To:

Dr. Benjamin Sibbett, Managing Editor, Molecular Ecology Resources and

Dr. Tara Pelletier, Subject Editor, Molecular Ecology Resources

Subject: Response to Review – MER-20-0276

We appreciate the work of the editorial team at *Molecular Ecology Resources* as well as the thoughtful feedback to this manuscript provided by two anonymous reviewers. The authors agree that the suggested changes will improve the quality and clarity of the study and have attempted to address them through revision. Major changes in the updated version include 1) improved interpretations of the model results for consumers fed in feeding trial environments, 2) increased contextualization of these results in light of commentary on the study design, including shortcomings of the sample size for this study, in the discussion, 3) an additional analysis of diet diversity and composition at the ASV level and greater explanation of including the analyses as previously-written with family-level taxonomic units and 4) an updated explanation of sample storage and sterilization methods in an attempt to clarify this methodology in the abstract, introduction, and methods. We have also made editorial and word choice edits based on feedback provided by each reviewer. For responses to these specific comments, please see below. All author responses to comments are italicized.

Thank you,

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