24 December 2014

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 *Journal of Freshwater Ecology*. 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 compare 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. Short biographical notes of each author, as requested in the Guide to Authors, are shown below.

* TS – Taylor Stewart recently graduated from Northland College with a B.S. degree in Natural Resources. He is currently working as a fisheries technician with U.S. Geological Survey Lake Erie Biological Station.
* DO – Dr. Derek Ogle is a professor of Mathematical Sciences and Natural Resources at Northland College where he has worked since 1996. Derek’s research has focused on various aspects of aquatic ecology and has resulted in 15 publications in peer-reviewed journals.
* OG – Dr. Owen Gorman is a scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey Lake Superior Biological Station. He has many years of research experience studying Lake Superior fishes and has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, including publications related to the biology of Pygmy Whitefish.
* MV – Dr. Mark Vinson is Station Chief of the U.S. Geological Survey Lake Superior Biological Station. Mark has a long history of conducting and publishing on aquatic organisms from around the world, including on Lake Superior.

**Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response about the suitability of this manuscript for publication in the *Journal of Freshwater Ecology*. 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