Title: “An Understudied Invader: Dietary Niche and Growth Rate of the Nonnative Tubenose Goby (Proterorhinus semilunaris)

Abstract:

“Basic life history knowledge is essential to determine if a nonnative species is truly invasive. The tubenose goby (Proterorhinus semilunaris) arrived in the Great Lakes in the 1990's via ship ballast water, but remains poorly studied within North America, making it difficult to predict its effects on native ecosystems.  Diet and growth patterns were examined from age-0 tubenose gobies within the St. Louis River estuary, a tributary to Lake Superior. Results suggest a low dietary breadth that overlaps with tadpole madtom (Noturus gyrinus) and is heavily dependent on Crustacea, regardless of location or season. Age analyses show that tubenose gobies reach a small maximum size and are short-lived, indicating an r-selected life history. The Gompertz function is preferred for modelling the growth of this species.”