
Eurydice pulchra	11		100- 1000 m	Marine Life Information Network
Eurydice spinigera	1			Marine Life Information Network
Euspira pulchella	2			
Ficopomatus enigmaticus	3	Planktonic		Marine Life Information Network
Gammarella fucicola	1			Marine Life Information Network
Gammarus chevreuxi	1		100- 1000 m	Marine Life Information Network
Gari depressa	1			
Gastrosaccus spinifer	2			Marine Life Information Network
Glycera alba	1			
Glycera convoluta	5			
Glycera dayi	1			
Glycera gigantea	1			
Glycera lapidum	1			
Glycera rouxi	2			
Glycera unicornis	3			
Glycymeris glycymeris	1			
Gnathia sp.	1			Marine Life Information Network
Goniada maculata	1			
Grania sp.	1			
Harpinia pectinata	1			Marine Life Information Network
Haustorius arenarius	11			Marine Life Information Network
Hediste diversicolor	11		0-10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Hemigrapsus penicillatus	8	Planktonic		Dauvin et al. (2009)
Hemilepton nitidum	2			
Hesionura elongata	1			
Heteromastus filiformis	7			Günter (1992)
Heterotanais oerstedii	1			Marine Life Information Network

Species name	Number of estuaries	Dispersal modes	Distance	Reference and/or source
Hiatella arctica	1			
Hippomedon denticulatus	1			Marine Life Information Network
Hyala vitrea	3			
Hydractinia carnea	1	Benthic		Marine Life Information Network
Hydrobia ulvae	11	Planktonic and/or benthic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network ¹
Idotea sp.	1	No larval phase		Marine Life Information Network ¹
Iphinoe serrata	1			Marine Life Information Network
Iphinoe tenella	3			Marine Life Information Network
Jaera (Jaera) albifrons	1			Marine Life Information Network
Jassa marmorata	2	No larval phase		Marine Life Information Network
Kellia suborbicularis	2			
Kurtiella bidentata	3			
Labidoplax digitata	1			
Lagis koreni	2	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Laonice cirrata	1	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Lekanesphaera hookeri	6			Marine Life Information Network
Lekanesphaera levii	1			Marine Life Information Network
Lekanesphaera rugicauda	4			Marine Life Information Network
Lepidochitona (Lepidochitona) cinerea	1			
Leptocheirus pilosus	2			
Leptognathiidae sp.	1			
Lepton squamosum	1			
Leptopentacta elongata	1			
Leptosynapta inhaerens	1			
Leucothoe incisa	1			Marine Life Information Network
Levinsenia gracilis	1			
Liocarcinus sp.	1	Planktonic		Marine Life Information Network
Loripes lacteus	2			
Lucinella divaricata	1			
Lumbrineris cingulata	2			
Lumbrineris latreilli	1			
Lumbrineris sp.	2			
Lysidice ninetta	1			
Magelona alleni	1		>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Magelona johnstoni	2		>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Malacoceros fuliginosus	10	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Malmgreniella andreapolis	1			
Manayunkia aestuarina	10			Reise (2003)
Mangelia costulata	1			
Marenzelleria sp.	2			
Marphysa bellii	1			
Mediomastus fragilis	5			Marine Life Information Network
Melarhaphe neritoides	1			

Species name	Number of estuaries	Dispersal modes	Distance	Reference and/or source
Melinna palmata	2			
Melita hergensis	1			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Melita palmata	7			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Micromaldane ornithochaeta	1			
Microphthalmus pseudoaberrans	2	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Microspio atlantica	3			
Mitrella sp.	1			
Modiolus adriaticus	1		>10 km	Marine Life Information Network ¹
Monocorophium ascherusicum	3			Marine Life Information Network
Monocorophium insidiosum	1			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Monticellina dorsobranchialis	1			
Musculus costulatus	1			
Musculus discors	1	Reptant		Marine Life Information Network ¹
Myosotella myosotis	1			
Myrianida sp.	1			
Mysta picta	1			
Mytilaster minimus	1			
Mytilus galloprovincialis	1	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network ¹
Nassarius incrassatus	1			
Nassarius nitidus	2			
Nassarius pygmaeus	3			
Nassarius reticulatus	4			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Neanthes caudata	3			
Nematonereis hebes	1			
Neoamphitrite edwardsi	1			
Nephtys cirrosa	6			
Nephtys cuvieri	5			
Nephtys hombergii	4	Planktonic		Marine Life Information Network ¹
Nephtys incisa	1			
Nephtys kersivalensis	3			
Nereis lamellosa	1	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Notocirrus scoticus	1			
Notomastus latericeus	4			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Nototropis falcatus	1			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Nucula sulcata	2			
Obelia dichotoma	1	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Ocenebra erinaceus	1			
Ophelia limacina	1			
Ophiodromus flexuosus	2			
Ophryotrocha baccii	1			
Orbinia latreillii	1			
Oriopsis armandi	1			
Owenia fusiformis	2		>10 km	Marine Life Information Network

Species name	Number of estuaries	Dispersal modes	Distance	Reference and/or source
Pachygrapsus marmoratus	3			
Pagurus prideaux	1			
Paradoneis armata	3			
Paradoneis ilvana	1			
Paradoneis lyra	3			
Paragnathia formica	7	Planktonic		Tinsley and Reilly (2002)
Paramphitrite tetrabranchia	3			
Parapionosyllis brevicirra	1			
Parapionosyllis cabezali	1			
Parapionosyllis elegans	1			
Parapionosyllis gestans	1			
Parapionosyllis minuta	1			
Parasinelobus chevreuxi	1			Marine Life Information Network
Pariambus typicus	2			Marine Life Information Network
Parvicardium pinnulatum	1			
Parvicardium scabrum	11			
Pectinaria (Amphictene) auricoma	1			
Perinereis cultrifera	1			
Pestarella tyrrhena	1			
Petricolaria pholadiformis	1			
Phascolion (Phascolion) strombus strombus	2			
Philine sp.	1		>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Pholas dactylus	1			
Phtisica marina	1			Marine Life Information Network
Phyllodoce (Anaitides) groenlandica	1			
Phyllodoce lineata	2			
Phyllodoce maculata	2			
Phyllodoce mucosa	2	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Phylo foetida	1			
Pilumnus hirtellus	1			
Pinnotheres pisum	1			
Pionosyllis sp.	1			
Pisione remota	1			
Pista cristata	1			
Plakosyllis brevipes	1			
Podarkeopsis capensis	2			
Polycirrus aurantiacus	1			
Polycirrus tenuisetis	1			
Polydora ciliata	4	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network
Polydora cornuta	8	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003); Levin (1984)
Polydora tentaculata	1			
Polyophthalmus pictus	1			

Species name	Number of estuaries	Dispersal modes	Distance	Reference and/or source
Prionospio fallax	5			
Prionospio multibranchiata	3			
Prionospio pulchra	1			
Prionospio steenstrupi	4			
Processa nouveli	1			
Prosphaerosyllis campoyi	1			
Protodorvillea kefersteini	2			
Protodrilus sp.	1			
Pseudocuma (Pseudocuma) longicorne	1			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Pseudomystides limbata	1	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Pseudopolydora paucibranchiata	5	Planktonic		Levin (1983, 1984)
Pseudopolydora pulchra	2			
Pseudopythina macandrewi	1			
Pygospio elegans	4	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003); Pedersen (2008)
Ringicula auriculata	1			
Ruditapes decussatus	10	Planktonic		Borsa et al. (1994)
Ruditapes philippinarum	4			
Salmacina dysteri	1			
Schistomeringos rudolphii	1			
Schistomeringos sp.	1			
Scolaricia sp.	5			
Scolelepis (Scolelepis) squamata	2	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Scolelepis cantabra	1	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Scolepis cirratulus	1			
Scrobicularia plana	11	Planktonic		Santos et al. (2011)
Semibalanus balanoides	1	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network ¹
Siphonoecetes (Centraloecetes) kroyeranus	1			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Solen capensis	2			
Sphaerosyllis bulbosa	1			
Sphaerosyllis hystrix	1			
Spio decoratus	3	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network ¹
Spio martinensis	3	Planktonic	>10 km	Marine Life Information Network ¹
Spiochaetopterus costarum	3			
Spiochaetopterus solitarius	1			
Spiophanes bombyx	1	Planktonic		Rodriguez (2003)
Spiophanes kroyeri	2			
Spisula elliptica	1			
Spisula subtruncata	2			
Sternaspis scutata	1			
Sthenelais boa	1			
Streblosoma bairdi	1			
Streblospio shrubsolii	11	Benthic		Qian and Dahms (2005)
Streptosyllis websteri	1			

Species name	Number of estuaries	Dispersal modes	Distance	Reference and/or source
Syllis amica	1			
Syllis gracilis	2			
Syllis parapari	1			
Syllis pontxioi	1			
Synchelidium maculatum	1			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Tapes (Tapes) rhomboides	4			
Tellimya ferruginosa	2			
Tellina compressa	4			
Tellina donacina	4			
Tellina pygmaea	1			
Tellina tenuis	3			
Terebella lapidaria	2			
Terebellides stroemii	1			
Tetrastemma sp.	1			
Tharyx sp.	2			
Thyasira flexuosa	1		<10 m	Marine Life Information Network ¹
Timoclea ovata	2			
Tubulanus polymorphus	4			
Turbonilla acuta	1			
Upogebia deltaura	1			
Upogebia pusilla	4			
Urothoe brevicornis	2			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Urothoe pulchella	1			Marine Life Information Network ¹
Venus casina	1			

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¹ Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Sub-programme [on-line].

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