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1 **Effects of repeated daily acute heat challenge on the growth and metabolism of**  
2 **a cold-water stenothermal fish**

3

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16

17 **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

18 Maximum metabolic rates of fish display plasticity to intermittent exposure to warm water.

19 **ABSTRACT**

20 Temperature is an important environmental factor influencing fish physiology that varies both spatially  
21 and temporally in ecosystems. In small north-temperate lakes, cold water piscivores rely on nearshore  
22 prey; however, this region exceeds the optimal temperature of the foraging species during summer. To  
23 cope, piscivores make short excursions into the nearshore to feed and return to cold water to digest, but  
24 the physiological impacts of these repeated acute exposures to warm water are not well understood.  
25 We exposed juvenile lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) to treatments where they were held at  $\approx 10^{\circ}\text{C}$   
26 and exposed to either 17 or 22 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 - 10 min daily for 53 days mimicking warm-water forays. Control  
27 fish, held at an average temperature of  $\approx 10^{\circ}\text{C}$  but not exposed to thermal variation, consumed more  
28 food and grew slightly faster than heat challenged fish, with no clear differences in body condition,  
29 hepatosomatic index, ventricle mass, or muscle concentrations of lactate dehydrogenase and  
30 cytochrome c oxidase. Aerobic metabolic rates measured at 10 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  indicated that standard metabolic  
31 rates (SMR) were similar among treatments; however, fish that were repeatedly exposed to 17 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  had  
32 higher maximum metabolic rates (MMR) and aerobic scopes (AS) than control fish and those repeatedly  
33 exposed to 22 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . There were no differences in MMR or AS between fish exposed to 22 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  and control  
34 fish. These results suggest that although SMR of fish are robust to repeated forays into warmer  
35 environments, MMR displays plasticity, allowing fish to be less constrained aerobically in cold water  
36 after briefly occupying warmer waters.

37

38 **Keywords:** metabolic rate, aerobic scope, behavioural thermoregulation, lake trout (*Salvelinus*  
39 *namaycush*), physiology, temperature, climate change

## 40 INTRODUCTION

41 Ecosystems are spatially and temporally complex, comprised of dynamic habitat mosaics that  
42 animals navigate to acquire energy for survival, growth, and reproduction. This is especially true for  
43 north-temperate lakes, which contain discrete habitat types (Schindler and Scheuerell, 2002) and exhibit  
44 seasonal cycles in water temperature (Wetzel, 2001). The nearshore littoral zone has been shown to be  
45 important to the structure and function of north-temperate lake ecosystems (Vadeboncoeur et al. 2002,  
46 Sierszen et al. 2003, Babler et al. 2008) and disproportionately (relative to its low proportion of total  
47 lake area) contributes to the energy sources of fish within these systems (Hampton et al. 2011, Vander  
48 Zanden et al. 2011). Although the temperature of the littoral zone is cool for most of the year (fall-  
49 winter-spring), this region exceeds the preferred range for many cold-water fish species during summer  
50 months (Gibson and Fry, 1953; Guzzo and Blanchfield, 2017; Magnuson et al., 1979; Morbey et al.,  
51 2006). As a result, many cold-water fishes are known to behaviourally thermoregulate during summer  
52 by making rapid excursions into the warm littoral zone to feed on abundant or preferred prey and then  
53 return to cool, deep water to digest (Cott et al., 2015; Guzzo et al., 2017; Sellers et al., 1998). Although  
54 increased access to energy dense food may make this behaviour bioenergetically beneficial, repeated  
55 acute exposures to warm water may have negative physiological consequences. In fact, most research  
56 on the impacts of temperature on physiological performance and growth have compared changes in  
57 average (i.e. constant) temperatures, and therefore, relatively little is known on how exposure to  
58 thermal variation impacts the physiological performance and growth of fish (Carey, 1979; Morash et al.,  
59 2018).

60  
61 Aerobic metabolism uses oxygen to convert food into more usable forms of energy. Therefore,  
62 the aerobic metabolic rate is the pace at which resources are converted into energy that animals use to  
63 carry out key activities, such as reproduction, foraging, and locomotion (Brown et al. 2004; Sibly et al.,  
64 2012). Maximum metabolic rate (MMR) not only defines the upper boundary to aerobic capacity, which  
65 is related to several important physiological traits (e.g. swimming capacity) (Metcalfe et al., 2016), but  
66 together with standard metabolic rate (SMR, the minimum oxygen consumption required to maintain  
67 homeostasis) also determines an organism's aerobic scope (AS). AS is the absolute difference between  
68 MMR and SMR and is a measure of an animal's capacity to deliver oxygen to tissues to carry out  
69 simultaneous metabolic processes (e.g., growth, locomotion, reproduction) above maintenance  
70 metabolic requirements (Fry, 1971). As the metabolic rate of most fish is directly influenced by ambient  
71 temperatures, repeated acute exposures to warm water may have implications to the AS of fish.

72

73           Rapid excursions by fish between warm and cool habitats have been interpreted as flexible  
74 behaviours to maximize growth efficiency (Neverman and Wurtsbaugh, 1994; Armstrong et al., 2013), as  
75 energy-saving strategies (Sims et al., 2006), or as a strategy to exploit food resources during long periods  
76 of unfavourable thermal conditions in the feeding environment (Pepino et al., 2015). For example, if the  
77 duration of a foraging bout is enough to acutely elevate tissue temperatures by 5 - 10°C this could lead  
78 to oxidative stress or redox imbalance in ectotherms (Heise et al., 2006; Kaur et al., 2005; Leggatt et al.,  
79 2007; Lushchak and Bagnyukova, 2006; Parihar and Dubey, 1995). However, there is only limited  
80 evidence that diel thermal cycles can alter energy metabolism and growth dynamics in fish. For example,  
81 Morash et al. (2018) showed that Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) parr exposed to fluctuating  
82 temperatures displayed reduced SMR and MMR compared to fish at a stable acclimation temperature  
83 equal to the mean value of the fluctuations. AS was also decreased in the fish exposed to cycling  
84 temperature. Atlantic salmon parr exposed to either a stable daily average temperature (based on  
85 expected seasonal daily averages) or daily thermal fluctuations that mimicked the April-October growing  
86 season (>7°C diurnal fluctuations) also showed small reductions in growth rate, and this decline was  
87 independent of ration size (1 or 3 % body mass daily) (Imholt et al. 2011). While growth penalties may  
88 occur if SMR increases and resource availability stays constant and are limiting (Burton et al., 2011), the  
89 effect of daily fluctuations in temperature on Atlantic salmon SMR is a function of acclimation  
90 temperature and provenance (Oligny-Hébert et al., 2015), making inferences on the mechanism of  
91 reduced growth difficult.

92

93           Notably, much of the short-term thermal fluctuation experiments with fish have used species,  
94 like Atlantic salmon, that have relatively high thermal tolerances compared to cold-water and more  
95 stenothermal species like the lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), which are also known to make shallow  
96 water foraging bouts in small stratified lakes (Guzzo et al., 2017; Mackenzie-Grieve and Post 2006;  
97 Morbey et al., 2006; Sellers et al., 1998). However, if the adjustments to acute changes in temperature  
98 — both warming and cooling upon return to deeper water — alter growth efficiency or bioenergetics,  
99 then cold-water stenothermal species may be especially sensitive to disruptions to thermal  
100 environments. Understanding the metabolic responses of fish to repeated acute exposures to warm  
101 water, such as those experienced while making forays into nearshore water, is important as climate  
102 warming is expected to result in lakes having warmer surface waters (O'Reilly et al., 2015) and longer  
103 thermally-stratified periods (DeStasio et al., 1996; Robertson and Ragotzkie, 1990). Additionally,

104 warming of Arctic lakes which currently do not thermally-stratify in summer may create novel thermal  
105 environments to which cold-water fish will be exposed.

106

107           Even though most animals experience fluctuations in temperature in the natural habitats, we  
108 still possess limited knowledge of the effects of thermal variability on organismal physiology (Carey,  
109 1979; Morash et al. 2018). Lake trout occupying small lakes provide an extraordinary example whereby  
110 individuals voluntarily expose themselves to acute thermal shifts while foraging (as opposed to the diel  
111 thermal changes passively experienced by many other aquatic organisms), suggesting a possible trade-  
112 off between resource acquisition and the physiological costs of repeated and abrupt thermal changes.  
113 The native distribution of lake trout covers north-temperate and Arctic regions of North America. Lake  
114 trout has optimal growth at  $10 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  and a maximum AS at  $15^\circ\text{C}$  (Gibson and Fry 1953; Christie and  
115 Regier, 1988, Evans, 2007; Kelly et al., 2014; McDermid et al., 2013). Like other cold-water piscivores,  
116 lake trout rely heavily on nearshore-littoral energy in small lakes, particularly those that do not have  
117 deep water prey fish (Vander Zanden and Rasmussen, 1996).

118

119           In this study, we tested the hypothesis that excursions into warm water would lead to altered  
120 bioenergetics and metabolism in a cold-water fish as a plastic response to cope with repeated acute  
121 exposures to water temperatures above their optimal for growth and AS. We exposed juvenile lake trout  
122 to two levels of a daily acute temperature challenge over a two-month period, to simulate the  
123 conditions that these cold-water piscivores are exposed to when making rapid forays into the nearshore  
124 to feed in small thermally stratifying lakes during summer. Specifically, we compared how the growth,  
125 relative size of energy demanding tissues (liver and heart), metabolic rates (SMR, MMR, AS), and white  
126 muscle concentrations of lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) and cytochrome c oxidase (CCO) of fish differed  
127 among experimental treatments: control treatment — fish held at mean temperatures of  $\approx 10^\circ\text{C}$  for the  
128 entire experiment; and, exposure treatments — also held at  $\approx 10^\circ\text{C}$ , but acutely exposed to warm water  
129 ( $17^\circ\text{C}$  or  $22^\circ\text{C}$ ) daily for 53 days to simulate foraging excursions from cold water. The total daily exposure  
130 to water above control lasted for 10 - 11 min, including 2.5 - 3 min to heat up to the exposure  
131 temperature, 5 min at the exposure temperatures, and then 2.5 - 3 min to cool water back to optimal.  
132 The exposure duration was based on the results of an *in-situ* tracking study of lake trout which found  
133 the median duration of warm water forays in Lake Opeongo, a dimictic Boreal Shield lake in Canada, to be  
134 between 5.6 and 15.7 min (Morbey et al., 2006).

135

## 136 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 137 Fish collection and husbandry

138 Lake trout were reared from gametes collected from adult fish captured in Clearwater Lake, MB,  
139 Canada (54.05 °N, 101.05 °W) on 30 September 2013 with 95 % of eggs hatching within two days of 1  
140 January 2014. Fish were held at temperature mirroring those recorded at their natal lake  
141 (<https://www.hydro.mb.ca/hydrologicalData/static/>) up to a maximum of 10°C and fed commercial  
142 trout feed (EWOS Canada Ltd., Surrey, BC, CA) once each day to satiation. For details on rearing  
143 conditions see Kissinger et al. (2017). Prior to our experiment, fish were held in a large general  
144 population tank in round flow-through tanks (190 cm in diameter, 76 cm water depth, 2155 l water  
145 volume). The water temperature in the general population tank was raised gradually by 1°C day<sup>-1</sup> until it  
146 reached 10°C and fish were left to acclimate to this temperature for eight weeks before our experiment  
147 began. This acclimation temperature was selected because it is within the optimal temperature range  
148 for growth of lake trout (Christie and Regier, 1988; McDermid et al., 2013). All procedures were  
149 approved by the University of Manitoba Animal Care Committee (Animal use protocol #F13-029).

150

### 151 Experimental design

152 Our experimental approach consisted of six round flow-through tanks (61 cm in diameter, 53 cm  
153 water depth, 152 l water volume) that had water temperatures held constant at 10°C. There were three  
154 duplicated experimental treatments: control — tanks were held at 10°C for the entire study; Treatment  
155 17°C (T17°C) — tanks were held at 10°C but were heated to 17°C for 5 min each day; and, Treatment  
156 22°C (22°C) — tanks were held at 10°C but were heated to 22°C for 5 min each day (Fig. 1). A total of 42  
157 fish were haphazardly selected from the general population, sorted by size, and placed into each of the  
158 six tanks in equal groups ( $n = 7$ ). Fish were offered a ration of  $\approx 1.5$  % body mass daily with remaining  
159 food collected about one hour after feeding. Feeding occurred 0.5 - 2 h before daily heat exposures.  
160 Water temperatures in each tank were monitored at 1 min intervals over the entire study using data  
161 loggers (HOBO TidbiT v2, Onset Computer Corp. Bourne MA, USA). We increased the temperature of  
162 each treatment tank daily to mimic fish rapidly swimming up through the lake's mixed-layer and into  
163 warm nearshore water to feed by draining roughly half the water in each tank and mixing in water  
164 heated with electric kettles to  $\approx 50$ °C until tanks reached our treatment temperatures of 17°C or 22°C.  
165 We then let the tanks remain at these temperatures for the 5 min exposure, after which we mixed in 4  
166 °C water until each tank reached their original temperatures of  $\approx 10$ °C. It took roughly 2 - 3 min to heat  
167 and cool treatments from their baseline temperature so, overall, treatment fish were in temperatures >

168 10°C (i.e., above control levels) for about 9 - 11 min each day. To ensure that control treatments  
169 received the same handling stress as exposure treatments, but without the temperature effects, we  
170 performed sham treatments, where control tanks were drained to half and 10°C water was mixed into  
171 the tanks in the same manner as treatment tanks. During each daily heating and cooling process,  
172 instantaneous water temperatures were monitored using a handheld probe (Pro ODO, YSI Inc., Yellow  
173 Springs OH, USA) to ensure temperatures in each treatment tank achieved set endpoints.

174

175         Prior to the start of the experiment (26 November 2015), fish were size-selected so that the  
176 mean fork lengths and masses of fish assigned to each treatment did not differ (Fork length:  $F_{2,38} = 1.17$ ,  
177  $P = 0.32$ ; Mass:  $F_{2,38} = 0.64$ ,  $P = 0.53$ ). Mean ( $\pm$  SD) fork lengths were  $181.5 \pm 7.0$  mm,  $180.6 \pm 9.8$  mm,  
178 and  $185.0 \pm 7.2$  mm and average masses were  $59.7 \pm 9.4$  g,  $58.3 \pm 10.3$  g,  $62.3 \pm 8.8$  g, for control, T17°C  
179 and T22°C, respectively. Following size-selection, fish were elastomer tagged to allow individual  
180 identification and placed into their respective tanks. We then allowed to acclimate to their new groups  
181 and tanks for two-months at 10°C. Following social acclimation, fish were weighed and measured on 21  
182 January 2016, at which point the mean fork lengths ( $F_{2,37} = 0.34$ ,  $P = 0.71$ ) and masses ( $F_{2,37} = 0.78$ ,  $P =$   
183  $0.46$ ) of fish in each treatment still did not differ. At this point, mean ( $\pm$  SD) fork lengths were  $194.2 \pm 8.1$   
184 mm,  $191.8 \pm 13.2$  mm, and  $195.0 \pm 10.0$  mm and average masses were  $73.3 \pm 11.0$  g,  $67.6 \pm 15.5$  g,  $72.9$   
185  $\pm 13.0$  g, for control, T17°C and T22°C, respectively. Fish were left to recover without feeding for three  
186 days, at which point feeding recommenced. The exposure period began seven days later, on 28 January  
187 2016 and lasted 57 days. Fish were weighed and measured approximately half-way through the  
188 exposure period (26 February 2016) and were not heated on that day and three days following to let  
189 them recover. Heating then recommenced and continued until the end of the experiment (23 March  
190 2016), at which point final weights and lengths were taken to determine growth dynamics. Therefore,  
191 the total experimental period was 64 days (21 January 2016 - 24 March 2016), with a total of 53 days of  
192 heat exposure. Fish were then allowed to recover 13-19 days after the final day of heat exposure while  
193 being fed a maintenance ration of 0.5 % body mass before metabolic rates were measured to determine  
194 if the repeated acute thermal exposures had a prolonged effect on metabolism. After measurement of  
195 metabolic rate, fish were euthanized by an overdose of Tricaine Methanesulfonate, followed by pithing  
196 and cervical severing. Fish were then weighed, measured for fork length, and white muscle was sampled  
197 and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen before being placed in a -80°C freezer for enzyme analysis (Fig.  
198 1). The heart ventricle was also removed and weighed following euthanasia to determine if differences



199 in ventricle size independent of fish size existed among control and treatments, while controlling for fish  
200 mass.

201  
202 The mean ( $\pm$ SD) temperatures of the tanks during the exposure period ranged from  $9.4 \pm 1.0^\circ\text{C}$   
203 to  $9.6 \pm 0.7^\circ\text{C}$ . There were few occasions when maximum daily temperatures in all tanks, including  
204 control tanks, exceeded  $10 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ , which were not due to experimental spiking of water temperatures.  
205 These incidents were caused by interruptions in the fresh water supply due to facility maintenance.  
206 Control tank 1 water exceeded  $10 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  as follows: February 1 – February 2 for 612 min (max  
207 temperature =  $13.2^\circ\text{C}$ ), February 19 for 40 min (max temperature =  $12.7^\circ\text{C}$ ), and February 27 for 472 min  
208 (max temperature =  $12.5^\circ\text{C}$ ). Control tank 2 water exceeded  $10 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  as follows: January 30 – January 31  
209 for 1,065 min (max temperature =  $15.8^\circ\text{C}$ ) and February 19 for 57 min (max temperature =  $13.0^\circ\text{C}$ ).  
210 Additionally, the mean daily temperature in T17°C tank 2 was  $7.3^\circ\text{C}$  on March 2 and 3, as water  
211 temperature in this tank fell to  $4.9^\circ\text{C}$  during the evening between these two dates.

212

### 213 **Metabolic rates**

214 We used intermittent-flow respirometry (Loligo® Systems, Viborg, Denmark) to estimate whole-  
215 animal aerobic metabolic rates (Svendsen et al., 2016). Four acrylic cylindrical respirometry chambers  
216 (75 mm in diameter x 250 or 270 mm in length, 1100 or 1200 ml in volume) were submerged in  $10^\circ\text{C}$   
217 aerated freshwater controlled by a temperature regulator (TMP-Reg, Loligo® Systems). Each  
218 respirometry chamber was connected to two pumps (EHEIM GmbH & Co KG, Deizisau, Germany) with a  
219 flow rate of  $5.0 \text{ l min}^{-1}$  each. One pump recirculated water through the respirometry chamber and  
220 through an in-line oxygen probe holder during the measurement period of the intermittent respirometry  
221 cycle, while the other pump was used to bring oxygenated water from the water bath back to the  
222 respirometry chamber to restore oxygen content during the flush period. To estimate the rate of oxygen  
223 uptake ( $\dot{M}\text{O}_2$ ), we used a respirometry cycle that was 320 s in duration; this included a 140 s flush  
224 period, a 40 s wait period to achieve steady state after the end of flushing, and a 140 s measurement  
225 periods. We chose these durations based on pre-experiment trial runs to ensure that dissolved oxygen  
226 would return to a safe level (i.e.,  $> 9.0 \text{ mg O}_2 \text{ l}^{-1}$ ; Evans, 2007) during each flush period, and to ensure  
227 that the measurement period began after the linear decline of oxygen began (Svendsen et al., 2016).  
228 The mean  $R^2$  of the all  $\dot{M}\text{O}_2$  measurements was 0.99 ( $n = 7146$ ,  $\text{SD} = 0.01$ , range = 0.9 - 1.0). We used  
229 Autoresp™ software (Loligo® Systems) to control the flush pumps during the experiment, monitor  
230 changes in oxygen concentration within each chamber, and calculate the slopes of oxygen decline during

231 each measurement period. Blank measurements (i.e., without fish in the respirometry chambers) were  
232 performed between each run to estimate bacterial oxygen demand (BOD), which was negligible. Prior to  
233 the experiment, oxygen sensors (DP-PSt3-L2.5-ST10-YOP; precision  $\pm 0.05$  mg O<sub>2</sub> l<sup>-1</sup>, PreSens,  
234 Regensburg Germany) were calibrated using a 2-point calibration method as outlined in the AutoResp™  
235 Software User Manual (Loligo® Systems).

236

237 MMR was calculated as the highest  $\dot{M}O_2$  measurement from the first three measurement  
238 periods following an exhaustive chase protocol (Norin and Clark, 2016; Killen et al., 2017). The chase  
239 protocol involved chasing fish in a round tank against a constant current. The fish were encouraged to  
240 burst forward against the current by tapping on the side of the tank with a net until they were  
241 unresponsive to a caudal pinch (typically 7 - 10 min) (Kissinger et al., 2017; Mochnacz et al., 2017; Roche  
242 et al., 2013). Fish were then immediately placed into a respirometry chamber and  $\dot{M}O_2$  measurements  
243 began directly after the chamber was closed, which took approximately 20 - 30 seconds. Following MMR  
244 measurement, fish were left in the respirometry chambers and  $\dot{M}O_2$  was measured for  $\approx 24$  h to  
245 estimate SMR — calculated as the lower 20<sup>th</sup> percentile of all  $\dot{M}O_2$  measurements during the 24 h post  
246 MMR measurements (Chabot et al., 2016). For each fish, AS was calculated as the differences between  
247 MMR and SMR. Metabolic rates were calculated both as whole-animal values (units = mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup>) and  
248 mass-specific values (units = mg O<sub>2</sub> kg<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>), but we focus on the former for graphical presentation and  
249 analysis in this paper. Summary data for metabolic rates in both units are presented in the Results.

250

### 251 **White muscle enzymes**

252 LDH and CCO activity were measured in white muscle tissue sampled from the fish following  
253 respirometry. Muscle was homogenized in 19 volumes of 50 mM Imidazole buffer (7.4 pH) using an IKA  
254 T25 digital ULTRA-TURRAX® homogenizer. Due to high activity, homogenate for LDH assays were further  
255 diluted by 9 volumes of 50 mM Imidazole buffer (7.4 pH) to allow for linear rates of enzyme activity.  
256 Enzyme activities were measured at the same temperature as the fish were held at outside of heat  
257 challenges ( $10 \pm 0.1$  °C) in an Agilent Technologies Cary Series UV-Vis spectrophotometer equipped with  
258 a thermally controlled jacketed cell holder. Assays used were based on previous work performed on fish  
259 muscle enzymes. For LDH (E.C. 1.1.1.27), 50 mM imidazole (pH 7.4) and 0.2 mM NADH, tissue  
260 homogenate, 1 mM sodium pyruvate (omitted for control rates of absorbance change) (Moon, 1987;  
261 Walsh et al., 1990). For CCO (E.C. 1.9.3.1), 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) with 0.05 %  
262 (w/v) of lauryl maltoside as a detergent, tissue homogenate, 60  $\mu$ M Cytochrome C reduced with sodium

263 dithionite to initiate the reaction and 300  $\mu\text{M}$  KCN was used to measure any CCO independent rate of  
264 absorbance change (Spinazzi et al., 2011). Assays had a total volume of 1 ml. Each enzyme was  
265 measured at two different volumes of homogenate, which were pre-determined to ensure sufficiently  
266 linear reaction rates as well as proportionality with sample added. Measurements were made by  
267 recording the absorbance at 340 nm for LDH and at 550 nm for CCO. Control measurements were taken  
268 during the first 2 - 3 min of each assay before the reaction substrate was added for LDH and for the final  
269 2 - 3 min for CCO after the addition of KCN to the cuvette. Control readings were subtracted from the  
270 reaction readings during analysis and results are expressed per gram of tissue as  $\mu\text{mol min}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$ . All  
271 chemicals/reagents were purchased from Sigma Aldrich Canada.

272

### 273 **Internal body temperatures**

274 We estimated the internal body temperature that the average lake trout (based on both starting  
275 and final masses) in our study would have achieved by the end of the 5-min exposure period in each  
276 treatment using the results of Pepino et al. (2015), who quantified heat transfer in brook trout  
277 (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), a close relative to lake trout. We used a stepwise approach to estimate the  
278 internal body temperature of our fish because we rapidly increased ambient temperatures, whereas  
279 Pepino et al. (2015) moved fish directly from cool to warm temperatures when estimating rates. We first  
280 estimated how much the internal temperature would increase from 10°C to 13.5°C over 2.5 min, and  
281 then used that internal temperature estimate for 2.5 min at 13.5°C as a starting temperature and  
282 assumed fish would be in 17°C or 22°C for 7.5 min (2.5 min to heat and 5 min at the treatment  
283 temperature). We assumed fish would be at target temperatures for 7.5 min rather than 5 min for  
284 modelling internal temperatures because temperature increased rapidly in tanks and then slowed as we  
285 approached target temperatures to ensure we did not overshoot temperature endpoints.

286

### 287 **Data analysis**

288 We used a combination of linear (LMM) and generalized (GLMM) mixed-effects models to test  
289 for differences in biological metrics, metabolic rates, and white muscle enzyme activity among our  
290 experimental treatments. In each model, we treated replicate tank as a random intercept nested within  
291 treatment group to account for any unanticipated tank effects. The assumptions of models were tested  
292 following the methods of Zuur *et al.* (2009; 2010). Tukey pairwise post-hoc multiple comparisons tests  
293 were used for among-treatment comparisons when treatment was found to be an influential fixed  
294 effect. For LMMs, marginal ( $R^2\text{m}$ ) and conditional ( $R^2\text{c}$ ) coefficients of determinations were used to

295 determine the proportion of variance explained by only fixed factors and fixed and random factors,  
296 respectively. For the gamma GLMMs (see below),  $R^2_m$  and  $R^2_c$  are not estimable, so the proportion of  
297 variance explained by random effects was calculated using intra-class correlation coefficients (ICC),  
298 where  $ICC = \text{variance of random effects} / \text{total variance}$ . All analyses and figures were completed in R  
299 v.3.5.2 (R Core Team 2018). Analyses were performed using the following R packages: Tukey tests with  
300 *emmeans* (Lenth, 2019), LMM with *nlme* (Pinheiro and Bates, 2000; Pinheiro et al., 2016), GLMM with  
301 *lme4* (Bates et al., 2013), and  $R^2_m$  and  $R^2_c$  with *MuMIn* (Barton, 2018).

302

303 Daily food consumption rates of the average fish in each tank were estimated by subtracting the  
304 amount of food that was remaining from the total amount of food offered to the tank and dividing by  
305 the number of fish in that tank. We then used a generalized linear mixed effect model (GLMM) with a  
306 Gamma distribution and treatment treated as a fixed factor to model daily consumption rates of lake  
307 trout. A Chi-squared test was used to test if daily consumption differed across treatments. We chose a  
308 Gamma distribution because the amount of food offered to each tank increased over the study to  
309 maintain  $\approx 1.5\%$  by mass feeding, thus consumption increased over the study period. Examination of  
310 residuals confirmed that the Gamma GLMM fit the data well. The total food consumed by the average  
311 fish in each treatment over the entire study was estimated as the sum of the average daily consumption  
312 rates for each tank divided by two.

313

314 Specific growth rates (% of body size per day) for individual fish were calculated for both mass  
315 (SGR-M) and length (SGR-L) by fitting the exponential model:  $y = ae^{bx}$ , where  $y$  is the mass (g) or fork  
316 length (mm) on a given day ( $x$ ), and  $b$  is the specific growth rate. Differences in SGR-M and SGR-L among  
317 treatments were tested using a LMM with response variables cube-root transformed prior to analyses to  
318 meet model assumptions. Condition was estimated using Fulton's K:  $\text{Body mass} \times (10000 / \text{Fork length}^3)$ .  
319 Condition factors were estimated for both the start (21 January 2015) and end of the exposure periods  
320 (24 March 2016), and the change in condition over this period ( $\Delta$  condition) was calculated. The final  
321 hepatosomatic index (HSI) of each fish was estimated as:  $\text{Liver mass} / \text{Body mass} \times 100$ . The SGR-M, SGR-  
322 L,  $\Delta$  condition, HSI, and ventricle masses of lake trout were modelled using linear mixed effects models  
323 (LMM) with treatment treated as a fixed factor and no data transformations required to meet  
324 assumptions.

325

326 Among-treatment differences in whole-animal metabolic rates (SMR, MMR, and AS), ventricle  
327 masses, and white muscle enzyme activity (LDH and CCO) were quantified using LMMs with final fish  
328 mass (continuous), treatment (factor), and their interaction (treatment x fish mass) included as fixed  
329 effects. Model selection for LMMs were performed using backwards stepwise regression with marginal *F*  
330 tests. For LMMs, metabolic rates, ventricle masses, enzymes, and fish masses were log<sub>10</sub> transformed for  
331 analysis. For graphics illustrating variation in metabolic rate and enzymes among treatments we  
332 centered the residuals of the linear log<sub>10</sub> - log<sub>10</sub> relationships between each of metabolic rate and  
333 enzyme around the mean value predicted from the model for a fish of 160 g, which was the average  
334 final mass of lake trout in our study. If mass was not found to influence one of the metabolic rate or  
335 enzymes, then the means and raw data for each treatment are presented.

336

## 337 **RESULTS**

### 338 **Tank water temperatures**

339 All fish experienced average daily water temperatures of ≈ 10°C during the 57-day treatment  
340 period, with fish in control tanks held at mean water temperatures of 10°C for the entire duration of the  
341 experiment (Fig. 1). On average, treatment tanks had temperatures exceeding the optimal 10 ± 2 °C for  
342 10.86 ± 4.61 min day<sup>-1</sup> — roughly 5 - 6 min to heat and cool the water, plus the 5-min heat exposure. In  
343 all, treatment fish were acutely heated for 53 days, which equated to them being in elevated  
344 temperatures (> 10 ± 2 °C) for ≈ 397 min and in treatment temperatures of 17 °C or 22 °C for ≈ 265 min  
345 during the exposure period.

346

### 347 **Food consumption**

348 We found evidence that food consumption by lake trout differed among treatments ( $\chi^2_{2, 312} =$   
349 7.36,  $P = 0.03$ ), with fish in control tanks eating slightly more food each day than those exposed to 17 °C  
350 (Tukey test:  $Z = 2.58$ ,  $P = 0.03$ ) but similar amounts than those exposed to 22 °C (Tukey test:  $Z = 2.01$ ,  $P =$   
351 0.10). We also found no difference in consumption between fish exposed to 17 °C and 22 °C (Tukey test:  
352  $Z = -0.57$ ,  $P = 0.83$ ). The average daily food consumption by fish in control tanks was (mean ± SD) 1.30 ±  
353 0.23 g compared to 1.20 ± 0.25 g and 1.22 ± 0.24 g consumed by the average fish in 17 °C and 22 °C  
354 treatments, respectively (Fig. 2A). Overall, these daily differences in consumption translated into an  
355 average total food consumption of fish in control tanks to be roughly 135 g; about 10 g more than in the  
356 17 °C (≈ 125 g) and 22 °C (≈ 127 g) treatments (Fig. 2B). ICCs indicated that differences in consumption

357 between replicate tanks (within a treatment) accounted for <1 % of the total variance explained in daily  
358 food consumption.

359

### 360 **Fish growth and condition**

361 We found evidence that SGR-M of lake trout differed among treatments ( $F_{2,32} = 3.75$ ,  $P = 0.03$ ,  
362  $R^2m = 0.18$ ,  $R^2c = 0.18$ ; Table 1, Fig. 3A), with control fish (mean  $\pm$  SD;  $0.015 \pm 0.011$  %  $g d^{-1}$ ) having  
363 higher SGR-M than T17°C fish ( $0.0137 \pm 0.022$  %  $mg d^{-1}$ ) and 22 °C ( $0.012 \pm 0.023$  %  $mg d^{-1}$ ). SGR-M did  
364 not differ between treatments (Table 1, Fig. 3A). Similarly, the SGR-L of lake trout also differed among  
365 treatments ( $F_{2,32} = 4.78$ ,  $P = 0.02$ ,  $R^2m = 0.21$ ,  $R^2c = 0.24$ ), with fish in control tanks ( $0.0034 \pm 0.0003$  %  
366  $mm d^{-1}$ ) having higher SGR-L than T17°C fish ( $0.0029 \pm 0.0007$  %  $mm d^{-1}$ ) and T22°C fish ( $0.0028 \pm 0.0004$   
367 %  $mm d^{-1}$ ), but no difference between T17°C and T22°C (Table 1, Fig. 3B). Half way through the exposure  
368 period (February 26), mean ( $\pm$  SD) fork lengths were  $218.4 \pm 11.4$  mm,  $214.4 \pm 16.8$  mm, and  $218.4 \pm$   
369  $14.5$  mm, while weights were  $121.9 \pm 21.0$  g,  $109.0 \pm 31.2$  g, and  $117.5 \pm 22.1$  g, for control, T17°C  
370 exposed, and T22°C fish, respectively. At the end of the experimental period (March 24), mean ( $\pm$  SD)  
371 fork lengths were  $236.2 \pm 15.5$  mm,  $232.1 \pm 20.7$  mm, and  $232.1 \pm 16.7$  mm, while weights were  $175.6 \pm$   
372  $38.1$  g,  $153.9 \pm 51.1$  g, and  $162.5 \pm 35.7$  g, for control, T17°C, and T22°C fish, respectively.

373

374 We found weak evidence that the change in condition of lake trout ( $\Delta$  condition) over the  
375 exposure period differed among treatments ( $F_{2,32} = 2.83$ ,  $P = 0.07$ ; Table 1, Fig. 3C), with control fish  
376 ( $0.32 \pm 0.05$ ) having greater  $\Delta$  condition than T17°C fish ( $0.25 \pm 0.11$ ) but not T22°C fish ( $0.31 \pm 0.06$ ). No  
377 differences in  $\Delta$  condition were evident between T17°C and T22°C fish (Table 1, Fig. 3C). Lake trout HSI  
378 following respirometry did not differ among treatments ( $F_{2,30} = 0.02$ ,  $P = 0.98$ ; Control:  $1.11 \pm 0.10$ ;  
379 T17°C:  $1.12 \pm 0.11$ ; T22°C:  $1.11 \pm 0.14$ ; Fig. 3D). In general, we found little evidence for tank effects on  
380 biological metrics, with differences between  $R^2m$  and  $R^2c$  values being  $\leq 5$  % for all metrics.

381

### 382 **Metabolic rates**

383 SMR increased with mass (Mass:  $F_{1,27} = 107.3$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ,  $R^2m = 0.80$ ,  $R^2c = 0.80$ ;  $\log_{10}$  SMR =  $0.87 \times$   
384  $\log_{10}$  mass -  $0.98$ ), but the slope of this relationship did not differ among treatments (Treatment x Mass:  
385  $F_{2,23} = 1.44$ ,  $P = 0.26$ ). Mean SMR estimates also did not differ among treatments when accounting for  
386 mass (Treatment:  $F_{2,25} = 0.68$ ,  $P = 0.52$ ) (Table 2, 3, Fig. 4A). MMR also increased with mass (Mass:  $F_{1,27} =$   
387  $57.77$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ,  $R^2m = 0.66$ ,  $R^2c = 0.66$ ;  $\log_{10}$  MMR =  $0.51 \times \log_{10}$  mass +  $0.40$ ), with the slope of this  
388 relationship not differing among treatments (Treatment x Mass:  $F_{2,23} = 0.47$ ,  $P = 0.63$ ). However, mean

389 MMR estimates did differ among treatments when accounting for mass (Treatment:  $F_{2,25} = 6.92$ ,  $P <$   
390  $0.01$ ,  $R^2m = 0.78$ ,  $R^2c = 0.78$ ), with fish from T17°C having greater MMR than those from control tanks  
391 and T22°C. No differences in MMR were observed between control fish and T22°C (Table 2, 3, Fig. 4B).  
392 AS also increased with mass (Mass:  $F_{1,28} = 30.52$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ,  $R^2m = 0.52$ ,  $R^2c = 0.52$ ;  $\log_{10} AS = 0.49 \times \log_{10}$   
393  $mass + 0.35$ ), with the slope of this relationship not differing among treatments (Treatment x Mass:  $F_{2,23}$   
394  $= 0.20$ ,  $P = 0.82$ ). Mean AS estimates did differ among treatments when controlling for the effect of  
395 mass (Treatment:  $F_{2,25} = 7.19$ ,  $P = 0.03$ ,  $R^2m = 0.63$ ,  $R^2c = 0.63$ ), with fish from T17°C having greater AS  
396 than those from control tanks and T22°C, but no differences between control and T22°C (Table 2, 3, Fig.  
397 4C). No tank effects on metabolic rates were evident based on  $R^2m$  and  $R^2c$  values. Summary data for  
398 both whole-animal and mass-specific metabolic rates can be found in Table 2.

399

#### 400 **Ventricle mass**

401 Ventricle mass increased with fish mass (Mass:  $F_{1,30} = 81.06$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ,  $R^2m = 0.72$ ,  $R^2c = 0.72$ ;  
402  $\log_{10} ventricle\ mass = 1.02 \times \log_{10} mass - 3.12$ ), but the slope of this relationship did not differ among  
403 treatments (Treatment x Mass:  $F_{2,26} = 0.25$ ,  $P = 0.78$ ). Mean ventricle mass also did not differ among  
404 treatments when accounting for mass (Treatment:  $F_{2,28} = 0.73$ ,  $P = 0.49$ ) (Table 3).

405

#### 406 **White muscle enzymes**

407 LDH activity was neither related to the interaction of treatment and mass (Treatment x Mass:  
408  $F_{2,26} = 0.09$ ,  $P = 0.91$ ) and did not differ among treatments (Treatment:  $F_{2,28} = 1.10$ ,  $P = 0.35$ ) (Fig. 5A), but  
409 did increase with mass (Mass:  $F_{1,30} = 3.86$ ,  $P = 0.06$ ,  $R^2m = 0.11$ ,  $R^2c = 0.16$ ;  $\log_{10} LDH = 0.27 \times \log_{10} mass +$   
410  $2.25$ ) (Fig. 5A). CCO activity was also not influenced by the interaction of treatment and mass  
411 (Treatment x Mass:  $F_{2,26} = 0.06$ ,  $P = 0.94$ ) and did not differ by treatment (Treatment:  $F_{2,28} = 1.44$ ,  $P =$   
412  $0.26$ ) (Fig. 5A). CCO activity showed a weak increase with mass (Mass:  $F_{1,30} = 2.93$ ,  $P = 0.09$ ,  $R^2m = 0.09$ ,  
413  $R^2c = 0.10$ ;  $\log_{10} CCO = 0.58 \times \log_{10} mass - 0.66$ ). Mean ( $\pm$  SD) CCO activities were  $5.38 \pm 2.31 \mu\text{mol min}^{-1}$   
414  $\text{g}^{-1}$ ,  $4.36 \pm 1.99 \mu\text{mol min}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$ , and  $3.57 \pm 1.18 \mu\text{mol min}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$ , for control, T17°C, and T22°C fish,  
415 respectively (Fig. 5B).

416

#### 417 **Internal body temperatures**

418 We estimated that the average-sized fish at the start (68.4 g) and end (151.0 g) of the 57 day  
419 exposure period would have achieved internal body temperatures of 14.4 °C and 14.3 °C at the end of  
420 exposure to 17 °C, and 19.8 °C and 19.7 °C at the end of exposure to 22 °C, respectively. Thus, the

421 increase in body mass experienced over the study had minimal effects on the rate of heat transfer (0.1  
422 °C difference in internal temperature regardless of treatment).

423

## 424 **DISCUSSION**

425 We found that fish repeatedly given acute exposure to 17°C showed a higher MMR and AS by  
426 the end of the study as compared to control fish and those exposed to 22°C, but there were no  
427 differences in SMR among treatments. In temperature-acclimated lake trout, AS appears to be  
428 optimized (maximal) at approximately 15°C (Evans, 2007; Gibson and Fry, 1953; Kelly et al., 2014), and  
429 our results suggest that even brief, repetitive exposures to warm temperatures that are close to this  
430 optimal temperature can cause lake trout to experience a plastic increase in MMR. Fish exposed to an  
431 acute temperature increase — such as that experienced by fish while foraging into warmer water —  
432 display a sharp increase in SMR during the exposure that eventually decreases with acclimation during  
433 thermal compensation (Hazel and Prosser, 1974; Steffensen, 2005). If this spike in SMR occurs similarly  
434 across all individuals (given that we found no differences), a plastic increase in MMR by individuals that  
435 underwent repeated exposures to warm water may have more AS available before and after warm  
436 water excursions, relative to control fish. However, our results suggest that acute exposures to water  
437 well above the optimal for AS may not be beneficial.

438

439 It is interesting that plasticity in MMR is induced by relatively short but daily exposures to  
440 increased temperatures (i.e.,  $\approx 10$  min per day). Notably, similarly short intermittent periods of  
441 strenuous activity can have a dramatic impact on physiological traits in vertebrates, including increased  
442 maximal oxygen uptake rate in humans during daily periods of physical training (Bacon et al., 2013; Sloth  
443 et al., 2013). The plasticity in MMR displayed by lake trout in response to intermittent warming may be  
444 an analogous response, preparing individuals for future foraging bouts in suboptimal thermal  
445 environments. Increasing the proportion of AS available may be especially important given that lake  
446 trout will not only experience a temperature-induced increase in baseline metabolism during forays into  
447 shallow water during summer (Guzzo et al., 2017; Morbey et al., 2006), but they will also be performing  
448 physically strenuous activities during their relentless pursuit and capture of prey, which will further  
449 consume a portion of their available AS (Norin and Clark, 2016; Norin and Clark, 2017).

450

451 Even with a plastic increase in MMR, lake trout can likely only tolerate brief exposures to warm  
452 littoral environments while foraging. Indeed, even after complete thermal acclimation, the AS of lake



453 trout decreases drastically at 19°C compared to 15°C (Evans, 2007; Kelly et al., 2014). It has also been  
454 observed that lake trout vastly reduce their movements into the littoral zone as temperatures rise above  
455 15°C during seasonal warming (Guzzo et al., 2017; Plumb and Blanchfield, 2009; Snucins and Gunn,  
456 1995). The increase in MMR observed in this study in response to acute warming (Table 4) may also  
457 come with associated physiological trade-offs; for example, we found a weak correlation between mass-  
458 corrected SMR and MMR among individuals across all treatments ( $r = 0.30$ ). Plastic increases in MMR  
459 could cause an associated elevation in SMR, and thus foraging requirements. Indeed, at the interspecific  
460 level, a strong positive correlation between SMR and MMR in fish is modulated by factors such as organ  
461 size and tissue composition (Killen et al., 2016). In addition, control tanks in the current study consumed  
462 more food overall than fish in the temperature-increased treatments (Table 4), suggesting that the  
463 treatments with a higher MMR had a decreased appetite relative to control fish. It is possible that our  
464 protocol, which involved feeding in the hours before the temperature increase, may have had a  
465 suppressive effect on fish appetite over time, if fish became habituated to the timing of the temperature  
466 increase in relation the feeding period. Such an effect could obscure the ability to detect differences in  
467 food demand as a potential consequence of an increased MMR and associated maintenance costs.  
468 Alternatively, the lower growth rates in exposed fish could also equate to lower protein synthesis and in  
469 turn lower feeding (Rosenfeld et al., 2015).

470

471           Based on average growth and food consumption, it appears that overall food conversion  
472 efficiency was on average highest for control fish. This suggests that decreased conversion efficiency  
473 could be another trade-off to phenotypic changes for coping with acute warming. However, there are  
474 several reasons why the effect of repeated and brief warming on conversion efficiency may require  
475 further study. Firstly, we could only quantify conversion efficiency at the level of the holding tanks, as it  
476 was not possible to quantify individual food consumption. Individual fish may show different patterns  
477 given that the fish from temperature treatments ate less food overall but displayed a statistically similar  
478 growth rate. Furthermore, the exact energy required to digest food in fish adapted to fluctuating  
479 thermal regimes remains unknown. Temperature has complex effects on the energy required to digest  
480 and assimilate a meal in ectotherms and the subsequent activation of anabolic processes (termed  
481 specific dynamic action; SDA), but at least in some cool-water teleosts, warmer acclimation  
482 temperatures may decrease the ratio spent on digestion and assimilation relative to the amount of  
483 energy extracted from a meal (Tirsgaard et al., 2015). The physiological changes induced by brief, but

484 frequent, foraging forays into warmer waters could alter either the time taken to digest a meal, or the  
485 total amount of energy spent on SDA, but this requires further study.

486

487           Although we measured the metabolic rates of all fish at 10°C, the temperature that fish were  
488 held at for most (exposed fish) or all (control fish) of the experiment (including the 2 - 3 weeks between  
489 the exposure period and measurement of metabolic rates), we still found differences in MMR and AS  
490 among treatments (Table 4). Interestingly, the pattern observed in MMR and AS across treatments  
491 closely resembles that of the temperature vs. metabolic rate curves previously developed for lake trout  
492 based on acclimation experiments, which also have maximum AS at  $\approx 15^\circ\text{C}$  (Gibson and Fry, 1953; Evans  
493 et al. 2007). This is especially noticeable when taking into consideration that, on average, maximum  
494 daily internal body temperatures of lake trout in our experiment were 10°C (control), 14.3°C (17°C  
495 exposed fish), and 19.7°C (22°C exposed fish). Our results differ from those of Gibson and Fry (1953) in  
496 that SMR of their acclimated fish showed an exponential increase in response to temperature, while  
497 SMR in our study was constant across treatments. Our results also differ from those of Morash et al.  
498 (2018) who found that Atlantic salmon parr exposed to fluctuating temperatures had reduced SMR,  
499 MMR, and AS compared to those acclimated to stable conditions. However, our finding of an increase in  
500 MMR after acute exposure to warm water are partially in line with those of Sandblom et al. (2016), who  
501 found that European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) exposed to a 5°C temperature increase for 24 h had  
502 elevated MMR, but also an elevated SMR. The contrasting results for SMR could be because their acute  
503 exposure with perch was much longer in duration than in our study, and that metabolic rates were  
504 measured at the elevated temperature rather than the pre-exposure temperature. In the context of  
505 forays into warm water the results of Sandblom et al. (2016) may suggest that MMR of our fish exposed  
506 to 17°C may remain elevated relative to control fish while in warm water as well as before and after the  
507 foray.

508

509           While differences were observed in some traits assessed in the present study, a lack of  
510 difference in SMR among treatments (Table 4) is not completely surprising, as for lake trout, SMR has  
511 been documented to be less influenced by temperature when compared to MMR at acclimation  
512 temperatures up to 15°C (Gibson and Fry, 1953; Evans, 2007). Results of Gibson and Fry (1953) indicate  
513 that for an age-2 100 g lake trout, a rise in acclimation temperatures from 10°C to 14.3°C (the internal  
514 temperature reached in our T17°C) would result in an increase in whole-animal SMR of only 2.3 mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup>  
515 <sup>1</sup> (4.4 mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup> to 6.7 mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup>) compared an increase in MMR of 10.6 mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup> (24.6 mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup> to 35.4

516 mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup>). For comparison, the average whole-animal SMR predicted for a 100 g lake trout in our study  
517 was 5.8 mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup> (across all treatments), while MMR was 3.1 mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup> greater for T17°C fish (28.2 mg  
518 O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup>) relative to control fish (25.1 mg O<sub>2</sub> h<sup>-1</sup>). The contrasting findings between the acclimation work of  
519 Gibson and Fry (1953) and our study could be that the temperatures experienced during the acute  
520 heating events did not affect biochemical and membrane-associated processes that set SMR (Rolfe and  
521 Brown 1997).

522

523 Our finding that MMR is more plastic to acute thermal exposure than SMR is also in line with  
524 results of a previous study that used lake trout from the same parental cross and found that MMR and  
525 AS responded to exposures to saltwater transfers (0, 5, and 20 ppt) while SMR did not (Kissinger et al.,  
526 2017). This study also found that some key enzymes (Na<sup>+</sup> K<sup>+</sup> -ATPase), their regulatory genes (Na<sup>+</sup> K<sup>+</sup> -  
527 ATPase α1a and α1b) and resulting plasma osmolality differed with saltwater exposure (Kissinger et al.,  
528 2017). The reduced sensitivity of SMR to abiotic heterogeneity highlights lake trout's ability to acutely  
529 and chronically respond to a range of heterogeneous environments. Minimizing increases in SMR due to  
530 changes in the abiotic environment is extremely important to lake trout because existing in a state  
531 nearing SMR minimizes energy expenditure, which is essential when existing in low-productive  
532 oligotrophic lakes. The resilience of SMR in lake trout to acute thermal exposure and other  
533 environmental heterogeneity may be linked to evolutionary tactics that have allowed lake trout to  
534 survive and exploit a variety of low-productive environments across North America (Kelly et al., 2014;  
535 Martin and Olver, 1980; Muir et al., 2016). While a combination of plasticity and local adaptation has  
536 allowed this species to colonize a range of environments and changes in climate suggest that the  
537 physiological adaptations of this genus will be put to the test (Reist et al., 2013).

538

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543

#### 544 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

545 The authors declare no competing interest.

546

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552

553 **DATA ACCESSIBILITY**

554 The data reported in this paper will be deposited in the open source database Zenodo once published.

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729

730

731 **Table 1.** Pairwise Tukey tests of linear mixed effects models testing for the effect of treatment on specific growth rates based on mass (SGR-M)  
732 and fork length (SGR-L), the change in condition factor ( $\Delta$  condition), final hepatosomatic index (HSI), and final ventricle mass of lake trout in  
733 control tanks and those exposed to repeated acute temperature stress in Treatment 17°C (T17°C) and Treatment 22°C (T22°C). Tukey tests were  
734 only performed when “Treatment” was included in the top model chosen by model selection. SGR-M and SGR-L were cube-root transformed for  
735 analysis. SGR-M and SGR-L were square-root and cubic root transformed, respectively, for analysis.  $R^2m$  and  $R^2c$  are the marginal and conditional  
736 coefficients of determination, which represent the proportion of variance explained by only fixed effects ( $R^2m$ ) and fixed and random effects of  
737 tank ( $R^2c$ ). Note the residuals of the relationship between  $\log_{10}$  ventricle mass and fish mass were used as a response variable to account for the  
738 effect of fish size when testing for differences among treatments.

Response	Treatment	Tukey Test (Treatment)			
		Pairwise comparison	df	t-value	p-value
SGR-M	$F_{2,32} = 3.75, P = 0.03, R^2m = 0.18, R^2c = 0.18$	Control – T17°C	32	2.58	0.04
		Control – T22°C	32	2.16	0.09
		T17°C – T22°C	32	0.48	0.88
SGR-L	$F_{2,32} = 4.78, P = 0.02, R^2c = 0.21, R^2m = 0.24$	Control – T17°C	32	2.28	0.07
		Control – T22°C	32	2.98	0.02
		T17°C – T22°C	32	0.68	0.78
$\Delta$ condition	$F_{2,32} = 2.83, P = 0.07, R^2c = 0.13, R^2m = 0.18$	Control – T17°C	32	2.19	0.09
		Control – T22°C	32	0.38	0.92
		T17°C – T22°C	32	-1.89	0.16
HSI	$F_{2,30} = 0.02, P = 0.98, R^2c = 0.00, R^2m = 0.00$	-	-	-	-

739

740 **Table 2.** Summary of mean ( $\pm$  SD) whole-animal ( $\text{mg O}_2 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ) and mass-specific ( $\text{mg O}_2 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ ) metabolic rates and body size during respirometry  
741 for each experimental treatment.

742

Treatment	n	Fish mass	Whole-animal			Mass-specific		
			SMR	MMR	AS	SMR	MMR	AS
Control	9	164 $\pm$ 17.9	9.04 $\pm$ 0.99	33.2 $\pm$ 2.57	24.1 $\pm$ 2.30	55.2 $\pm$ 5.02	203 $\pm$ 18.5	148 $\pm$ 17.3
T17 °C	10	145 $\pm$ 41.3	8.09 $\pm$ 1.82	34.6 $\pm$ 6.18	26.5 $\pm$ 4.73	56.8 $\pm$ 6.74	247 $\pm$ 41.2	190 $\pm$ 38.7
T22 °C	11	146 $\pm$ 25.8	7.85 $\pm$ 1.49	32.0 $\pm$ 4.06	24.1 $\pm$ 2.83	54.0 $\pm$ 5.72	223 $\pm$ 22.2	169 $\pm$ 21.4

743

744

745 **Table 3.** Pairwise Tukey tests for top models resulting from backwards stepwise model selection of linear mixed effects models testing for the  
 746 effect of experimental group and mass on whole-animal ( $\text{mg O}_2 \text{ h}^{-1}$ ) standard metabolic rate (SMR), maximum metabolic rate (MMR), and  
 747 aerobic scope (AS), as well as ventricle mass, lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) and cytochrome c oxidase (CCO) activity of lake trout in control tanks  
 748 and those exposed to repeated acute temperature stress in Treatment 17°C (T17 °C) and Treatment 22°C (T22°C).  $R^2m$  and  $R^2c$  are the marginal  
 749 and conditional coefficients of determination, which represent the proportion of variance explained by only fixed effects ( $R^2m$ ) and fixed and  
 750 random effects ( $R^2c$ ). Tukey tests were only performed when “Treatment” was included in the top model chosen by model selection. See results  
 751 for model selection. SMR, MMR, AS, ventricle mass, LDH, CCO, and Mass were all  $\log_{10}$  transformed for analysis.

Response	Top Model	Tukey Test (Treatment)			
		Pairwise comparison	df	t-value	p-value
SMR	Mass ( $R^2m = 0.80, R^2c = 0.80$ )	-	-	-	-
MMR	Experimental Group + Mass ( $R^2m = 0.78, R^2c = 0.78$ )	Control – T17 °C	25	-3.51	<0.01
		Control – T22°C	25	-1.00	0.58
		T17°C – T22°C	25	2.79	0.03
AS	Experimental Group + Mass ( $R^2m = 0.63, R^2c = 0.63$ )	Control – T17°C	25	-3.71	<0.01
		Control – T22°C	25	-1.47	0.32
		T17°C – T22°C	25	2.51	0.04
Ventricle mass	Mass ( $R^2m = 0.72, R^2c = 0.72$ )	-	-	-	-
LDH	Mass ( $R^2m = 0.11, R^2c = 0.16$ )	-	-	-	-
CCO	Mass ( $R^2m = 0.09, R^2c = 0.10$ )	-	-	-	-

753 **Table 4.** Summary table indicating the mean response of each metric used in this study in treatment fish that were acutely exposed to warm  
 754 (T17°C or T22°C) water relative to the control (constant 10 °C). Dashes indicate no differences found, and up or down arrows indicate if that  
 755 treatment was higher or lower than control levels.

Treatment	Response Variable										
	Consumption	SGR-M	SGR-L	Condition	HSI	Ventricle	SMR	MMR	AS	LDH	CCO
T17 °C	↓	↓	↓	↓	-	-	-	↑	↑	-	-
T22 °C	↓	↓	↓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

756

757 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

758

759 **Fig. 1. Summary of experimental design.** (1) Size-matched lake trout were placed in groups of seven  
760 tanks. The exposure period lasted 57 days with 53 days of heat exposure. (2) Two-weeks after the  
761 exposure period, fish underwent a chase protocol and (3) placed in 10°C chambers for intermittent-flow  
762 respirometry. (4) Fish were euthanized, weighed, measured, and livers and white muscle removed and  
763 frozen at -80°C. (5) White muscle samples were then quantified for lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) and  
764 cytochrome c oxidase (CCO) activity using spectrophotometer.

765

766 **Fig. 2. Daily and total consumption by lake trout in each experimental treatment.** For (A) daily  
767 consumption each dot represents the estimated daily consumption of the average fish in each  
768 treatment (n = 104 per treatment) and the square with error bar represents the treatment-level mean  $\pm$   
769 95 CI daily consumption for the average fish in each treatment over the entire study. For (B) each bar  
770 represents the total food consumed by the average fish in each experimental group over the study,  
771 assuming all fish ate equal portions each day.

772

773 **Fig. 3. Growth and condition of lake trout in each experimental treatment.** Individual (points) and  
774 treatment-level mean  $\pm$  95 CI (squares and error bars) values of (A) mass specific growth rate (SGR-M,  
775 Control n = 11, T17°C n = 12, T22°C n = 12), (B) length specific growth rate (SGR-L; Control n = 11, T17°C  
776 n = 12, T22°C n = 12), (C) change in condition factor between the start and end of the exposure period ( $\Delta$   
777 condition, Control n = 11, T17°C n = 12, T22°C n = 12), and (D) final hepatosomatic index (HSI, Control n =  
778 10, T17°C n = 11, T22°C n = 12) of lake trout from each treatment.

779

780 **Fig. 4. Aerobic metabolic rates of lake trout in each experimental treatment.** Individual (points)  
781 (Control n = 9, T17°C n = 10, T22°C n = 11) and treatment-level mean  $\pm$  95 CI (squares and error bars)  
782 values of whole body (A) standard metabolic rate (SMR), (B) maximum metabolic rate (MMR), and (C)  
783 aerobic scope (AS), predicted for a 160 g lake trout from each treatment. Residual whole body SMR,  
784 MMR, and AS values were obtained from the relationship of each variable with fish mass on a  $\log_{10}$  -  
785  $\log_{10}$  scale.

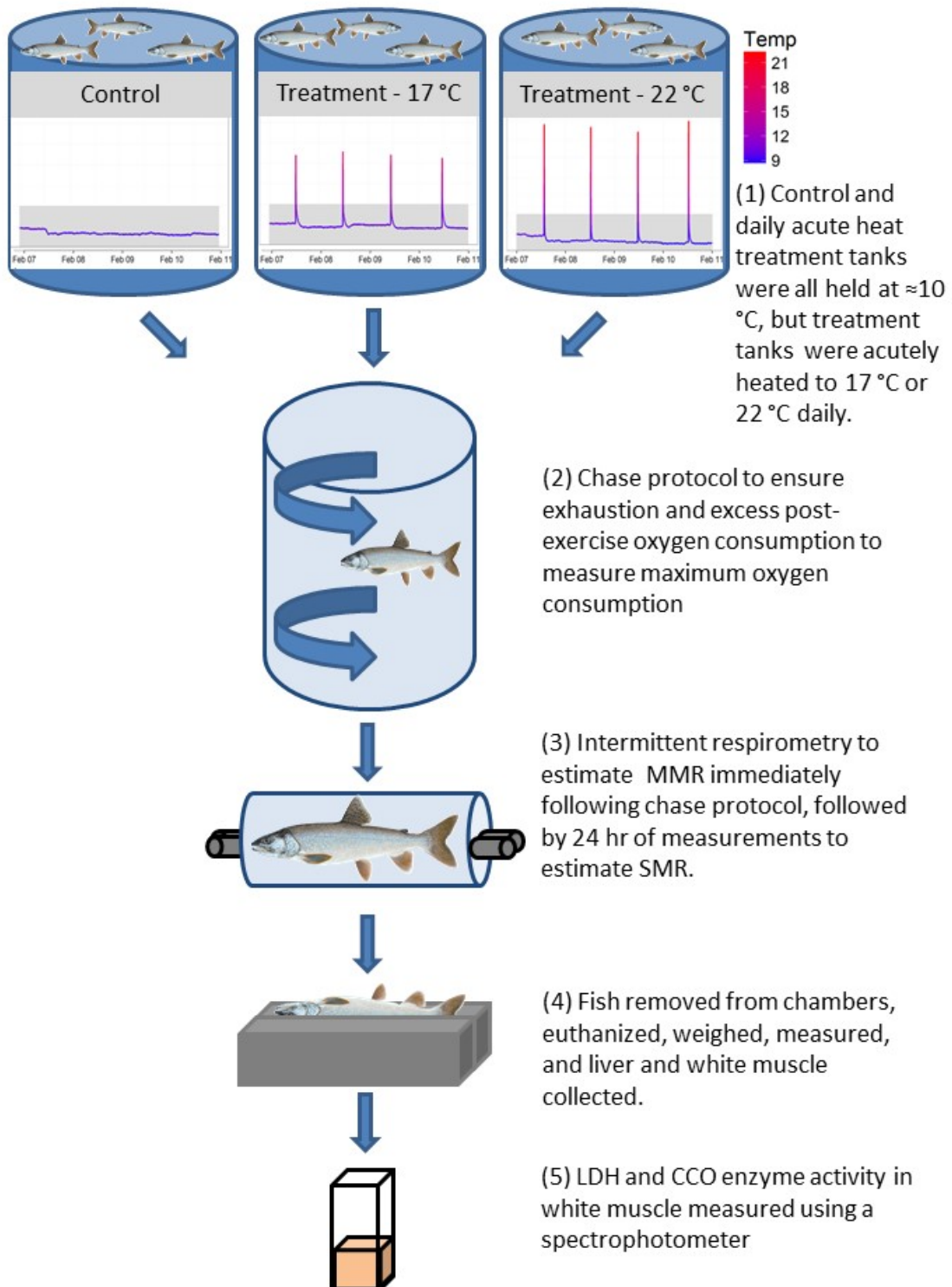
786

787 **Fig. 5. White muscle enzyme activity measured in lake trout from each experimental treatment.**

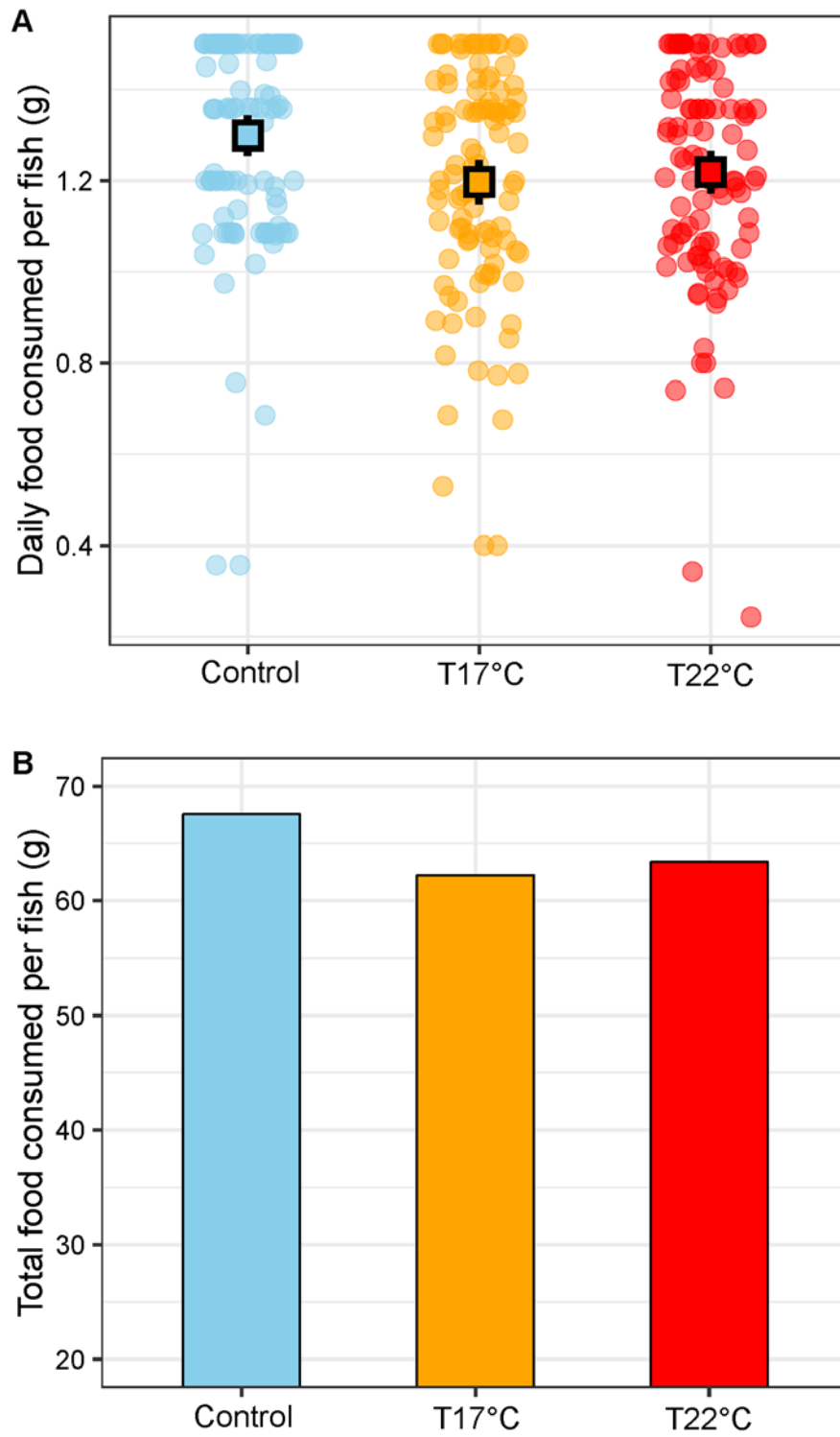
788 Individual (points) (Control n = 9, T17°C n = 10, T22°C n = 11) and treatment-level mean  $\pm$  95 CI (squares

789 and error bars) values of (A) ventricle mass, (B) white muscle lactate dehydrogenase activity (LDH), and  
790 (C) white muscle cytochrome c oxidase activity (CCO) predicted for a 160 g lake trout from each  
791 treatment fish mass on a  $\log_{10}$  -  $\log_{10}$  scale.

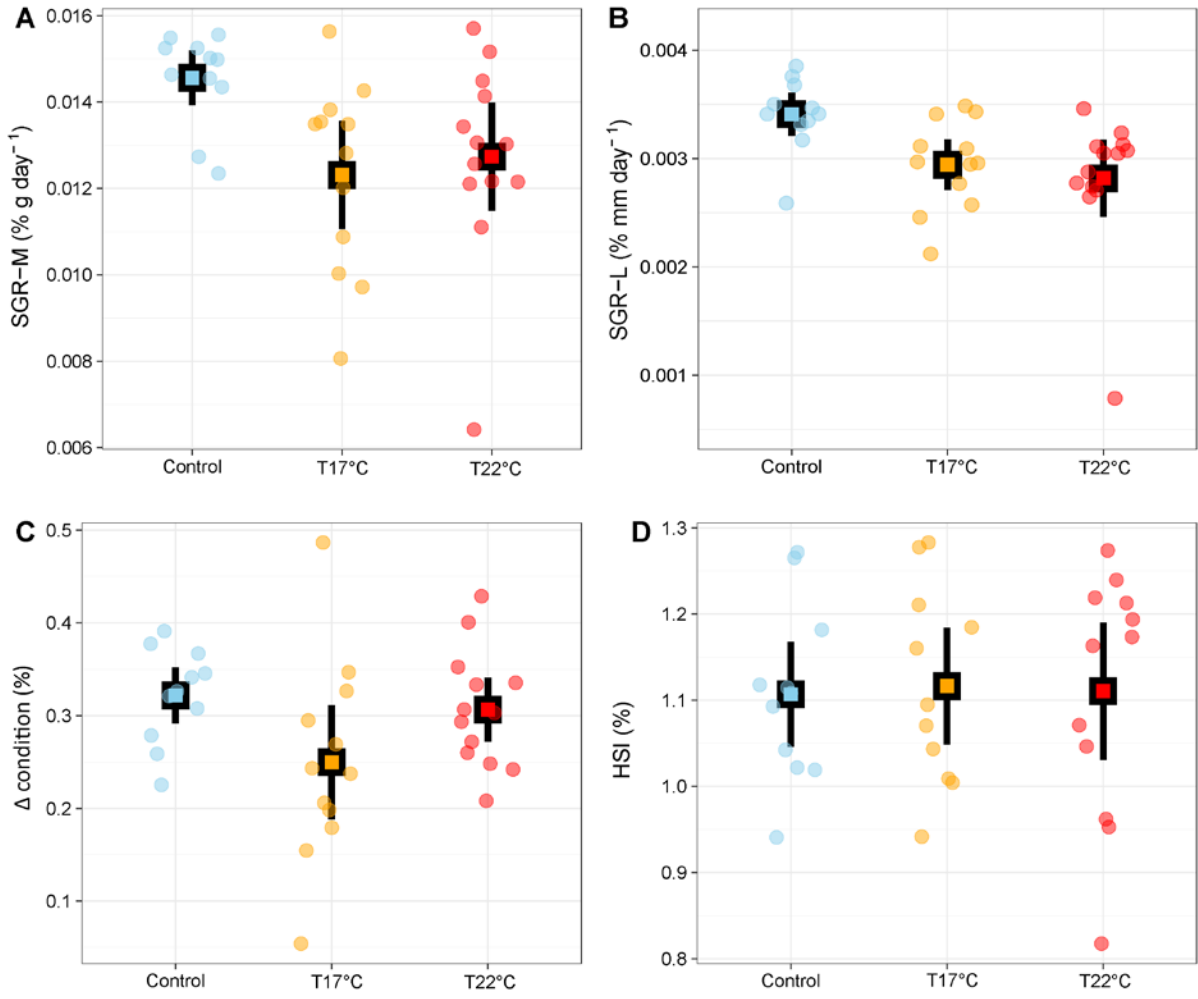




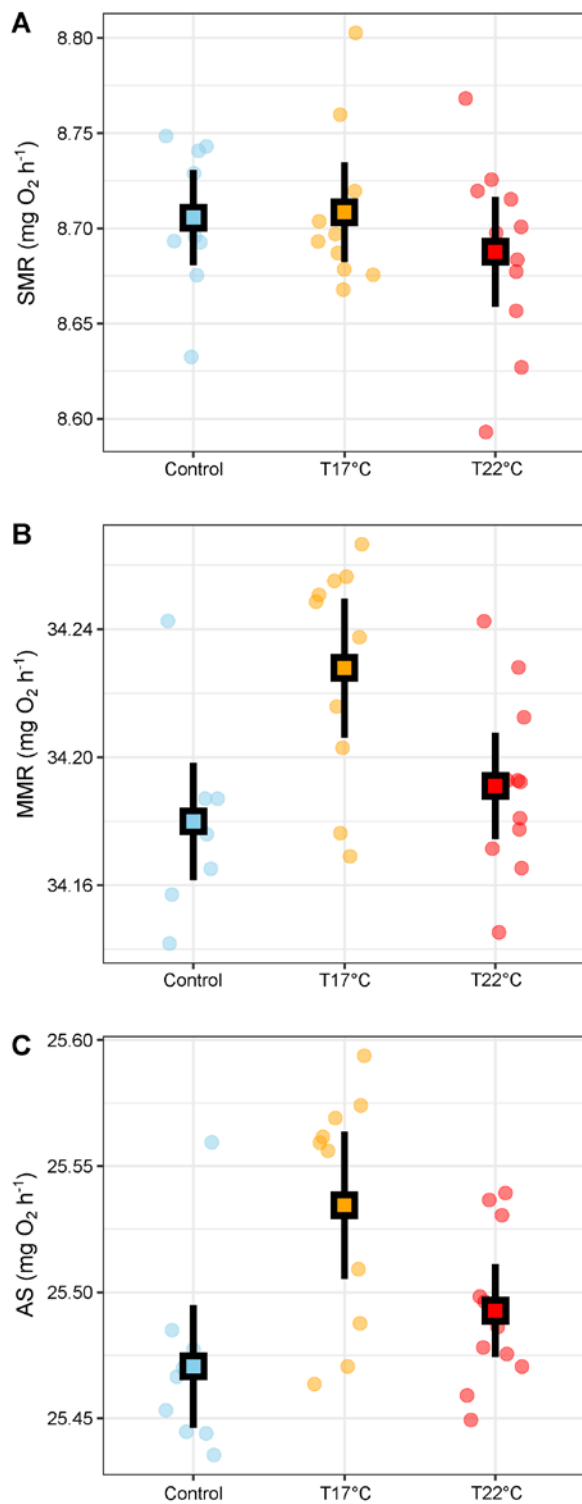
792 Fig 1.



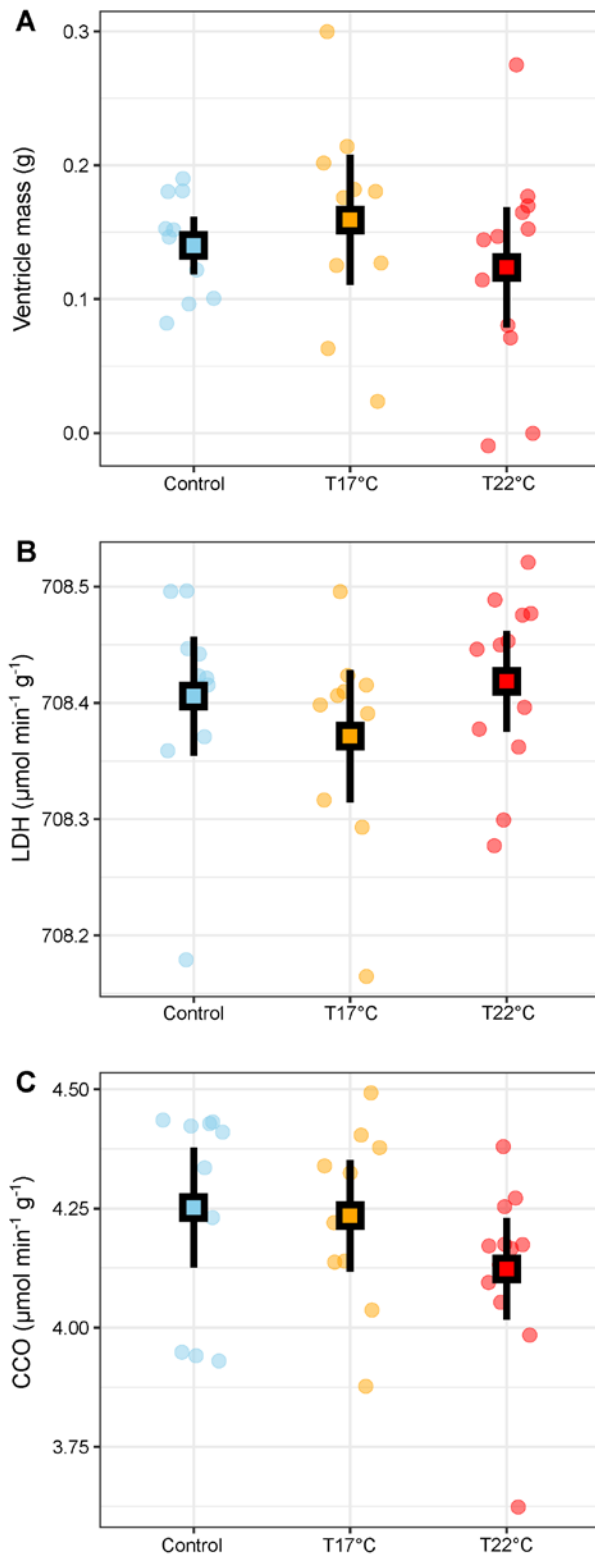
793 Fig 2.



794 Fig. 3



795 Fig. 4



796 Fig. 5