Comments on Methods

1. Do not describe the methods of individual lakes used from the literature. Summarize your Methods
2. Include or clarify the criteria for including data from a study in the data set
3. Do not report Results of your search (e.g., a total of 8 studies from 11 lakes, listing all the types of sampling equipment used, lake sizes varied) – the information goes into your Results section
4. Create a table to provide information about data from the studies used. You can refer to the Table in the Methods section without stating the Results. For example, you can cite the table to illustrate the information recorded from each study. You can also refer to the table in your Results section when you provide an overall summary of your data (how many lakes, range in depths, etc).
5. Provide information about the analyses you are using. What comparisons did you make? Did you compare each lake and then look at the differences? Did you compare differences as function of lake characteristics or across taxonomic groups?
6. The published literature uses different taxonomic resolutions. Did you stick with these, did you make a coarser resolution so you could compare across studies, or both?
7. Search and correct all inappropriate uses of “these”, “they”, “it”, “there”, “in order to”, etc. Use Find function.
8. Verb agreement, particularly for the word “data”
9. Avoid using “Table X shows…” or generally “Table X” in a sentence. Just cite parenthetically.
10. Do not explain how gear works – your audience knows already.
11. Do not capitalize zooplankton, phytoplankton, nanoplankton, etc.