Acknowledgements
This book is the record of this 6 years of research. Working on marine ecology was a dream, and - even if as a teenager, I was picturing myself studying sharks, or dolphin - mussel bed restoration turned out the be a really interesting topic to be investigated! This PhD was a real adventure for me, crawling on the mudflats (and sometimes, almost flying over it), petting bivalves and of course, drowning into data and manuscripts. All of this work would not have been possible without the help of many, many people.

First, I would like to thank my promoter, Prof. Johan van de Koppel. Johan, you have been an amazing supervisor during all this time in Yerseke. You were always here, next door, when I needed you. You helped me to adapt (I wanted to write “to evolve”, but it would not have been an accurate word here, right?) to become a scientist. Your comments and your advices have been really inspiring, for in both experimental and writing fields. Although, carrying bricks on the mudflat was probably not the best idea ever! Anyway, I cannot imagine having a better supervision than the one you gave me.

I also want to thank my co-promoter (and co-supervisor) Dr. Tjisse van der Heide. For my first “mussel bed experience” to the last final point of the manuscript, you have been there, to help me and push me! I do not want to imagine what would have been my first year, setting up this large-scale (insane) experiment without you. Even if this field work has been rough, even if we were tired, we (almost) always worked smiling, a laughing about all the bad luck we had… Your scientific support was truly appreciated during all these years. I also want to thank you for starting up this “writing factory”, together with Johan, and to have giving me the opportunity for coming back and finish my thesis (and correcting all my Frenchglish mistakes). More than a supervisor, you became a friend. And think there is a Dutch saying telling “If you sweep a mudflat together, you’ll be friends forever”. Or maybe I just imagined it…
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If you sweep a mudflat together, you’ll be friends forever

And all this work would not have been possible without the help of Aniek van den Berg. Working side by side with you during all the field work, sharing good times and bad times, has made my PhD a lot more enjoyable than it would have been without you. I cannot remember one time you, saying “no” when I was asking you for help. You are an amazing research assistant, and a really good friend too (of course, we sweeped the mudflat together as well).

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improve each others projects. Being such a team made us strong, and I will keep really nice memories of our meetings, and of our “Friday afternoon beers”. Working in such a nice environment, with people being supportive, helping you with my research, is one the best working experience of my life.

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At last but not at least, I would like to thanks my family. Claudine et Christianne (mes tatas), merci pour votre soutien pendant cette période à l’étranger, pour toutes les cartes postales reçues, et pour m’avoir rendu visite (pas vrai qu’il est bon, le hareng fumé de Yerseke). Papa, maman, je sais que ça n’a pas été facile pour vous de me voir partir aussi longtemps. Je voulais donc vous remercier de votre patience et de votre soutien pendant ces longues année! Et pour avoir enlevé le plancher de la maison de Yerseke (ce qui n’était pas une mince affaire)! En tout cas, je suis contente que vous soyez venu me voir, et de vous avoir fait découvrir la Belgique et les Pays-Bas! Je vous remercie aussi d’avoir facilité mon retour en France, et ma reconversion professionnelle. Cette fois-ci, c’est bon, j’ai un “vrai travail”! Et Myriam, ma petite sœur! Toujours là en cas de coup dur. Merci d’avoir été là, c’est bon d’avoir quelqu’un sur qui compter. Malgré la distance, on a réussi à ne pas s’éloigner! Vivement que l’on reparte en voyage…
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