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Piscivore addition causes a trophic cascade within and across ecosystem boundaries

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1 **Piscivore addition causes a trophic cascade within and across**  
2 **ecosystem boundaries**

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16 **ABSTRACT**

17 The addition of predators can play a key role in structuring ecological communities  
18 through both consumptive and non-consumptive effects. Stocking of piscivorous fish in  
19 lakes and similar experimental introductions have provided key evidence in support of  
20 trophic cascade theory. Yet, the impact of piscivore addition on cross ecosystem subsidies  
21 and meso-predator resource use has not been well studied. Here, we use a replicated pond  
22 experiment to document the trophic impacts of the piscivore, cutthroat trout  
23 (*Onchorhynchus clarkii*), on aquatic communities already containing a meso-predatory fish  
24 (threespine stickleback, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*) and neighbouring terrestrial ecosystems.  
25 We find that piscivore addition led to a trophic cascade that extended across an ecosystem  
26 boundary: trout addition increased the biomass and average size of insects emerging into  
27 the terrestrial system. Piscivores caused a diet shift in stickleback, a non-consumptive  
28 effect that was likely mainly responsible for the increase in emerging insect biomass. We  
29 additionally show that heterogeneity in the strength of the pelagic trophic cascade was  
30 more closely correlated with the magnitude of diet shift (reflecting a non-consumptive  
31 effect) than decreases in stickleback abundance (a consumptive effect). Taken together,  
32 our experiment demonstrates that the addition of a piscivore causes a trophic cascade that  
33 can extend beyond the aquatic system and suggests that non-consumptive effects may  
34 more strongly influence the strength of a trophic cascade than has been previously  
35 recognized.

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42 **INTRODUCTION**

43 Trophic cascades, in which top-down control of community structure leads to indirect  
44 effects two or more trophic levels below, form the backbone of a predictive framework for  
45 the extended outcomes of trophic interactions (Paine 1980, Carpenter et al. 1985).

46 Manipulations of the species present in aquatic communities, often through fish stocking,  
47 have provided many of the strongest empirical examples of trophic cascades (Henrikson et  
48 al. 1980, Benndorf 1984, Carpenter et al. 1987, Elser and Carpenter 1988, Mittlebach et al.  
49 1995). However important gaps remain. For example, the extent to which a trophic  
50 cascade crosses the ecosystem boundary between aquatic habitats and neighbouring  
51 terrestrial ecosystems is largely unknown. Also, little is known about the relative  
52 contribution of consumptive and non-consumptive effects as mechanisms driving trophic  
53 responses (Peckarsky et al. 2008).

54  
55 One way in which top-down control in aquatic systems might have effects that cross an  
56 ecosystem boundary is via the production of aquatic insects. Many insects spend the larval  
57 portion of their life cycle in the littoral and benthic zone of aquatic environments and  
58 emerge as adults to feed and reproduce in the terrestrial landscape, where they are an  
59 important subsidy for birds, frogs, bats, and even fish in other watersheds (McCarty 1997,  
60 Finlay and Vredenburg 2007, Epanchin et al. 2010, Fukui et al. 2006, Uno and Power 2015).

61 Fish can have profound consumptive effects on the benthic aquatic larval stages of these  
62 insects, which can alter insect emergence (McCarty 1997, Pope et al. 2009) and ultimately  
63 influence important ecosystem functions of terrestrial environments, such as pollination  
64 (Knight et al. 2005).

65

66 To date studies examining the link between predatory fish addition and insect emergence  
67 have focused on aquatic systems that previously didn't contain fish, with the result that the  
68 added fish species largely consumed benthic invertebrates (Baxter et al. 2005, Knight et al.  
69 2005, Pope et al. 2009, Epanchin et al. 2010). These studies have found that the addition of  
70 one trophic level of fish depletes predatory emerging insects (Knight et al. 2005, Pope et al.  
71 2009) but may facilitate the emergence of small herbivorous larvae such as chironomids  
72 (Pope et al. 2009). Yet, many lakes that are stocked with predatory fish already contain  
73 smaller benthivorous or planktivorous fish (meso-predators), as in classic whole-lake  
74 piscivore addition experiments that have documented trophic cascades (Henrikson et al.  
75 1980, Benndorf 1987, Carpenter et al. 1987, Elser and Carpenter 1988, Mittlebach et al.  
76 1995). The presence of these meso-predatory fish reverses the expected impacts of top  
77 predator addition on emerging insects. Trophic cascade theory would lead us to predict  
78 that the addition of a piscivore would reduce the numbers of meso-predatory fish, facilitate  
79 emergence of large predatory insects, and decrease emergence of chironomids. The  
80 trophic level of the stocked species, influenced both by the biology of the species and the  
81 pre-stocking species composition, thus determines the predicted effects of fish stocking.  
82 Understanding how predator addition impacts the emergence of adult aquatic insects in  
83 longer food chains is key to understanding both the scope of the trophic cascade and the  
84 wider impacts of fish stocking on ecosystem dynamics.

85

86 Predictions about the impacts of predator addition into areas already containing meso-  
87 predators hold if we assume that the effects of adding a piscivore are mainly consumptive.  
88 Whole lake experiments have documented decreases in meso-predatory fish biomass as a

89 result of piscivore introduction (i.e. a consumptive effect) and these consumptive effects  
90 could be a key component of the trophic cascade (Mittlebach et al. 1995, Carpenter and  
91 Kitchell 1996). However, predator presence can also lead to changes in phenotypes such as  
92 foraging efficiency or habitat use, which are often termed non-consumptive effects. These  
93 non-consumptive effects can strongly impact other species and can be sufficiently strong to  
94 cause shifts in community composition in some experimental systems (Nystrom et al. 2001,  
95 Peacor and Werner 2001, Schmitz et al. 2004, Peckarsky et al. 2008). The role of non-  
96 consumptive effects of piscivores in driving changes in habitat use and diet of meso-  
97 predatory fish is not well known. This is because the outcomes of consumptive and non-  
98 consumptive effects on the pelagic food web are expected to be similar. Addition of a  
99 piscivore might cause a habitat shift in meso-predatory fish that reduces predation on  
100 zooplankton, leading to an increase in zooplankton biomass and a decrease in  
101 phytoplankton biomass. A consumptive effect, namely reducing the number of meso-  
102 predatory fish, would be expected to produce a similar pelagic food web cascade. Yet, in  
103 the community of emerging insects, predictions from consumptive and non-consumptive  
104 effects differ in this system because trout forage mainly in the open water (Nowak et al.  
105 2004) and the trophic interactions among benthic invertebrates are complex (Diehl 1992,  
106 Majdi et al. 2015). A consumptive effect that reduces meso-predatory fish would lead to a  
107 reduction in benthic foraging, an increase in large benthic invertebrates, and a decrease in  
108 emerging chironomids. In contrast, a habitat shift (a non-consumptive effect) by meso-  
109 predatory fish would increase foraging effort in the more spatially complex benthic  
110 environment leading to a decrease in large benthic invertebrates and a subsequent  
111 increase in emerging chironomids. Determining the role of the consumptive and non-

112 consumptive effects is a critical part of understanding trophic cascades and is also  
113 important for making predictions about the timing of compositional shifts associated with  
114 predator addition.

115

116 We utilized a system of experimental ponds to test the predictions of trophic cascade  
117 theory on the trophic response following the introduction of top predator. We added a  
118 piscivore, cutthroat trout, into ponds containing threespine stickleback and measured both  
119 the open water (phytoplankton and zooplankton) and cross ecosystem (emerging insect)  
120 trophic cascade. Trophic cascade theory for consumptive effects led us to the prediction  
121 that the introduction of trout would cause a decrease in stickleback abundance, an increase  
122 in zooplankton biomass, and a decrease in phytoplankton biomass. In the benthic habitat  
123 we predicted that trout addition would lead to greater emerging insect biomass, stemming  
124 largely from a non-consumptive effect of increased stickleback foraging in the benthic  
125 environment, which as been shown to lead to increases in chironomid abundance (Harmon  
126 et al. 2009, Rudman et al. 2015). We additionally include a preliminary comparison of  
127 insectivorous bat activity over experimental ponds, with the expectation that bat foraging  
128 would be greater over aquatic environments where the biomass of emerging insects is  
129 greatest. Based on the above logic we expected this to be the ponds that contain cutthroat  
130 trout. Bat activity data are bulked rather than replicate measurements, so uncertainty of  
131 the treatment effect is not measured and hence they only give an indication of the overall  
132 effect.

133

134 **METHODS**

## 135 **Experimental setup**

136 We conducted the experiment in a system of 10 experimental ponds (25m x 15m, max  
137 depth of 6m). We stocked stickleback into the ponds from two sources: 1) four crosses  
138 between benthic and limnetic ecotypes of threespine stickleback taken from Paxton lake  
139 (Texada Island, British Columbia) made in 2011 2) fish collected from First lake (Texada  
140 Island, British Columbia) which was colonized with crosses between benthic and limnetic  
141 ecotypes from Paxton Lake in 1980. Paxton lake houses a stickleback species pair, which is  
142 composed of two sympatric species that differ in their morphology and diet preferences  
143 (Schluter 1993, Schluter and McPhail 1992). Benthic ecotypes primarily consume aquatic  
144 insect larvae and limnetic ecotypes mainly consume zooplankton (Schluter and McPhail  
145 1992). In the spring of 2012, each F1 cross was split in half, with 21-31 individuals  
146 introduced into a 750,000L (25m x 15m, max depth of 6m) experimental pond located in  
147 Vancouver, British Columbia. We used hybrid stickleback, both from lab crosses and First  
148 Lake, to maximize the amount of intraspecific phenotypic and genetic diversity in  
149 experimental populations. Ponds for each family were matched based on a variety of biotic  
150 criteria (i.e. macrophyte coverage, phytoplankton and zooplankton abundance) before  
151 stickleback introduction. Stickleback in all 10 ponds reproduced in the summer of 2012,  
152 producing advanced generation hybrid fish with a range of phenotypes that encompassed  
153 most of the variation between benthic and limnetic ecotypes (Arnegard et al. 2014). We  
154 introduced two (> 285mm) cutthroat trout to a randomly chosen pond within each  
155 matched pair as a predator addition treatment in September 2012 (total of 5 trout addition  
156 and 5 control ponds).

157



158 We estimated the number of stickleback using mark-recapture methods in November 2012  
159 and January, March, and November 2013. We used 6-week intervals between marking and  
160 recapturing fish to reduce the likelihood that recently marked fish would be less likely to go  
161 into traps. We used a Bayesian framework to generate population estimates, which took  
162 into account measured population sizes from similar experiments to set bounds on the  
163 maximum number of fish; we list the estimate and the standard error in Table 1 (Gazey and  
164 Staley 1986).

165

### 166 **Phytoplankton, zooplankton, and emerging insect measurements**

167 Phytoplankton abundance was measured in the epilimnion (~10cm below the surface)  
168 using spectrofluorometry (Trilogy Designs Fluorometer). This fluorometric data was  
169 converted to ug/L of phytoplankton using a calibration curve created from lab standards  
170 ( $\text{CHLa} = (0.0137 \times \text{Reflectance}) - 0.434$ ). Spectrofluorometry has been shown to be effective  
171 at estimating densities of natural phytoplankton, but can become inaccurate when  
172 particular species are present, particularly cyanobacteria (Gregor and Maršálek 2004).  
173 Zooplankton were sampled by taking 4.5m vertical tows with a 30cm diameter cod end net  
174 made from 80 $\mu\text{m}$  mesh from the deepest area of each pond. Zooplankton samples were  
175 stored in 70% ethanol, stained with rose bengal's solution, and sub-sampled to 1/20<sup>th</sup>  
176 before being classified to the lowest feasible taxonomic unit. Both phytoplankton and  
177 zooplankton were collected 4 times between September 2012 and February 2014. The  
178 total length of each zooplankton in each sample was also recorded and published length-  
179 weight regressions were used to convert these measurements to biomass (Watkins et al.  
180 2011).

181  
182 To collect insects as they emerged from the experimental ponds, we constructed cone-  
183 shaped floating traps (33 cm in diameter) using wire and 400 $\mu$ m mesh. We placed one  
184 floating trap in the shallows (~1.5m depth) and one in the deep (~6m depth) of each pond  
185 in the late afternoon on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> (2013). Traps were emptied the  
186 following morning using a modified hand vacuum (BioQuip) and insects were deposited  
187 directly into vials containing 95% ethanol. Each insect was measured and identified to the  
188 lowest readily identifiable taxonomic unit. Published length-weight regressions were used  
189 to estimate the dry mass of each individual insect (Sabo et al. 2012).

190  
191 To assess the impact of trout addition on phytoplankton and zooplankton biomass we took  
192 the difference between paired ponds at each sample point after trout introduction. We  
193 then used a repeated measures ANOVA to determine whether the difference between  
194 paired ponds differed significantly from 0 over time (i.e. testing for a treatment by time  
195 interaction). We used a paired t-test to determine the effects of trout addition on emerging  
196 insect biomass and average size. We also calculated the standard effect size (Cohen's D and  
197 Hedges G) for response variables to allow for the comparison of effects within and across  
198 the aquatic ecosystem (Table 2). All statistical analyses were performed in R (Version  
199 3.1.3) (R Core Team 2015).

200

### 201 **Consumptive vs. non-consumptive effects**

202 We used diet to determine if trout had non-consumptive effects on stickleback habitat use  
203 and potentially on the properties of the trophic cascade. To determine if non-consumptive

204 effects from piscivore addition caused a diet shift in stickleback, we counted prey items  
205 from stickleback collected in December 2012; 3 months after trout addition but before any  
206 marked consumptive effects (decreases in stickleback numbers) were observed (Table 1).  
207 We identified and counted stomach contents for 10 fish from each of 4 predator addition  
208 ponds and 4 control ponds that were stocked with Paxton lake F1 crosses. We chose not to  
209 euthanize any fish from ponds stocked with fish from First Lake due to initial concerns  
210 about population size. Small zooplankton (e.g. *Bosmina*, *Alonella*, etc.) were grouped  
211 together. All fish used for diet information were collected by a combination of dip netting  
212 and open water seining and were immediately euthanized and preserved in 95% ethanol to  
213 increase the probability that prey items would be identifiable.

214

215 To visualize any differences in diet associated with predator addition, we created a 2-  
216 dimensional NMDS from diet data using bray-curtis dissimilarities (*vegan* package in R).  
217 We then tested for differences in the diet community structure between predator addition  
218 and control ponds by creating a dissimilarity matrix between all fish and using a  
219 permutational MANOVA (Anderson 2001) to test effect of predator addition on species  
220 composition of stomach contents.

221

222 We also sought to investigate whether the strength of any trophic cascade we observed was  
223 more strongly correlated with the consumptive effects of predators on stickleback  
224 abundance or the non-consumptive effects of predators, measured by a shift in stickleback  
225 diet. The strength of the trophic cascade was calculated as the difference between the  
226 biomass of phytoplankton in matched control and piscivore addition ponds (in  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) in the

227 spring (April) sample. The consumptive effect of predator addition was calculated by  
228 taking the difference in stickleback abundance between matched control and predator  
229 addition ponds in the spring (March) mark-recapture study. The non-consumptive effect  
230 was estimated using the bray-curtis dissimilarity matrix between stomach contents for  
231 each of the matched control and predator addition pond replicates. Diet shift was  
232 calculated as the mean dissimilarity between fish from different ponds minus the average  
233 of the dissimilarity between fish from the same pond. The correlations between the  
234 strength of the trophic cascade and the consumptive and non-consumptive effects were  
235 calculated using separate linear models.

236

237

### 238 **Bat abundance**

239 We used passive echolocation recording equipment (Wildlife Acoustic SM2BAT+ with SMZ-  
240 US microphone) to estimate the amount of bat activity above the experimental ponds on  
241 June 26<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Each night, we placed recording equipment at the edge of two  
242 neighbouring control and at two neighbouring predator addition ponds that were ~120m  
243 away from each other. Recording equipment can detect echolocation calls from a distance  
244 of 30m (Adams et al. 2012), so each recorder was deployed adjacent to two ponds of the  
245 same treatment within the array. The recording equipment was oriented so that data were  
246 recorded only from ponds within 40m of the sensor, enabling us to select the desired  
247 treatment. Recordings began at 10pm each night and were stopped at 6am. We used  
248 callViewer software (Wildlife Acoustics) to manually count and identify the genus of bat  
249 emitting each of a subset of echolocation calls. The only genera present were *Myotis* and

250 *Eptesicus*. Using the manually counted files as a guide, we used frequency and amplitude  
251 information for each recorded call to count the total number of calls from both *Myotis* (80-  
252 40kHz) and *Eptesicus* (34-25kHz). We used the 'seewave' package in R to transform wave  
253 files and perform a fast fourier transformation before automated counting was done in R.  
254 We refrained from significance testing on bat data as our experimental recording setup was  
255 not replicated (i.e. only 1 recording location for each treatment).

256

## 257 **RESULTS**

### 258 **Phytoplankton, zooplankton, and insect emergence**

259 We found evidence of a pelagic trophic cascade driven by trout presence: trout addition led  
260 to 34% greater zooplankton biomass on average (Fig. 1,  $df=3$ ,  $F=11.91$ ,  $p=0.0007$ ). The  
261 average body size of zooplankton was 51% greater with trout present than without trout  
262 (Fig. 1  $df=3$ ,  $F=3.94$ ,  $p=0.036$ ). We observed a corresponding 174% decrease in the total  
263 biomass of phytoplankton (Fig. 1,  $df=3$ ,  $F=7.84$ ,  $p=0.004$ ) with trout present, which  
264 demonstrates the indirect effect of trout on the pelagic environment.

265

266 We also found effects on benthic insect emergence. Over four nights of insect emergence  
267 trapping we collected 318 insects comprising a total biomass of 17,275.39 mg. We found a  
268 significant effect of trout addition on the total biomass of emerging insects (Fig. 2,  $df=4$ ,  
269  $t=3.21$ ,  $p=0.033$ ), with a 93% increase in log-biomass relative to ponds without trout.  
270 Trout addition ponds also showed an increased mean body mass (i.e. log-biomass) of  
271 insects (Fig. 2,  $df=4$ ,  $t=4.07$ ,  $p=0.015$ ), with insects emerging from trout-addition ponds  
272 having 125% greater body mass on average. Chironomids, which made up 93% of the total

273 number of insects sampled, showed a trend towards a larger average size in ponds with  
274 trout ( $df=4$ ,  $2.03$ ,  $p=0.11$ ) and 4 out of 5 pond pairs showed a greater biomass of  
275 chironomids emerging when trout were present ( $df=4$ ,  $t=0.76$ ,  $p=0.49$ ).

276

### 277 **Habitat shifts and non-consumptive effects**

278 To assess treatment effects on habitat use, we identified 6297 prey items from the  
279 stomachs of 80 stickleback. A permutational MANOVA illustrated a significant difference in  
280 diet composition between stickleback from predation and control ponds ( $df=1$ ,  $F=12.72$ ,  
281  $p=0.002$ ). This corresponded with a shift away from zooplankton and towards increased  
282 consumption of benthic invertebrates in predator addition ponds (Fig. 3). Fish stomachs  
283 from control ponds had ~9-fold more small zooplankton than those from ponds with  
284 piscivores. The second most numerous taxon in the stickleback diet was chironomid larvae,  
285 which were ~4-fold more abundant in fish taken from predator addition ponds than those  
286 without predators.

287

288 We measured diet only three months after trout addition, which was before we had  
289 observed any significant declines in stickleback abundance (table 1, Fig. 4). This suggests  
290 that predator addition influenced stickleback habitat use, reducing their consumption of  
291 open water zooplankton and increasing their consumption of benthic insect larvae. To test  
292 whether this might influence the strength of the pelagic trophic cascade, we plotted  
293 measures of both the consumptive and non-consumptive effects of trout against the  
294 strength of the pelagic trophic cascade at peak summer conditions (Fig. 4). The  
295 consumptive effect of predator addition showed a weak relationship to the strength of the

296 trophic cascade (adjusted  $R^2=0.20$ ,  $p=0.319$ ). In contrast, the non-consumptive effect had a  
297 positive relationship with the strength of the pelagic trophic cascade (adjusted  $R^2=0.52$ ,  
298  $p=0.176$ ).

299

300

## 301 **DISCUSSION**

302 Aquatic trophic cascades following piscivore addition to lake ecosystems are a classic  
303 example of the indirect effects of predators on lower trophic levels (Carpenter et al. 1985,  
304 Carpenter and Kitchell 1996). Our study demonstrates that the addition of a piscivore  
305 initiates a trophic cascade that can impact a cross-ecosystem subsidy (Fig. 1 and 2). Trout  
306 addition led to an increase in the biomass and average body size of emerging insects, which  
307 can be explained by at least two mechanisms. First, it could be due to decreased predation  
308 pressure by stickleback on benthic invertebrates stemming from the consumptive effects of  
309 trout reducing stickleback density (Table 1). With decreased predation pressure from  
310 stickleback, a greater proportion of aquatic insect larvae could have survived to pupate.  
311 Second, this change in insect emergence could also have come from an induced habitat shift  
312 and increased stickleback foraging in benthic environments (i.e. a non-consumptive effect),  
313 leading to a reduction in the number of predatory benthic invertebrates, and a release of  
314 benthic grazers and filter feeders (i.e. chironomids). Fish predation could also have lead to  
315 changes in benthic invertebrate foraging behaviour and growth rates, which could further  
316 release benthic invertebrate grazers (Diehl 1992, Ball and Baker 1996, Weber and  
317 Traunspurger 2015). Previous studies have suggested that increased foraging on benthic  
318 invertebrates by stickleback increases the abundance of chironomids (Harmon et al. 2009,

319 Rudman et al. 2015). In the current experiment, increased insect emergence observed in  
320 piscivore addition replicates is more consistent with a non-consumptive effect, as increases  
321 in chironomid abundance, which made up the vast majority of emerging insects, are  
322 associated with increased benthic foraging of stickleback. However, the increase in  
323 chironomid emergence alone cannot explain the differences in biomass between predator  
324 addition and control treatments. The introduction of fish can have a large effect on insect  
325 emergence (Pope et al. 2008) and species that rely on them as a subsidy (McCarty 1997,  
326 Finlay and Vredenburg 2007, Epanchin et al. 2010). Our study demonstrates that the  
327 effects of trout introductions on emerging insects, and hence the cross-ecosystem  
328 component of the trophic cascade, depends strongly on the fish community present before  
329 introduction.

330

331 The relative role of consumptive and non-consumptive effects in driving trophic cascades  
332 are not well understood. There is evidence that piscivores consume prey fish species  
333 within these trophic cascade studies (Carpenter et al. 1987, Elser and Carpenter 1988,  
334 Mittlebach et al. 1995), but there is also evidence for non-consumptive effects of predators  
335 on prey fish (Werner et al. 1983, Carpenter et al. 1987, He and Kitchell 1990 ). Although  
336 our study was not designed to disentangle consumptive and non-consumptive effects and  
337 had limited power to explore this relationship, we did find some evidence that the diet shift  
338 following predator addition may play a role in determining the strength of the pelagic  
339 trophic cascade (Fig. 4). Surprisingly, we did not detect a positive relationship between the  
340 consumptive effects of predators and the strength of the observed pelagic trophic cascade  
341 (Fig. 4). This result, combined with some evidence of non-consumptive effects in dictating



342 insect emergence, suggest that diet shifts associated with predator introduction may play a  
343 role in determining the strength of trophic cascades in freshwater systems. This fits with  
344 work in other experimental systems that has demonstrated the importance of non-  
345 consumptive effects (Schmitz et al. 2004, but see Bastion et al. 2015). Future work aimed  
346 at disentangling the consumptive and non-consumptive effects would be informative both  
347 from an ecological and management standpoint.

348  
349 Chironomids, which made up the vast majority of the insects we captured, are an important  
350 prey item for *Myotis* bats (Clare et al. 2014), which feed preferentially over water (LaVal et  
351 al. 1977). We found some evidence that trout addition led to a shift in insectivorous bat  
352 foraging within our experimental array that corresponded with increased foraging over  
353 ponds with greater emerging insect biomass (Fig. 2). The experimental ponds are all  
354 located within a single clearing and the two recording units were set up adjacent to ponds  
355 that were ~120m apart, well within the foraging range of both *Myotis* and *Eptesicus* bats.  
356 This suggests any difference in bat foraging can be ascribed to choice, as opposed to  
357 distance from roosting habitat or migratory routes. Previous studies have documented  
358 that bats alter foraging patterns based on insect availability (Fukui et al. 2006). Many  
359 species rely on the cross-ecosystem subsidy of emerging insects from aquatic  
360 environments, and given that the timing of insect emergence coincides with the  
361 reproductive season for both *Myotis* and *Eptesicus* bats (Crichton et al. 2000) emerging  
362 insects could be an important subsidy for some of these populations. However, our bat  
363 monitoring data was bulked and we consider these findings preliminary. Further work to  
364 understand the interplay between aquatic community structure, insect emergence, and bat

365 foraging could help determine the strength of these relationships and if there are  
366 management actions that could promote foraging by insectivorous bats, many populations  
367 of which are currently threatened in North American (Fenton 2014).

368

369 Our study demonstrates that the trophic cascade from piscivore addition extends beyond  
370 the aquatic system. The average effect size for the aquatic response variables was larger  
371 (1.11) than those from the cross-ecosystem insect and bat responses (0.84), but the effects  
372 across the ecosystem boundary were still appreciably strong (Table 2). Trophic cascades  
373 can result from both prey reduction due to predator consumption or non-consumptive  
374 effects of predation, namely a shift in prey species behaviour (Peckarsky et al. 2008). In  
375 our study we observed effects of trout presence on the number (Table 1) and on the diet of  
376 prey fish (Fig. 3), with the diet shift correlating more strongly to the strength of the trophic  
377 cascade. In addition, we found that species composition changes in the herbivore  
378 community and non-consumptive effects were better predictors of the strength of the  
379 trophic cascade than anticipated. As a whole, our results demonstrate some of the  
380 important mechanisms of a trophic cascade and that the effects of a trophic cascade can  
381 extend across ecosystem boundaries.

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547 **TABLE 1:** Estimates of mean stickleback abundance from each experimental treatment  
 548 through for date of population census.

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>11/1/12</b>		<b>1/22/13</b>		<b>3/7/13</b>		<b>11/10/13</b>	
	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE
No Trout	1691	887	1047	252	1262	246	693	153
Trout	1977	689	1108	305	710	131	1173	703

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553 **TABLE 2:** Standard effect sizes for the addition of piscivorous trout to ecological response  
 554 variables.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Cohen's D</b>	<b>Hedges G</b>
Phytoplankton biomass	1.35	1.22
Zooplankton biomass	1.63	1.47
Zooplankton average mass	0.71	0.65
Emerged insect biomass	0.74	0.67
Emerged insect average mass	1.03	0.93
Bat activity	1.14	0.91

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569 **FIG. 1:** The trophic cascade within the open water of the aquatic ecosystem. A) the biomass  
570 of phytoplankton B) the log-transformed biomass of zooplankton C) average zooplankton  
571 body size (mass). Data for all panels show data just before trout introduction (September  
572 25, 2012); analysis for the impacts of trout addition were conducted only on data from  
573 later dates. Points represent means for individual ponds with standard errors around each  
574 mean, lines connect means of each treatment.

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576 **Fig. 2:** The effects of trout addition on: A) the biomass of insects emerging from  
577 experimental ponds; B) the average body mass of insects emerging from experimental  
578 ponds; and C) bat activity as measured by passive echolocation. Panels A and B show the  
579 differences between paired ponds and values greater than zero indicate an increase in  
580 ponds with trout addition.

581

582 **Figure 3:** A NMDS plot of stomach contents of threespine stickleback collected ten weeks  
583 after piscivore addition. Taxa names are included only for taxa that were represented by  
584 >3 individuals in stomach contents (taxa positions shown as green triangles).

585

586 **Fig. 4:** The relationship between the strength of the pelagic trophic cascade and measures  
587 of A) consumptive effects; and B) non-consumptive effects. Consumptive effects were  
588 measured as the reduction in number of stickleback in predator addition ponds relative to  
589 control ponds. Non-consumptive effects were measured as the shift in diet composition (e.g.  
590 the reduction in zooplankton consumption) between predator addition and control ponds.

591 The strength of the trophic cascade was measured as the phytoplankton biomass in control  
592 pond – phytoplankton biomass in the matched predator addition pond.

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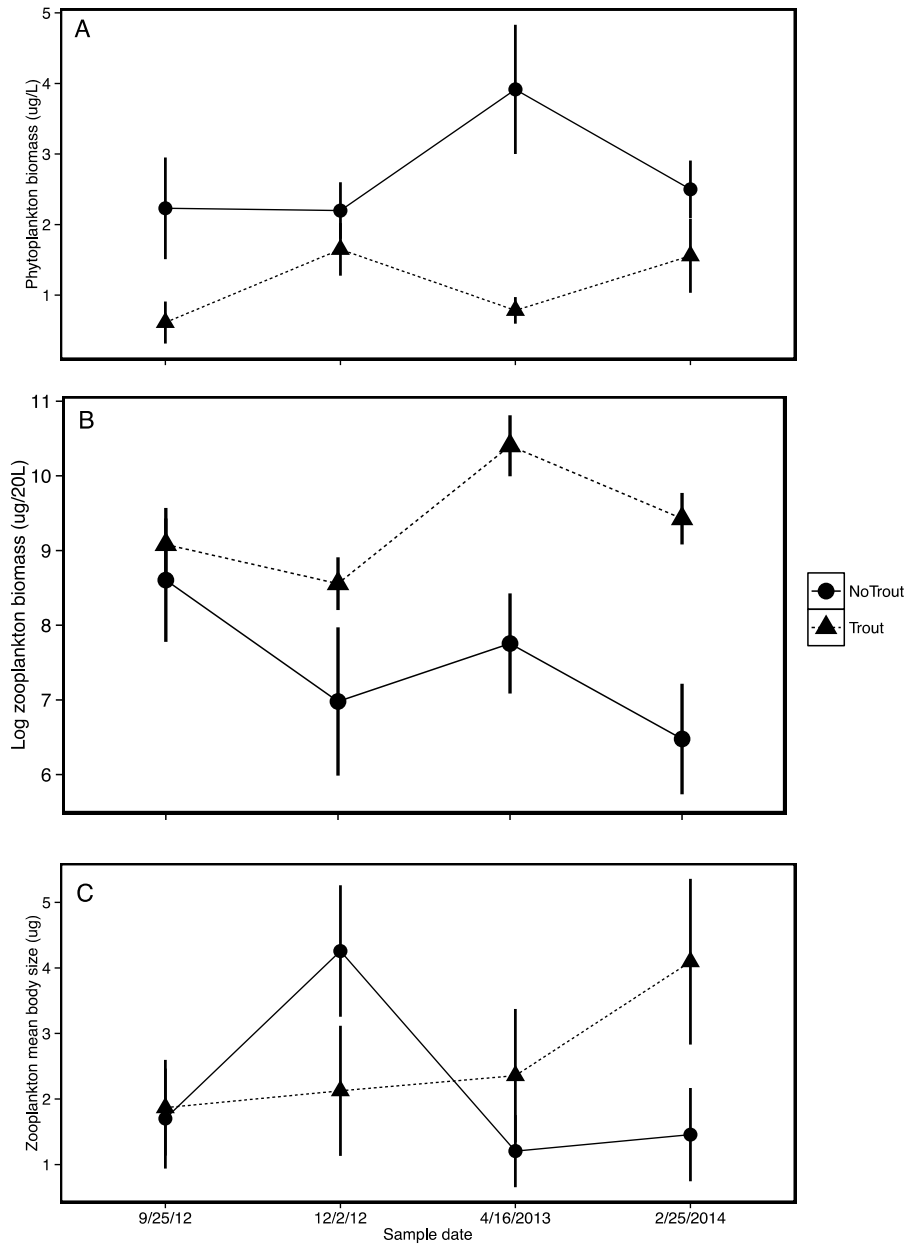
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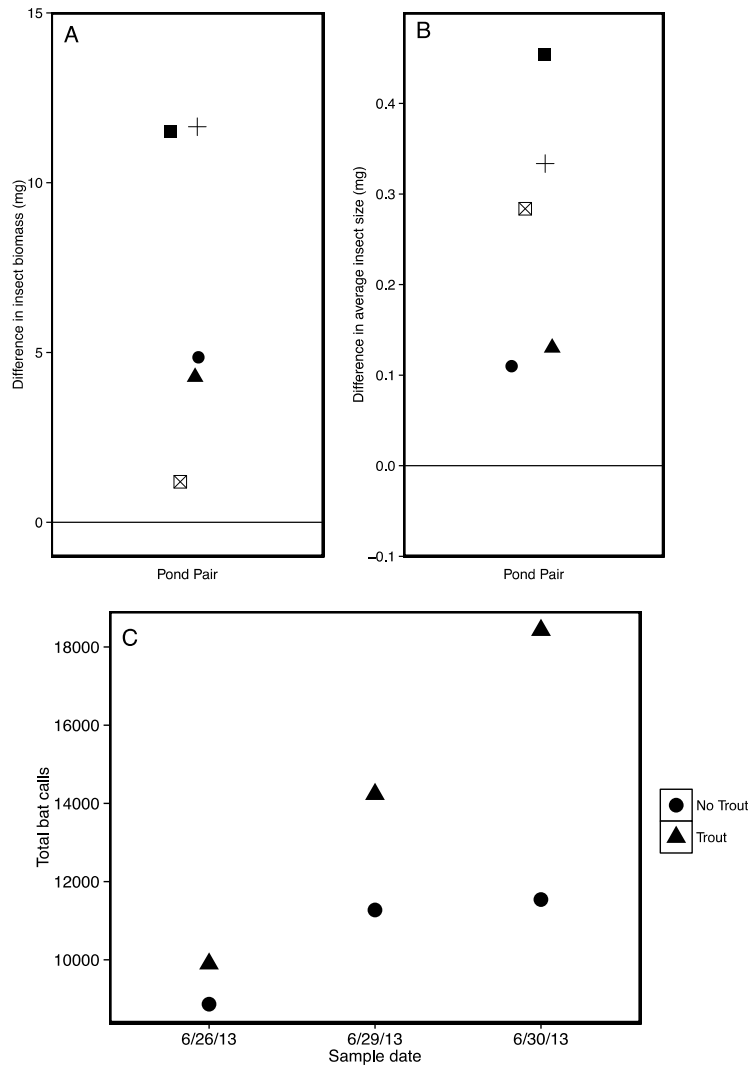
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616 Figure 2



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