

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

We are excited to submit for your consideration a manuscript entitled "Comparing age and growth estimates from Bayesian and integrative data approaches for the deepwater snapper *Pristipomoides filamentosus* in the Hawaiian Islands". We hope that this manuscript provides a valuable contribution as a *Research Paper*.

Deep-water snappers are an important resource throughout the Indo-Pacific. These species are particularly susceptible to overfishing due to their longevity, delayed maturity, and slow growth. *Pristipomoides filamentosus* is a key component of Hawaii's deep-water bottomfish complex, accounting for over half of the revenue of the region's commercial bottomfish fishery.

Starting in the 1980s, a great deal of effort has been put forth to understand how these fish grow for the purpose of assessment and management. In this manuscript, we report growth parameters estimated using a previously unpublished mark-recapture dataset using Bayesian and maximum likelihood methods. These estimates are fit with nearly four times as many observations as those previously reported. In addition to reporting these growth estimates, we also report estimates obtained using models that incorporate six additional data sources from four prior studies to produce integrative growth estimates. The integrative parameters better predict growth observed in recaptured fishes than those fit using tagging data exclusively. They also better predict observed growth than growth estimates from previous studies.

Growth is a key life history parameter often used directly or indirectly in the management process. By refining estimates for *P. filamentosus* in Hawaii, our integrative estimates can improve assessment models for this species.

Please contact us if you require further information, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Scherrer', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen R. Scherrer