

1122 NE Boat St
Seattle, WA 98105
March 6, 2012

Dr. Otto Kinne
Editor-in-Chief, Aquatic Biology

Dear Dr. Kinne,

Please consider the manuscript, *Characterization of genes involved in ceramide metabolism in the Pacific oyster (Crassostrea gigas)*, for publication in your journal. The manuscript details the discovery and characterization of genes involved in ceramide metabolism in the Pacific oyster. Ceramide is an important lipid second messenger in response to environmental stress in vertebrates and results from this study suggest that ceramide serves a similar physiological role in bivalves. This study provides insight both into the evolutionary significance of this physiological mechanism, as well as providing resources for development of new biomarkers for environmental stress.

I would like to recommend the following researchers as referees for my manuscript: 1) Helen Gurney-Smith of the Centre for Shellfish Research at Vancouver Island University, Helen.gurney-smith@viu.ca; 2) Colleen Burge at Cornell University, cab433@cornell.edu; and 3) George Waldbusser at Oregon State University, waldbuss@coas.oregonstate.edu.

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