Dear Dr. Tierney & Editorial Board,

We appreciate the constructive feedback on our paper, “Estimates of Chinook salmon consumption in Puget Sound area waters by four marine mammal predators from 1970 – 2015”.

Initially, we had included several sensitivity analyses in the manuscript, but these were largely restricted to the appendices. We have made a stronger effort to highlight these results, and have added several new sensitivity analyses to the paper (all new plots have also been added to the appendices). These results largely mirror our original estimates of consumption, because like in the majority of bioenergetics models, all of the relationships in our model are linear. As an example, if X \* Y = Z, increasing X by 10% translates to a 10% increase in Z. Because of these linear relationships, the largest drivers of our estimated impacts are (1) the marine mammal abundances, and (2) the estimated diet fractions.

We appreciate further consideration of our manuscript in CJFAS. If there’s additional clarifications, we’d be happy to correspond with the Associate Editor about it. Sincerely,

Brandon Chasco

Isaac Kaplan

Eric Ward