Dear Editor,

I am pleased to submit our manuscript titled "Six decades of data indicate reduced zooplankton density with warming conditions in Iliamna Lake, Alaska" for consideration for publication in Ecosphere.

This study presents a unique long-term dataset spanning six decades (1963-2022) examining the effects of climate change on zooplankton communities in Alaska's largest lake. Iliamna Lake provides an exceptional study system for understanding climate impacts on aquatic ecosystems due to its minimal anthropogenic influence, abundant fish communities, and position in a rapidly warming region. Our research reveals how warming temperatures affect zooplankton density and community composition in a large, high-latitude lake system.

Our study makes several important contributions to the field:

1. We document significant declines in zooplankton density associated with warming temperatures, contrasting with findings from other regional lakes and highlighting the complex nature of ecological responses to climate change.
2. The research leverages one of the longest continuous datasets on zooplankton and limnological conditions in a high-latitude lake system, providing crucial insights into long-term ecological changes.
3. The relatively undeveloped nature of Iliamna Lake allows us to examine climate effects without the confounding influences of cultural eutrophication, invasive species, or other anthropogenic impacts that complicate similar studies in most large lakes.

We believe this manuscript aligns well with Ecosphere's scope and would be of interest to your readership, particularly those focused on climate change impacts, aquatic ecology, and long-term ecological studies. The findings have important implications for understanding how warming temperatures may affect lake ecosystems and their capacity to support productive fish populations.

All authors have approved the manuscript and its submission to Ecosphere. This manuscript is not under consideration elsewhere, and no part has been published previously.

Thank you for considering our submission. We look forward to your response.