24 January 2015

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit our original manuscript “Age, Growth and Size of Lake Superior Pygmy Whitefish (*Prosopium coulterii*) in 2013” to the *American Midland Naturalist*. Our work provides the first known (to us) estimates of between-reader precision and bias for ages assessed by scales and otoliths, a comparison of ages assessed from scales and otoliths, and the first (known to us) reliable weight-length relationship for Pygmy Whitefish. In addition, we compared growth of Pygmy Whitefish in Lake Superior in 2013 to growth in Lake Superior in 1953 and to growth in other areas. This paper will be of interest to your readership particularly in light of the significant federal funding provided to restore the Great Lakes ecosystem (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, $1.2 billion as of August 2014) and the general interest in rare and difficult-to-sample species.

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 *American Midland Naturalist*. We have followed the Guide to Authors and Editorial Conventions found on your website and have confirmed the items on the Author Checklist.

**Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response about the suitability of this manuscript for publication in the** *American Midland Naturalist***. 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