31 March 2017

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit the manuscript “Estimating age at a specified length from the von Bertalanffy Growth Function” to be considered as a Management Brief in *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*. This manuscript describes a parameterization of the von Bertalanffy growth function (VBGF) that, with a simple choice made by the analyst, can be used to estimate the usual L∞ and K parameters along with a parameter that is either the mean length at a chosen age (Lr) or the age at chosen mean length (tr). Thus, this parameterization can be used to provide a direct (rather than derived) estimate of age at an important mean length (e.g., length at recruitment, legal harvest, or maturity). Estimation of tr is of considerable interest to fisheries managers, many of whom have published in NAJFM, that model the effect of length-based harvest regulations on fish population dynamics (see introduction). Direct estimation of this age, rather than deriving it from other parameter estimates, allows more options for computing measures of uncertainty and comparison of estimates among populations. In the manuscript, we demonstrate these advantages with two datasets. Additionally, by setting one of two values to zero, this parameterization can represent the traditional VBGF of Beverton and Holt (1957) or the original VBGF of von Bertalanffy (1938). Thus, this parameterization also demonstrates a conceptual link between the two most common parameterizations of the VBGF. Therefore, we feel that this parameterization of the VBGF will be of applied (directly estimate a more interesting parameter) and theoretical (demonstrate similarity among common parameterizations of the VBGF) value to fisheries managers and scientists.

The code underlying the analyses in this manuscript is available at

<https://raw.githubusercontent.com/droglenc/ModifiedVonB/master/code/OgleIsermann.R>

Thus, reviewers can run this code to recreate the figures, tables, and analyses of this manuscript.

We do not have any conflicts of interest or financial or material benefit interests related to the publication of this manuscript. We followed the Guide to Authors found on your website when formatting this manuscript for submission.

**Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response about the suitability of this brief for publication in *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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