1122 NE Boat St

Seattle, WA 98105

June 1, 2012

Dear Dr. Aime,

Please consider the manuscript, *Characterization of Genes Involved in Ceramide Metabolism in the Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*)*, for publication in your journal. This manuscript has been approved in its current draft by all co-authors and no parts of it have been published elsewhere or are submitted to be published elsewhere.

The manuscript details the discovery and characterization of 4 oyster genes involved in an important stress response pathway in vertebrates. The findings are novel in that 1) Pacific oysters appear to have most of the molecular underpinnings for this pathway that has been described only in vertebrates and 2) there is evidence of increased expression of these genes during environmental (bacterial) stress.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript for publication. Please address all correspondence concerning the manuscript to me at the University of Washington, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences and feel free to correspond with me by e-mail (emmats@uw.edu).

Sincerely,

Emma Timmins-Schiffman

PhD Candidate

University of Washington

School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences