XX January 2017

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit our original manuscript “Age, recruitment variability, and partial age validation of *Coregonus kiyi* from Lake Superior” for consideration as a management brief in *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*. A primary objective of the Laurentian Great Lakes fisheries management community is to restore populations of deepwater cisco species, of which Kiyi is an understudied endemic member. As Zimmerman and Krueger (2009; N. Am. J. Fish. Man. 29, 1352-1371) noted, a step toward this goal is to increase our understanding of the life histories of deepwater cisco species. The results in our manuscript take this initial step as we provide age estimates based on scales and otoliths and present 12 years of length frequency data to assess recruitment and to validate our age estimates. We expect our manuscript to be of great interest to your readership in light of the significant federal funding provided to restore the Great Lakes ecosystem via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, $2.2 billion as of December 2016, and recent emphasis on restoring native coregonine populations.

We do not have any conflicts of interest or financial or material benefit interests related to the publication of this manuscript. All authors have read the manuscript and approved of the data presentation, analysis, and interpretation of the results and are aware of and have agreed to the submission of the manuscript to the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*. We have followed the Guide to Authors and Submission Checklist found on your website.

**Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response about the suitability of this manuscript for publication in the** *North American Journal of Fisheries Management***. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns related to this manuscript.**

**Respectfully,**

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Dr. Derek H. Ogle

Professor of Mathematical Sciences and Natural Resources