Dear Dr. Shumway,

We would like to submit the attached manuscript “*Characterizing the effects of heavy metal and Vibrio exposure on hsp70 expression in Crassostrea gigas*” to be considered for publication in *The Journal of Shellfish Research.*

The purpose of this study was to examine the stress response in oysters in an integrative nature and was performed as part of a course at the University of Washington. The study provides insight into heavy metal exposure in shellfish, heat shock protein activity, and highlights considerations that should be made when using Hsp70 as an indicator for an organism’s general stress response.

Thank you for your consideration of our work and please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Dave Metzger