Dear Editor-in-Chief,

**Subject: Ecology Article ms**

I am writing to submit our manuscript titled " Consumer- and seaweed-specific impacts of invasion-mediated changes to detrital subsidies on rocky shores" Please consider it for submission as an Article in Ecology. Per your guidelines, we acknowledge that our submission exceeds the recommended 30-page limit, with a total of 34 pages. We respectfully request that our manuscript be considered for acceptance with the additional length, and we provide detailed justification for the extension below.

(Section 1) Contribution to the Field:

Our study contributes to the field of ecology by building upon established ecological theories, such as the Home-Field Advantage Hypothesis (HFA) and the Prey Naiveté Hypothesis (PN), through empirically testing their applicability in the context of detrital subsidy shifts mediated by invaded donor ecosystems. Despite the theoretical framework provided by HFA and PN, there remains a lack of consensus in the literature regarding the impacts of species invasions on detritivores, as evidenced by conflicting results in meta-analyses. Our research addresses this gap by providing evidence of detritivore-specific responses to novel subsidies, highlighting the complexity of ecological interactions in habitats subsidized by invaded ecosystems. Furthermore, our study elucidates the ecological consequences of detrital shifts on recipient communities, emphasizing the need for a nuanced understanding of species interactions. By exploring the impacts of invasive Devilweed on both common and endangered detritivores, and associated primary producer communities, we advance our understanding of the complex dynamics in coastal habitats. The disagreement between meta-analyses regarding the effects of invasive plants on detritivores underscores the importance of empirically evaluating the consequences of invasions in specific ecological contexts. Our research addresses this challenge by assessing the impacts of detrital shifts on performance and preference of detritivores and shifts in consumer pressure onto sensitive native producers.

(Section 2) Justification for Additional Length:

The extended length of our manuscript is essential for adequately presenting the complexity of our findings and the methodological considerations in our research. One such consideration is the use of Red abalone as a proxy for Black abalone in assessing detritivore performance. Due to the protected status of Black abalone under the Endangered Species Act, we employed red abalone as a suitable surrogate to evaluate the impacts of detrital shifts on growth and behavior. This methodological choice required thorough explanation and justification, contributing to the additional length of our manuscript. Additionally, our study delves into the ecological theory surrounding detrital subsidies and detritivore responses, addressing the disagreement between meta-analyses regarding the impacts of invasive plants on detritivores. The thorough exploration of theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence necessitates extended discussion and interpretation, contributing to the overall length of our manuscript.

In summary, the extended length of our manuscript is justified by the need to provide detailed explanations of methodological choices and comprehensive discussion of theoretical frameworks and ecological implications. This ensures the robustness of our research, enhancing its contribution to the field of ecology.

Given his well-known work on exotic species, we would like to suggest Dr. Jay Stachowicz as a potential Handling Editor.

Some people you might consider as reviewers are:

Dr. Louie H. Yang, lhyang@ucdavis.edu, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of California, Davis. Dr. Yang has examined the impacts of spatial subsidies and resource pulses in various ecosystems.

Dr. Wendy Anderson, wanders1@stetson.edu, Department of Environmental Science and Geography, Stetson University. Dr. Anderson has examined the movement of biological material across ecosystem boundaries.

Dr. Kristin Aquilino, kmaquilino@ucdavis.edu, Bodega Marine Laboratory, University of California, Davis. Dr. Aquilino has examined how herbivore feeding preference rates, affect grazer performance and plant biodiversity.

We very much appreciate your time in handling this manuscript.

Best regards,

Do I include all authors as a signature here?