

1 **Title:** Gene flow influences the genomic architecture of local adaptation in six riverine fish
2 species

3 **Running Title:** Gene flow influences adaptation architecture of local adaptation

4 **Authors:** Yue Shi^{1,2,*}, Kristen L. Bouska³, Garrett J. McKinney⁴, William Dokai^{1,2}, Andrew
5 Bartels⁵, Megan V. McPhee¹, Wesley A. Larson^{6,7}

6 **Contact information:**

7 ¹ College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 17101 Point Lena
8 Loop Road, Juneau, AK 99801, USA.

9 ² Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, College of Natural Resources, University of
10 Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 800 Reserve St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, USA.

11 ³ U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, 2630 Fanta Reed
12 Road, La Crosse, WI 54603, USA.

13 ⁴ NRC Research Associateship Program, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine
14 Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2725 Montlake Blvd E,
15 Seattle, WA 98112, USA.

16 ⁵ Long Term Resource Monitoring Program, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2630
17 Fanta Reed Road, La Crosse, WI 54603, USA.

18 ⁶National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service,
19 Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Auke Bay Laboratories, 17109 Point Lena Loop Road, Juneau,
20 AK 99801, USA

21 ⁷U.S. Geological Survey, Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, College of Natural
22 Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 800 Reserve St., Stevens Point, WI 54481,
23 USA

24 *Corresponding author. Email address: yshi8@alaska.edu

25 **Abstract**

26 Understanding how gene flow influences adaptive divergence is important for predicting
27 adaptive responses. Theoretical studies suggest that when gene flow is high, clustering of
28 adaptive genes in fewer genomic regions would protect adaptive alleles from recombination and
29 thus be selected for, but few studies have tested it with empirical data. Here, we used RADseq to
30 generate genomic data for six fish species with contrasting life histories from six reaches of the
31 Upper Mississippi River System, USA. We used four differentiation-based outlier tests and three
32 GEA analyses to define neutral SNPs and outlier SNPs that were putatively under selection. We
33 then examined the distribution of outlier SNPs along the genomes and investigated whether these
34 SNPs were found in genomic islands of differentiation and inversions. We found that gene flow
35 varied among species, and outlier SNPs were clustered more tightly in species with higher gene
36 flow. The two species with the highest overall F_{ST} (0.0303 - 0.0720) and therefore lowest gene
37 flow showed little evidence of clusters of outlier SNPs, with outlier SNPs in these species spread
38 uniformly across the genome. In contrast, nearly all outlier SNPs in the species with the lowest
39 F_{ST} (0.0003) were found in a single large putative inversion. Two other species with intermediate
40 gene flow ($F_{ST} \sim 0.0025 - 0.0050$) also showed clustered genomic architectures, with most
41 islands of differentiation clustered on a few chromosomes. Our results provide important
42 empirical evidence to support the hypothesis that increasingly clustered architectures of local
43 adaptation are associated with high gene flow.

44 **Keywords:** Freshwater Fishes, Local Adaptation, Gene Flow, Genomic Islands of
45 Differentiation, Chromosomal Inversions, Mississippi River

46

47 **Introduction**

48 Understanding the genomic basis of adaptation is a central goal of evolutionary biology.
49 Research on this topic largely focuses on identifying genetic markers involved in adaptation and
50 assessing the distribution of these markers across the genome (Narum & Hess 2011; Yeaman
51 2013; Lotterhos & Whitlock 2014; Hoban *et al.* 2016; Forester *et al.* 2018). Substantial efforts
52 have focused on this area of research for decades (Smith & Haigh 1974; Rieseberg 2001; Noor *et*
53 *al.* 2001). However, results have been highly variable across taxa and systems and are influenced
54 by variable demographic histories (Ravinet *et al.* 2017; Gagnaire 2020), making it difficult to
55 gain a mechanistic understanding of the evolutionary processes that influence the genomic
56 landscape of adaptation. For example, many studies have found that alleles contributing to local
57 adaptation tend to be clustered together in genomic islands of differentiation, while other studies
58 have found little or no evidence of adaptive alleles clustering within genomic islands (Nosil *et al.*
59 2009; Strasburg *et al.* 2012; Roda *et al.* 2017; Johannesson *et al.* 2020; Thompson *et al.* 2020).
60 This mixed evidence across different study systems with differing demographic histories raises
61 an important evolutionary question: when are loci affecting adaptive divergence expected to be
62 tightly clustered?

63 Interpreting results from genome scans in the context of gene flow may aid in the understanding
64 of genomic landscapes of adaptation (Marques *et al.* 2016). Gene flow can be beneficial for
65 maintaining genetic diversity by introducing novel genetic variation but it can also impede local
66 adaptation by introducing maladaptive foreign alleles into locally adapted populations (Bolnick
67 & Nosil 2007). One potential evolutionary ‘solution’ that may minimize maladaptive effects of
68 gene flow is for selection to favor clustered architectures of adaptation, where adaptive alleles

69 are tightly linked and locally favorable combinations of alleles are protected from disruption via
70 low recombination (Yeaman 2013; Roesti 2018).

71 Several mechanisms have been proposed to explain the observations of clustered genomic
72 architectures of adaptive alleles when gene flow is high, including divergence hitchhiking and
73 the utilization of genomic rearrangements to protect adaptive loci from recombination.
74 Divergence hitchhiking occurs when gene exchange between diverging populations is reduced
75 around a gene under strong divergent selection (Via 2012). This process can produce islands of
76 differentiation spanning multiple megabases, as free recombination among populations is
77 reduced due to assortative mating (Via 2012). Genomic rearrangements, such as chromosomal
78 inversions, can also facilitate adaptation in the face of high gene flow and lead to genomic
79 islands of differentiation (Hoffmann & Rieseberg 2008; Yeaman 2013; Tigano & Friesen 2016;
80 Roesti 2018; Wellenreuther & Bernatchez 2018; Aguirre Liguori *et al.* 2019; Huang *et al.* 2020;
81 Cayuela *et al.* 2020). Recombination between inverted and noninverted arrangements is rare as
82 recombinant gametes are generally inviable (Huang & Rieseberg 2020). Therefore, if an
83 inversion isolates multiple adaptive alleles, this architecture will likely be favored, because co-
84 adapted genotypes will be protected from recombination and allowed to evolve independently
85 even in high gene flow environments (Rogers *et al.* 2013; Yeaman 2013).

86 Although the theories described above posit that the rate of evolution towards clustered
87 architectures of local adaptation should increase with gene flow, this hypothesis has largely been
88 tested with simulations rather than empirical data. For example, Yeaman & Whitlock (2011)
89 used simulations to demonstrate increasing migration rate, or m , leads to increasingly
90 concentrated genomic architectures of adaptation. However, when m is too high, adaptive

91 divergence is unlikely because frequent migration prevents even a perfectly adapted mutation
92 from overcoming the homogenizing effects of gene flow. A subsequent simulation study
93 (Yeaman 2013) highlighted that genomic rearrangement may often be an important component
94 of local adaptation and when genomic rearrangements are present, tight clustering of adaptive
95 loci can readily evolve even with high m .

96 In this study, we investigate how gene flow influences the genomic architecture of adaptation
97 using genomic data from six riverine fish species that encompass a diverse suite of life histories
98 and dispersal potentials (Figure 1B). These fish were sampled from the same sites in the Upper
99 Mississippi River System (UMRS) in the midwestern United States. The UMRs is an
100 interconnected large river system that hosts a diversity of aquatic habitats in terms of
101 temperature, turbidity, productivity, and flow (Figure 1A & C). Our study system provides a
102 unique opportunity to compare the genomic architecture of local adaptation in a natural
103 environment for species with contrasting life histories and to assess the influence of gene flow on
104 genomic architecture. Specifically, we test the hypothesis that the genomic islands of
105 differentiation are less frequent but larger for species with relatively high gene flow, whereas
106 genomic islands are more numerous and dispersed throughout the genome for species with low
107 degrees of gene flow. Our multi-species approach investigating six species inhabiting the same
108 environments is unique, as most previous studies have focused on closely related species pairs or
109 ecotypes (Nadeau *et al.* 2012; Renaut *et al.* 2012) rather than divergent species inhabiting the
110 same environments.

111 **Materials and Methods**

112 ***Study Design and Genotyping***

113 We collected genetic samples from six fish species found in the UMRS which are native to and
114 commonly found in the region and have not been extensively stocked: Bullhead Minnow
115 (*Pimephales vigilax*), Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), Freshwater Drum (*Aplodinotus*
116 *grunniens*), Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), Gizzard Shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*), and
117 Emerald Shiner (*Notropis atherinoides*). The UMRS is congressionally defined as the
118 commercially navigable portions of the Mississippi River main stem north of Cairo, Illinois and
119 commercially navigable tributaries, including the entire Illinois River (Water Resources
120 Development Act of 1986, 33 U.S.C. §§ 652). Fin-clip samples were collected from adult fish in
121 summer 2018 and 2019 across six river reaches (Figure 1A). These reaches are stretches of the
122 embanked floodplain along the river with commercial navigation channels. Five of the study
123 reaches are navigation pools, named for their downstream lock and dam, and the other study
124 reach, Open River Reach, is an unobstructed, channelized reach. We targeted a sample size of at
125 least 48 samples per species per reach. Samples were genotyped at thousands of SNPs using
126 restriction site-associated DNA (RAD) sequencing (see Supplementary Methods). Data on life
127 history traits for each species, including exploitation status, feeding guild, habitat guild,
128 reproductive guild, spawning migration, and total length were summarized in Table S1. We also
129 obtained data for 20 environmental variables across the six river reaches (Table S2). All analyses
130 were performed in parallel within each species and the results were compared among species. No
131 analyses were performed between species.

132 ***Identification of Outlier SNPs and Neutral SNPs***

133 There are two types of outlier tests, differentiation-based methods and genotype-environment
134 association (GEA) methods. Differentiation-based methods identify loci with high F_{ST} values,

135 which are expected for loci involved in hard selective sweeps with large changes in allele
136 frequencies (Brauer *et al.* 2016; Forester *et al.* 2018). By comparison, GEA analyses identify
137 genetic variants associated with particular environmental factors and can identify loci under
138 polygenic and “soft” selective sweeps with relatively small changes in allele frequencies (Eckert
139 *et al.* 2010; Brauer *et al.* 2016; Forester *et al.* 2018). We ran four different differentiation-based
140 outlier tests on each species (Bayescan, Arlequin, OutFLANK, and *pcadapt*; see Supplementary
141 Methods for details) and defined “ F_{ST} outliers” as SNPs identified by at least two differentiation-
142 based methods. In addition, we conducted three GEA analyses: redundancy analysis, latent factor
143 mixed models, and a Bayesian method (Bayenv2). Details of these methods can be found in the
144 Supplementary Methods. Prior to all three GEA analyses, we conducted principal component
145 analysis (PCA) on 20 standardized environmental variables. Based on Kaiser-Guttman criterion
146 and the broken stick model, we retained the first two significant PCs as environmental composite
147 variables in order to remove collinearity among variables (Figure S1A). Variables related to
148 temperature, turbidity, pH, and dissolved oxygen had high loadings on environmental PC1
149 (Figure S1B), whereas productivity and flow-related variables contributed significantly to
150 environmental PC2 (Figure S1C). We defined “GEA outliers” as SNPs identified by at least two
151 GEA methods. To determine which environmental PC each GEA outlier was most strongly
152 correlated with, we compared correlation coefficients between each environmental PC and
153 genotype for each outlier using R function *cor* and assessed which environmental PC had the
154 highest correlation coefficient.

155 We combined results from differentiation-based outlier tests and GEA analyses and defined (1)
156 “outlier SNPs” as the union of the two sets, “ F_{ST} outliers” and “GEA outliers”; (2) and “neutral
157 SNPs” as those that were not identified as outliers by any of the aforementioned seven methods.

158 Because elevated levels of linkage disequilibrium (LD) may have confounding effects when
159 assessing population structure as genomic regions with high LD will be overrepresented
160 (Abdellaoui *et al.* 2019), we conducted LD thinning on the neutral SNPs datasets using the
161 function *snp_ autoSVD* (max.iter=10, roll.size=0) in the R packages *bigsnp* (Prive *et al.* 2018),
162 which uses sliding windows to remove SNPs correlated with the SNP with the highest MAF in
163 that window ($R^2 > 0.2$) and removes regions with putative long-range LD. The thinned neutral
164 SNPs were used as the final sets of “neutral SNPs”.

165 ***Neutral Genetic Differentiation***

166 We used three methods to estimate neutral population structure for each species using their
167 thinned neutral datasets. First, we calculated global F_{ST} (F_{ST} corrected for sampling bias) using
168 the function *basic.stats* in *hierfstat* v.0.04-22 (Goudet 2005). Next, we calculated F_{ST} between all
169 pairs of river reaches using *genet.dist* function (method=“WC84”) in *hierfstat*. Significance was
170 assessed by calculating 95% confidence interval of pairwise F_{ST} values using *boot.ppfst* function
171 (nboot=1000) in *hierfstat*. A pairwise F_{ST} value was considered significant if its confidence
172 interval did not include zero. Lastly, we conducted PCA using the R package *adeigenet* v2.1.2
173 (Jombart 2008) to investigate neutral genetic differentiation among individuals.

174 To test for isolation by distance (IBD) {Wright:1943wy}, we conducted a linear regression of
175 neutral genetic distance to the river distance separating the study reaches. We calculated Nei’s
176 genetic distance using *dist.genpop* function (method=1) in *adeigenet*. River miles (Table S3) were
177 converted to river kilometers as river distance. The statistical significance of IBD was evaluated
178 using Mantel test implemented in the *mantel.randtest* function (999 permutations) in *ade4*
179 {Dray:2007vs}.

180 *Genome Scans for Genomic Islands of Differentiation*

181 We aligned SNPs to reference genomes and conducted genome scans to investigate the genomic
182 landscape of adaptive divergence for each species. Channel Catfish is the only species with a
183 reference genome available in our study. For the other five species, we used the reference
184 genomes from closely related species (Table S4). The reference genomes we used were all
185 chromosome-level assemblies with full genome representation and high contiguity. The scaffold
186 N50 length ranged from 7.4 Mb to 37.4 Mb and the contig N50 length ranged from 77.2 Kb to
187 4.3 Mb (Table S4). Sequences of filtered RAD loci were mapped to reference genomes with
188 BWA-MEM v 0.7.17 using default settings (Li 2013). We retained sequences with mapping
189 quality > 20 and removed sequences with “SA:Z” (chimeric alignment) and “XA:Z” tags
190 (alternative hits) using *SAMtools* v1.10 (Li *et al.* 2009).

191 To identify genomic islands of differentiation, we first calculated per-SNP F_{st} using the
192 *basic.stats* function in *hierfstat* for all aligned SNPs across genomes. We then used a Hidden
193 Markov Model (HMM) approach implemented in the R package *HiddenMarkov* v.1.8-11 (Hofer
194 *et al.* 2012) to assign each SNP to one of three underlying states, “genomic background”,
195 “regions of high differentiation”, and “regions of low differentiation” based on their F_{st} values,
196 following the methods detailed in Marques *et al.* (2016). The state status was further confirmed
197 by comparing the mean F_{st} values among the three states. Regions of high differentiation had
198 the highest mean F_{st} values and were the focus of the study. These regions can consist of one or
199 many consecutive SNPs depending on the landscape of differentiation.

200 The HMM approach identified a large number of highly differentiated regions or “HMM
201 islands”, but many did not show especially high levels of differentiation and may be false

202 positives. Therefore, we only retained the HMM islands that contained at least one F_{ST} outlier
203 (defined previously). We excluded outliers identified only by *pcaadpt* because we discovered
204 this method identified a much higher number of outliers compared to other methods, which could
205 potentially increase false positive rate for island detection. We removed HMM islands located on
206 unplaced scaffolds. We also removed HMM islands in situations where a chromosome only had
207 one island and this island had only one SNP. Since the HMM islands were identified based on
208 F_{ST} values and F_{ST} outliers, we further examined how many total outlier SNPs (union of F_{ST}
209 outliers and GEA outliers) were found within these HMM islands.

210 ***Identification and Analyses of Putative Inversions***

211 To identify putative inversions in each species, we conducted a sliding window analysis of
212 population structure across genomes using the R package *lostruct* (Li & Ralph 2019) following
213 the methods described in Huang *et al.* (2020). We replaced missing genotypes with the most
214 frequent genotype and divided each genome into nonoverlapping windows of either 20 or 50
215 SNPs depending on the total number of aligned SNPs for each species. We then used a
216 multidimensional scaling (MDS) analysis (40 dimensions) to measure the differences in
217 population structure patterns among windows, and we defined outlier windows as those with
218 absolute values of loadings greater than 4 standard deviations above the mean averaged across all
219 windows in the genome (Huang *et al.* 2020). Outlier windows (single or consecutive) were
220 candidate regions for putative inversions. We also conducted three additional analyses on
221 putative inversion regions to provide additional evidence of inversions as suggested by Huang *et al.*
222 (2020). First, because inversions only suppress recombination in heterozygotes, three distinct
223 genotypic clusters (0, 1, 2) should be detected along PC1 using PCA, with the outside clusters

224 (cluster 0 and 2) representing two homozygous groups for alternative orientations and the middle
225 cluster (cluster 1) representing the heterozygous group between inversion haplotypes (Lotterhos
226 2019; McKinney *et al.* 2020). The discreteness of the clustering was calculated as the proportion
227 of the between-cluster sum of squares over the total using the R function *kmeans* in *adegenet*.
228 Second, we compared heterozygosity (the proportion of heterozygotes) among three clusters
229 identified by PCA using Wilcoxon tests ($\alpha = 0.05$) to further confirm the middle group had
230 significantly higher heterozygosity. Finally, we calculated LD (r^2) using PLINK v1.9 (Purcell *et*
231 *al.* 2007; Chang *et al.* 2015) for SNPs with MAF > 0.01 on chromosomes with outlier windows
232 and compared r^2 with all samples to r^2 calculated only from samples that were homozygous for
233 the most common orientation. This comparison can distinguish inversions from other regions of
234 reduced recombination (Bradley *et al.* 2011; Roesti *et al.* 2012; 2013), because inversions are
235 expected to only suppress recombination in heterokaryotypes and recombination in
236 homokaryotypes should be unaffected, while other mechanisms of recombination suppression
237 are expected to affect all groups of individuals.

238 We considered a region as a putative inversion only if all of the following criteria were met: (1) a
239 distinct three-cluster PCA pattern with discreteness > 0.9; (2) significantly elevated
240 heterozygosity in the middle PCA cluster compared to the other two clusters; and (3) elevated
241 LD calculated with all samples, but not with homozygous samples. We visualized the genotypes
242 of individuals inside the putative inversions using genotype heatmap, where individual genotypes
243 were color coded with “homo1” and “homo2” representing alternate homozygous genotypes and
244 “het” representing a heterozygous genotype. We assumed that the more derived inversion
245 arrangement would have lower heterozygosity given its relatively recent origin compared to the
246 ancestral state (Laayouni 2003; Twyford & Friedman 2015; Knief *et al.* 2016). Notably, when

247 examining our data, we found five additional regions with discreteness very close to 0.9 (0.893 -
248 0.898) that displayed distinct three-cluster PCR patterns, and we included these regions as
249 candidates for putative inversions as well.

250 We calculated the haplotype frequency of each putative inversion for each reach using the
251 formula $F = \frac{2C_0 \text{ or } 2 + C_1}{2N}$ (Le Moan *et al.* 2021), where C_0 or C_2 is the number of individuals
252 assigned to one of the homozygous clusters (cluster 0 or 2), C_1 is the number of individuals
253 assigned to the heterozygous cluster (1) in the PCA, and N is the number of samples in the reach.
254 Additionally, we conducted PCA analyses using all SNPs that were successfully aligned to
255 genomes, SNPs within the identified inversions, and the remaining aligned SNPs after the SNPs
256 in putative inversions were removed to compare patterns of genetic structure inferred from
257 datasets with and without putative inversions.

258 ***Genomic Properties of Clusters of Outlier SNPs***

259 Outlier SNPs can be found across many areas of the genome or can be clustered in only a few
260 genomic islands with SNPs found much closer together than expected by chance. To determine
261 whether outlier SNPs showed significant clustering, we investigated the distribution of outlier
262 SNPs (union of F_{ST} outliers and GEA outliers) across the genomes using the nearest neighbor
263 distance (NND) metric (Samuk *et al.* 2017) and compared NND between outlier SNPs relative to
264 NND between all SNPs using permutation tests. Specifically, for each species, we first
265 partitioned the dataset by chromosomes and filtered out chromosomes without enough
266 information (number of SNPs <30 or number of outlier SNPs < 3). We only focused on
267 chromosomes with at least 20% of aligned outlier SNPs for each species, as a fixed value cutoff
268 would provide a non-uniform threshold due to variations in the number of aligned outlier SNPs

269 across species. Secondly, for each remaining chromosome, we drew 10,000 samples of random
270 SNPs equal to the number of outlier SNPs on that chromosome and calculated the mean distance
271 between each SNP and its nearest neighbor in the random samples to generate the null
272 distribution of NND for that chromosome. Lastly, we examined whether outlier SNPs were
273 significantly clustered within the chromosomes by comparing the empirical average NND value
274 between outlier SNPs with the null distribution. We also calculated the difference between the
275 average NND between outlier SNPs and the average NND in the null distribution, in units of
276 standard deviations for each chromosome.

277 For each chromosome with significantly over-clustered outlier SNPs, we compare the following
278 genetic metrics between outlier SNPs and non-outlier SNPs (chromosomal background): F_{st} ,
279 heterozygosity (H_O), absolute differentiation (D_{xy}), and linkage disequilibrium (LD). F_{st} and H_O
280 were calculated using the *basic.stats* function in *hierfstat* as described previously. Pairwise per-
281 site D_{xy} was calculated as $p_1(1 - p_2) + p_2(1 - p_1)$, where p_1 is the frequency of a given allele
282 in the first population and p_2 is the frequency of that allele in the second population (Irwin *et al.*
283 2016). Allele frequency was estimated using *makefreq* function (missing = “mean”) in *adegenet*.
284 Overall D_{xy} was calculated as the mean of all pairwise D_{xy} values. LD (r^2) was calculated using
285 PLINK v1.9 for SNPs with MAF > 0.01. We included D_{xy} , an absolute measure of genetic
286 differentiation, because defining islands of differentiation based solely on relative measures of
287 differentiation, such as F_{st} , may identify regions resulting from variation of recombination rate
288 along the genome and background selection rather than divergent selection (Cruickshank &
289 Hahn 2014). We visualized the differences in the values of the above genetic metrics between
290 outlier SNPs and chromosomal background using boxplots and tested for significance using
291 permutation tests (10,000 permutations). The permutation test procedure was the same as the

292 permutation tests on NND. Ideally, D_{xy} calculation should be conducted using a sliding window-
293 based approach with all sites included (variant and invariant sites) to get unbiased estimation,
294 such as *pixy* {Korunes:2021hd}. However, per-SNP based approach is most appropriate for our
295 application due to the nature of RAD data. To ensure our D_{xy} inference using per-SNP based
296 approach is equivalent as the ideal window-based approach and because the window-based D_{xy}
297 calculation is highly dependent on SNP density, we examined variation of the number of SNPs
298 across chromosomes using a non-overlapping sliding window analysis with a window size of
299 100K bp. We compared the number of SNPs in windows overlapping with HMM islands and
300 windows not overlapping with HMM islands (chromosomal background) using wilcox test.

301 Lastly, we conducted Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment tests for functional enrichment of genes
302 in the HMM islands on chromosomes with significantly over-clustered outlier SNPs. See
303 Supplementary Materials for detailed methods about GO enrichment tests.

304 **Results**

305 ***Summary of Sequencing, Outlier SNPs, and Neutral SNPs***

306 We RAD sequenced a total of 1,712 individuals, ranging from 275 - 288 individuals per species.
307 RAD sequencing yielded an average of 5,780,907 retained reads per individual (range = 16,799 -
308 47,250,859). After filtering, 1,417 individuals (179 - 256 individuals per species) were retained
309 and genotyped at 10,834 - 28,313 polymorphic SNPs depending on the species (Table S4). Out
310 of these polymorphic SNPs, 0.05 % to 0.46% were identified as outlier SNPs (union of both F_{ST}
311 outliers and GEA outliers), and 95.8 % - 99.1% were identified as neutral SNPs (after thinning)
312 in each species (Table S5). For most species, the majority of GEA outliers were found to be

313 strongly associated with environmental PC1 (temperature, turbidity, pH, and dissolved oxygen
314 related). In contrast, GEA outliers in Freshwater Drum were strongly associated with
315 environmental PC2 (productivity and flow related) (Table S5).

316 *Neutral Genetic Differentiation*

317 Patterns of population structure estimated from the thinned neutral datasets spanned a large
318 gradient of genetic differentiation across species (Figure 2, Table S6). Bullhead Minnow had the
319 highest global F_{ST} value of 0.0720 with pairwise F_{ST} values ranging from 0.0041 to 0.1543,
320 followed by Bluegill (global F_{ST} = 0.0303; pairwise F_{ST} = 0.0014 - 0.0739), Freshwater Drum
321 (global F_{ST} = 0.0050, pairwise F_{ST} = -0.0003 - 0.0169), Channel Catfish (global F_{ST} = 0.0025,
322 pairwise F_{ST} = 0.0003 - 0.0048), and Gizzard Shad (global F_{ST} = 0.0024, pairwise F_{ST} = 0.0003 -
323 0.0051). Emerald Shiner had the lowest global F_{ST} value among all six species, 0.0003, with
324 pairwise F_{ST} values ranging from -0.0004 to 0.0014.

325 Results of the neutral PCAs (Figure 3) corroborated the patterns described above. In Bullhead
326 Minnow, we detected five genetic clusters, with individuals from each river reach forming a
327 single cluster except for Pool 8 and Pool 13, which were grouped together. In Bluegill,
328 individuals from the three northern river reaches (Pool 4, Pool 8, and Pool 13) were genetically
329 similar, Pool 26 and La Grange formed a second cluster, while the most southerly reach, Open
330 River, formed its own cluster. In Freshwater Drum, individuals from La Grange clearly grouped
331 separately from other populations along with some individuals from Pool 26 and Open River. In
332 Channel Catfish, individuals from the Open River and La Grange were slightly separated from
333 other reaches. In Gizzard Shad, individuals from the three northern river reaches were slightly

334 separated from those in the southern river reaches. Lastly, there was no apparent population
335 structure in Emerald Shiner.

336 Overall, the IBD patterns corroborated the above results on neutral population differentiation.
337 Based on Mantel test results, Nei's genetic distance was significantly correlated with the river
338 distance between study reaches in Bullhead Minnow, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, and Gizzard
339 Shad ($p < 0.05$). The correlation was nearly significant in Freshwater Drum ($p = 0.078$).
340 However, there was no such correlation in Emerald Shiner ($p = 0.328$). The correlation
341 coefficient was highest in Bullhead Minnow (0.6428) and Bluegill (0.8455), intermediate in
342 Freshwater Drum (0.3550), Channel Catfish (0.3641), and Gizzard Shad (0.5118), and lowest in
343 Emerald Shiner (0.0757).

344 *Genome Scan for Genomic Islands of Differentiation*

345 We aligned SNPs to reference genomes and conducted genome scans to investigate the genomic
346 landscape of adaptive divergence. A total of 3,348 - 16,620 loci were aligned to the
347 corresponding reference genomes with alignment rate varying from 26.4% to 97.5% depending
348 on genetic divergence from the reference species (Table S4). Correspondingly, a total of 3 - 43
349 outlier SNPs were aligned with alignment rate per species varying from 25.0% to 100% (Table
350 S5).

351 Genome scan results revealed highly variable genomic landscapes of population differentiation
352 among the six species (Figure 2). In general, outlier SNPs and HMM islands in species with
353 lower neutral differentiation were more tightly clustered and found on fewer chromosomes,
354 whereas those in species with higher neutral differentiation were spread out across the genomes.

355 Bullhead Minnow, the species with highest neutral population structure, displayed a high level of
356 baseline differentiation without obvious peaks of highly differentiated loci. We only detected 3
357 HMM islands on 2 chromosomes, which contained a total of 4 outlier SNPs. In Bluegill, the
358 species with the second highest neutral population structure, we identified 83 islands that were
359 dispersed across nearly all chromosomes (22 out of 24 chromosomes). Additionally, 36 outlier
360 SNPs were located in 31 islands across 14 chromosomes. Freshwater Drum had an intermediate
361 level of population differentiation and displayed a more clustered architecture of genomic islands
362 of differentiation compared to Bullhead Minnow and Bluegill. In total, 14 islands were detected
363 across 6 chromosomes. Of these islands, 3 islands (21%) were on chromosome 7 and 7 islands
364 (50%) were on chromosome 17. Additionally, over half of the outlier SNPs were found on these
365 islands on chromosome 7 and 17 (17% and 37.5%, respectively). Channel Catfish had a
366 relatively low level of differentiation and displayed highly clustered architectures of genomic
367 islands of differentiation. We identified 15 islands across 10 chromosomes. Almost half of the
368 outlier SNPs were found on two islands, with 6 outlier SNPs (21%) found on an island on
369 chromosome 20 and 4 outlier SNPs (20%) on another island on chromosome 28. Gizzard Shad
370 had a similar level of neutral global F_{st} as Channel Catfish, but we did not detect any islands of
371 high differentiation, possibly due to its relatively low genome alignment rate (26.4%). Lastly,
372 Emerald Shiner, the species with lowest overall neutral population differentiation, displayed the
373 strongest signal of clustered architecture of local adaptation. In Emerald Shiner, 15 islands were
374 detected across 4 chromosomes with 11 islands (73%) clustered on chromosome 9. Furthermore,
375 18 out of 22 aligned outlier SNPs (82%) were found within these islands on chromosome 9.

376 *Identification and Analyses of Putative Inversions*

377 Using local PCA in *lostruct*, we identified 21 candidate regions for putative inversions where
378 individuals clustered into three distinct groups on PC1 and with the middle PCA cluster
379 displaying significantly higher heterozygosity than the other two clusters (Table S7). Of all
380 candidate regions, only the ones on chromosome 14 in Channel Catfish and chromosome 6, 9,
381 and 19 in Emerald Shiner were characterized by elevated LD blocks extending over several Mb,
382 while LD decayed very quickly on other chromosomes (Figure S2). However, we detected
383 recombination suppression in both heterozygous and homozygous groups in the outlier region on
384 chromosome 14 in Channel Catfish (Figure S3). This pattern is likely due to the effect of
385 chromosome centers, which reduce recombination in all individuals, and is inconsistent with
386 inversions, which should only suppress recombination in heterokaryotypes. We therefore decided
387 to exclude this region from inversion analysis. Only the candidate regions on chromosome 6
388 (Figure S4), 9 (Figure 4), and 19 (Figure S5) in Emerald Shiner passed our stringent criteria and
389 were considered as putative inversions. These three putative inversions spanned large genomic
390 regions, 18.0, 42.7, and 25.6 Mbp, respectively (Table S7). The heterokaryotype had
391 significantly higher heterozygosity than the two homokaryotypes (Figure 4B, S4B, S5B, and S6).
392 Between the two homokaryotypes of all three putative inversions, there were also significant
393 differences in heterozygosity (Figure 4B, S4B, and S5B). We assumed that the arrangement with
394 lower heterozygosity was the derived inverted type. The putative inversion on chromosome 9
395 (cluster 0) was only detected in the three southern river reaches (Figure 4C), whereas the other
396 two inversions occurred at similar frequency across all six river reaches, ranging in frequencies
397 from 0.15 to 0.39 for the inversion on chromosome 6 (cluster 2; Figure S4C), and from 0.19 to
398 0.28 for the inversion on chromosome 19 (cluster 0; Figure S5C). Moreover, outlier SNPs and
399 HMM islands were consistently associated with the putative inversion on chromosome 9 in

400 Emerald Shiner (Figure 2). Specifically, the average F_{st} within the putative inversion is 0.02
401 with many F_{st} values > 0.1 , whereas the average F_{st} outside of the inversion is 0.001.
402 Contrastingly, no outlier SNPs or HMM islands were found within the inversions on the
403 chromosome 6 and 19.

404 Analyzing datasets with and without putative inversions in Emerald Shiner produced
405 substantially different patterns of genetic structure (Figure 5). Both PCA analyses based on all
406 aligned SNPs and SNPs within the three identified inversions showed a similar genetic structure
407 pattern, with six well-separated clusters. This illustrates that the clustering inferred from the full
408 dataset is driven by these three inversions. After the SNPs in these inversions were removed, the
409 remaining aligned loci demonstrated a lack of clustering, with panmictic population structure.

410 ***Genomic Properties of Clusters of Outlier SNPs***

411 The following five chromosomes contained at least 20% of aligned outlier SNPs within a given
412 species: (1) chromosome 2 in Bullhead Minnow; (2) chromosome 7 and 17 in Freshwater Drum;
413 (3) chromosome 20 in Channel Catfish; and (4) chromosome 9 in Emerald Shiner (Table S8).

414 The aligned outlier SNPs on these five chromosomes were all found within the HMM islands.

415 Outlier SNPs in these five chromosomes were closer together in the genome than expected
416 (Table S8, permutation test: two-sided $p < 0.001$). In particular, outlier SNPs on chromosome 9
417 in Emerald Shiner demonstrated extremely high clustering. These outlier SNPs were about 3.8
418 standard deviations closer together than the null average and at least 1 standard deviation closer
419 compared to other chromosomes in other species.

420 In the above five chromosomes that we identified, we found, as expected, significantly higher
421 F_{st} values at outlier SNPs (Figure 6; Table S8). However, comparisons of H_O and D_{xy} between
422 outlier SNPs and chromosomal background (non-outlier SNPs) using permutation tests showed
423 three different patterns (Figure 6; Table S8): (1) outlier SNPs on chromosome 2 in Bullhead
424 Minnow had similar H_O and D_{xy} ; (2) outlier SNPs on chromosome 7 and 17 in Freshwater Drum
425 had similar H_O , but higher D_{xy} (note that the difference in D_{xy} on chromosome 7 is close to
426 significant, two-sided $p = 0.0646$); (3) outlier SNPs on chromosome 20 in Channel Catfish and
427 chromosome 9 in Emerald Shiner had significantly lower values of H_O and D_{xy} . Because there
428 was no significant difference in SNP density in windows overlapping with HMM islands and
429 windows in the chromosomal backgrounds on all five chromosomes (Figure S7), the per-SNP
430 D_{xy} measure was considered to be equally biased between SNPs within the HMM islands and
431 SNPs in the background and should achieve equivalent inference as the window-based approach
432 (e.g. *pixy*). We also found significantly elevated LD within outlier SNPs in all chromosomes
433 (Figure 6; Table S8). Taken together, these results indicate that the clusters of outlier SNPs on
434 these five chromosomes have higher relative divergence (i.e. F_{st}) than their chromosomal
435 backgrounds; the clusters of outlier SNPs on chromosome 7 and 17 in Freshwater Drum also
436 demonstrated higher absolute divergence (D_{xy}).

437 A total of 2, 9, and 2 GO terms were significantly enriched ($p < 0.05$) in the HMM islands on
438 chromosome 2 in Bullhead Minnow, chromosome 17 in Freshwater Drum, and the putative
439 inversion on chromosome 9 in Emerald Shiner, respectively (Table S9). Enriched GO terms
440 included membrane organization, regulation of cellular component size, cell communication, and
441 regulation of ion transmembrane transport. There were no annotated genes found within the
442 HMM islands on chromosome 7 in Freshwater Drum and chromosome 20 in Channel Catfish.

443 **Discussion**

444 *Neutral Population Structure Reflects Differences in Life History Strategies Among Species*

445 We found highly variable neutral population structure among our six riverine fish species that
446 generally reflected differences in life history strategies. For example, both Bullhead Minnow and
447 Bluegill, which had the highest levels of genetic differentiation, are nest spawners whose eggs
448 and larvae are not transported by currents, limiting gene flow. In contrast, Gizzard Shad and
449 Emerald Shiner, which had the lowest levels of structure in our study, are both broadcast
450 spawners, allowing their eggs to be carried freely by the currents, facilitating gene flow. Genetic
451 studies on similar fish species have generally corroborated the patterns we observed, with nest
452 spawning species such as smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) exhibiting high levels of
453 genetic structure in open systems compared to broadcast spawning species such as walleye
454 (*Sander vitreus*) (Ruzich *et al.* 2019; Euclide *et al.* 2020; 2021)

455 An exception to the pattern described above was Freshwater Drum, as they are migratory
456 broadcast spawners but displayed an intermediate level of population structure, with individuals
457 from La Grange along with some individuals from southern populations in Pool 26 and Open
458 River forming a distinct group. One possible explanation for this pattern is limited movement of
459 Freshwater Drum between the Illinois River, where La Grange is located, and the mainstem
460 Mississippi River. Unfortunately, movement data for this species are generally lacking, making it
461 difficult to corroborate this hypothesis without additional research. Channel Catfish also deviated
462 from the expected patterns of population structure based on life history, as they are nest spawners
463 but displayed relatively low levels of differentiation with individuals from the Open River and
464 La Grange were slightly separated from other reaches. It is possible that the highly migratory

465 nature of this species mixed with potentially low spawning fidelity (Pellett *et al.* 1998) could
466 explain the low to intermediate levels of population differentiation we observed.

467 ***GEA Outliers Reflect Adaptive Divergence in Response to Habitat Heterogeneity***

468 Most of the GEA outliers that we found were associated with environmental PC1, which had the
469 highest loadings for temperature and turbidity. It is likely that these GEA outliers reflect adaptive
470 divergence driven by the large latitudinal gradient that we sampled. Our study system spans two
471 major Köppen climate zones, with pools 4, 8, and 13 in a humid continental climate
472 characterized by warm summers and very cold winters (below 0 °C) , and Pool 26, Open River,
473 and La Grange in a humid subtropical climate characterized by very warm and humid summers
474 and mild winters (above 0 °C). Although we could not disentangle the effects of temperature and
475 turbidity because they co-varied, we suspect that temperature is likely a major selective force
476 shaping adaptive divergence in our study system given its pervasive effects across all levels of
477 biological processes, from the biochemistry of metabolism (Deutsch *et al.* 2015) to reproduction
478 (Pankhurst & Munday 2011) and the fact that most fish are ectotherms. Multiple studies have
479 illustrated strong signals of adaptive divergence across temperature gradients in continuously
480 distributed marine species, even when differentiation at neutral markers is low (Limborg *et al.*
481 2012; Stanley *et al.* 2018; Wilder *et al.* 2020). However, few studies have investigated
482 temperature-mediated adaptive divergence in continuously distributed freshwater fish. Our study
483 suggests riverine fish display patterns of adaptive divergence driven by temperature that are
484 similar to those found in marine systems, highlighting that populations of continuously
485 distributed riverine species may display the potential for local adaptation across their range,
486 although experimental evidence is necessary for further validation.

487 While GEA outliers for most species in our study were generally associated with environmental
488 PC1, outliers in Freshwater Drum were associated with environmental PC2, which displayed
489 high loadings for measures of productivity including chlorophyll and nitrogen, and to a lesser
490 extent, flow. This result suggests that the environmental variables influencing adaptive
491 divergence in Freshwater Drum may differ from our other study species. Specifically, it is
492 possible that Freshwater Drum is more affected by eutrophication caused by agricultural runoff
493 compared to our other study species. Numerous studies have demonstrated that fish species
494 respond differently to eutrophication depending on their life histories (Tammi *et al.* 1999;
495 Hondorp *et al.* 2010; Jacobson *et al.* 2017). Alternatively, Freshwater Drum might have evolved
496 in response to other variables that co-vary with agricultural inputs, which is outside of our
497 datasets to address. A combination of DNA, RNA, and functional methodologies with field
498 experiments will be needed to clarify the genes and mechanisms shaping adaptation in nature
499 {PardoDiaz:2015em}

500 ***Gene Flow Influences the Genomic Architecture of Local Adaptation***

501 Theoretical studies and genetic simulations predict that increased gene flow will lead to
502 increasingly concentrated genomic architecture of adaptation (Yeaman & Whitlock 2011; Via
503 2012; Yeaman 2013). However, few empirical studies have tested this hypothesis in natural
504 populations, and the results of these empirical studies have not necessarily supported theoretical
505 work (Burri *et al.* 2015; Renaut *et al.* 2019). Our study included six fish species spanning a wide
506 gradient of genetic differentiation (overall F_{ST} from 0.0004 – 0.07), indicating highly variable
507 levels of gene flow. Gene flow appeared to be correlated with the landscape of adaptive
508 divergence, as species with high gene flow (Emerald Shiner, Channel Catfish and Freshwater

509 Drum) displayed more clustered architecture of adaptation than low gene flow species (Bullhead
510 Minnow and Bluegill). Our results are somewhat similar to a recent study which examined
511 adaptive divergence of four flatfish species across a strong salinity gradient in the Baltic Sea (Le
512 Moan *et al.* 2019). Specifically, Le Moan *et al.* (2019) found more evidence of clustered
513 architectures of adaption in species displaying low genetic differentiation compared to those
514 displaying higher differentiation. In general, they concluded that genome-wide pattern of
515 divergence was mostly shaped by the complex demographic history in addition to gene flow and
516 selection. However, Le Moan *et al.* (2019) studied species with similar life history traits (all
517 pelagic spawners with long larval dispersal) and sampled a much smaller gradient of genetic
518 differentiation (overall F_{ST} from 0.005 – 0.02) than our study. Furthermore, examining the
519 effects of gene flow on landscapes of adaptive differentiation was not a central goal of their
520 study.

521 Though our finding that clustered genomic architectures of adaptation (i.e., genomic islands of
522 differentiation) increase with gene flow is in line with theoretical expectations and the results
523 from Le Moan *et al.* (2019), this finding is inconsistent with other studies positing that islands of
524 differentiation are the result of variation in intrinsic recombination rate rather than the
525 combination of gene flow and selection (Roesti *et al.* 2012; Renaut *et al.* 2019). In fact, there is
526 considerable debate over the mechanisms that lead to islands of differentiation, with past
527 research suggesting that these islands can be caused by variation in recombination rates (Roesti
528 *et al.* 2012; Renaut *et al.* 2019), linked selection (Cruickshank & Hahn 2014; Burri *et al.* 2015),
529 divergence hitchhiking (Via 2012), genomic rearrangements including chromosomal inversions
530 (Rogers *et al.* 2013; Yeaman 2013), and elevated linkage preserving locally adapted alleles
531 (Yeaman & Whitlock 2011). While the cluster of islands on chromosome 9 in Emerald Shiner

532 appears to be caused by an inversion (see following section), the mechanisms that created the
533 islands on the other four chromosomes we identified are less clear.

534 To investigate the genomic mechanisms that created the islands (clusters of outlier SNPs) on the
535 remaining four chromosomes, we calculated the following four metrics: F_{ST} , H_O , D_{xy} , and LD,
536 and compared these metrics between outlier SNPs and chromosomal background. While islands
537 on all four chromosomes displayed elevated F_{ST} and LD as expected, we did observe differences
538 in the remaining two metrics among the chromosomes. H_O was similar to neutral regions on
539 three out of four chromosomes, and D_{xy} was elevated or similar to neutral regions on the same
540 three chromosomes. While LD can be a useful metric for understanding genomic processes, we
541 found that it did not help us differentiate the mechanisms responsible for creating islands in the
542 current study and instead focused on H_O and D_{xy} . Estimates of H_O and D_{xy} suggest that the
543 islands on one chromosome with reduced diversity (islands on chromosome 20 in Channel
544 Catfish) may have been created by linked selection (Cruickshank & Hahn 2014; Burri *et al.*
545 2015), while the islands on chromosome 2 in Bullhead Minnow and chromosomes 7 and 17 in
546 Freshwater Drum may have arisen through divergent selection (Kulmuni & Westram 2017).

547 Islands created by divergent selection are hypothesized to have a major role in facilitating
548 adaptive divergence with gene flow, whereas islands created by linked selection are likely a
549 result of the underlying genomic landscape and do not necessarily reflect recent adaptive
550 divergence (Cruickshank & Hahn 2014; Burri *et al.* 2015). Thus, it is extremely important to
551 differentiate these two types of islands when investigating adaptive divergence. The most
552 effective way distinguish between these island types is to compare measures of absolute
553 diversity, as islands created by linked selection should show reduced absolute diversity while

554 islands created by divergent selection should not (Cruickshank & Hahn 2014; Irwin *et al.* 2016).
555 Applying this method to our data provided evidence that islands on three of the chromosomes in
556 our study were created by divergent selection and are likely involved in adaptive divergence with
557 gene flow, whereas the islands on the other chromosome were likely a result of ancient linked
558 selection that acted to reduce diversity in particular genomic regions but is not influencing
559 contemporary adaptive divergence. Other intrinsic genomic factors can lead to a heterogeneous
560 genomic landscape of differentiation as well, such as variations in recombination, mutation, and
561 gene density {Ravinet:2017dz}, however, investigation on these genomic factors is beyond the
562 scope of the current study. Since the past demographic history of the studied populations is
563 unknown, we also cannot rule out the role of genetic incompatibility between populations
564 {Ravinet:2017dz} {Schumer:2018hc}. In ecological speciation, reproductive isolation evolves as
565 a result of divergent selection on habitat use {Via:2008bc}. However, the genetic changes
566 responsible for the initial barriers to gene flow between populations is often unknown because of
567 the confounding effects of genetic differences that accumulate over time {Via:2008bc}. A full
568 exploration of demographic history of the study populations could help us gain a mechanistic
569 understanding of the evolutionary processes that influence the genomic landscape of adaptation,
570 but, again, this was outside the scope of our study.

571 *A Chromosomal Inversion Facilitates Local Adaptation with High Gene Flow in Emerald*
572 *Shiner*

573 Our results and those of previous empirical and theoretical studies suggest that divergent
574 selection can result in clusters of adaptive loci through mechanisms such as divergence
575 hitchhiking when gene flow is relatively high (Yeaman & Whitlock 2011; Via 2012). However,

576 when gene flow is extremely high, it is likely that additional genomic mechanisms, such as
577 structural polymorphisms, may be required to protect clusters of adaptive loci from among-
578 population recombination caused by gene flow (Yeaman & Whitlock 2011; Rogers *et al.* 2013;
579 Yeaman 2013; Tigano & Friesen 2016). The gradient of gene flow sampled in our study presents
580 an excellent opportunity to test this hypothesis. In our study, clustered architectures of adaptation
581 were common in species with relatively high gene flow, such as Channel Catfish and Freshwater
582 Drum (average overall $F_{ST} = 0.004$), but these clustered architectures did not appear to be
583 associated with structural polymorphisms. In contrast, in Emerald Shiner, the species with
584 highest gene flow (overall $F_{ST} = 0.0004$), nearly all of the adaptive loci identified were found in
585 a single genomic region that displayed strong evidence of a chromosomal inversion. Taken
586 together, our results provide novel empirical evidence to support the theory that chromosomal
587 inversions are important for facilitating adaptive divergence in systems with extremely high gene
588 flow.

589 Our study also adds to the growing body of evidence that chromosomal inversions are important
590 for facilitating adaptive divergence in continuously distributed fish species. Inversions putatively
591 involved in adaptive divergence have been documented in many fishes including Atlantic cod
592 (*Gadus morhua*) (Kirubakaran *et al.* 2016), lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*) (Longo *et al.* 2020),
593 rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (Arostegui *et al.* 2019), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*)
594 (Petrou *et al.* 2021), Atlantic silverside (*Menidia menidia*) (Wilder *et al.* 2020), and European
595 plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) (Le Moan *et al.* 2021). However, all of these studies were
596 conducted on marine fish or salmonids, making our study the first to provide evidence of a
597 putative adaptive inversion in a non-salmon freshwater fish. It is likely that the lack of previous
598 evidence for adaptive inversions in freshwater fish is due to the generally higher genetic structure

599 observed in these species, making inversions less necessary for adaptation. However, our study
600 illustrates that inversions are likely a larger component of adaptive divergence in freshwater fish
601 than previously assumed, highlighting the importance of future studies aimed at characterizing
602 them in additional species.

603 Although inferring the functional significance of the putatively adaptive inversion that we
604 detected is difficult, it is possible to speculate on its role in facilitating adaptive divergence. The
605 putatively derived variant of this inversion was only detected in the three southern river reaches
606 in our study, which are substantially warmer and more turbid than northern reaches. This
607 suggests that the derived inversion variant may have evolved and increased in frequency as
608 Emerald Shiner adapted to warmer and/or more turbid environments in more southern regions.
609 Inversions putatively linked to adaptive divergence across environmental and latitudinal
610 gradients have also been identified in marine species such as lingcod (Longo *et al.* 2020) and
611 Atlantic silverside (Wilder *et al.* 2020), but these studies faced similar difficulties when
612 attempting to describe the functional significance of the adaptive inversions they identified.
613 Future research combining whole genome resequencing with physiological challenge studies
614 would be useful for assessing the functional role of these inversions in the process of adaptive
615 divergence.

616 **Conclusions**

617 Our data from six riverine fish species in the Upper Mississippi River System displaying a large
618 gradient of life history strategies suggest that higher gene flow leads to increasingly concentrated
619 genomic architectures of adaptation. Our results provide evidence that the mechanisms that
620 create islands of differentiation can be highly variable across species, with both ancient linked

621 selection and more contemporary divergent selection playing important roles in creating genomic
622 islands of differentiation. Additionally, our study provides further evidence that chromosomal
623 inversions are important for facilitating adaptive divergence in continuously distributed species
624 with extremely high gene flow and also sheds light on the documented importance of inversions
625 in freshwater fish. Taken together, our findings represent a significant contribution towards
626 understanding the evolutionary processes that influence the genomic landscape of adaptation in
627 non-model organisms, though the generality of our findings is constrained due to the fact that we
628 only investigated 6 species. It is also important to note that we did not explicitly account for
629 variable demographic histories among species that could influence our results (Ravinet *et al.*
630 2017). A full exploration of demographic history using tools such as approximate Bayesian
631 computational analysis would help illuminate how demographic history could influence
632 landscapes of adaptive divergence and is a ripe area for future research, but this was outside the
633 scope of our study. Additionally, our study used RADseq, which does not assess the full suite of
634 adaptive divergence across the genome. Future studies should focus on whole genome
635 resequencing to better understand variation within genomic islands of differentiation and to
636 assess the functional role of these islands in promoting adaptive divergence.

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838 **Data Accessibility**

839 Demultiplexed RAD sequencing data used in this study are archived in the NCBI Sequence Read
840 Archive with a BioProject ID, PRJNA674918. Sample meta information along with the sequence
841 accession numbers can be found in Table S10. The *vcf* files (post filtering) and genepop files
842 (neutral SNPs after thinning) can be found on Dryad. Other data files and bioinformatic scripts
843 supporting this article will be available on Github
844 (https://github.com/melodysyue/MissR_geneFlow).

845 **Author Contributions**

846 YS, KLB, AB and WAL conceived of the study, designed the study, and coordinated the study.
847 YS and WD carried out the molecular lab work. YS and WAL conducted data analyses and
848 drafted the manuscript; GJM helped interpret the results regarding putative inversions. MC

849 supervised the project. All authors commented the manuscript and gave final approval for
850 publication.

851 **Conflict of Interest**

852 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

853 **Figure 1.** (A) Map of the six study reaches along the Upper Mississippi River System, (B) key
854 reproduction-related life history traits of the six study species, and (C) positions of the six study
855 reaches in the environmental space of 20 variables using PCA biplot. See Table S1 for details of
856 life history traits and Table S2 for details of environmental data. Use of fish images is permitted
857 by Uland Thomas.

858 **Figure 2.** Manhattan plots depicting the genomic landscape of differentiation (F_{ST} , corrected
859 F_{ST}) across the genomes for the six study species. Species are ordered based on neutral
860 population differentiation, with neutral global F_{ST} values labeled next to the species name.
861 Outlier SNPs (union of F_{ST} outliers and GEA outliers) are in red, genomic islands of
862 differentiation identified using HMM after filtering are in blue, and identified putative inversions
863 are in purple. Reference genomes and alignment summary can be found in Table S4.

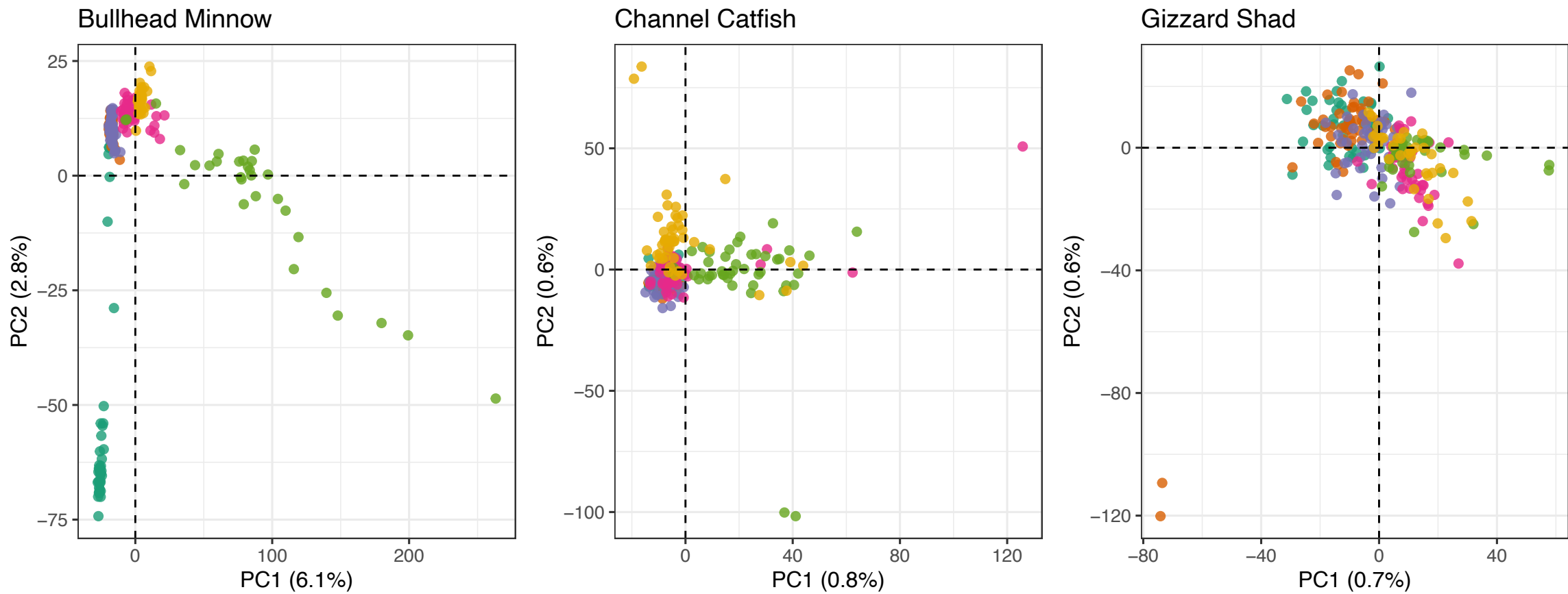
864 **Figure 3.** Principal component analyses using neutral SNPs (after thinning) for the six study
865 species. The percentage of variance explained by each principal component (PC) is labeled on
866 the x - and y - axes.

867 **Figure 4.** Characterization of putative inversion on chromosome 9 in Emerald Shiner. (A) PCA
868 based on SNPs within the putative inversion region. Three clusters identified using k-means
869 clustering correspond to two homozygote groups (blue and red) and a heterozygote group
870 (purple). The discreteness of the clustering was calculated by the proportion of the between-
871 cluster sum of squares over the total using the R function *kmeans* in *adegenet*. (B) Observed
872 individual heterozygosity in each PCA cluster. Significance was assessed using Wilcoxon tests
873 with alpha level of 0.05. Note: *** = 0.001. (C) Genotype frequency distribution for putative
874 inversion across six study reaches. Bars represent the proportion of individuals belonging to a
875 PCA cluster. (D) and (E) are LD heatmaps for chromosome 9 using all individuals (D) and only
876 individuals homozygous for the more common orientation (E).

877 **Figure 5.** Principal component analyses for Emerald Shiner using different sets of loci: (A) All
878 aligned SNPs (3,348 SNPs); (B) Putative inversions on chromosome 6, 9 and 19 (228 SNPs); (C)
879 After the removal of three putative inversions (3,120 SNPs). The percentage of variance
880 explained by each principal component (PC) is labeled on the x - and y - axes.

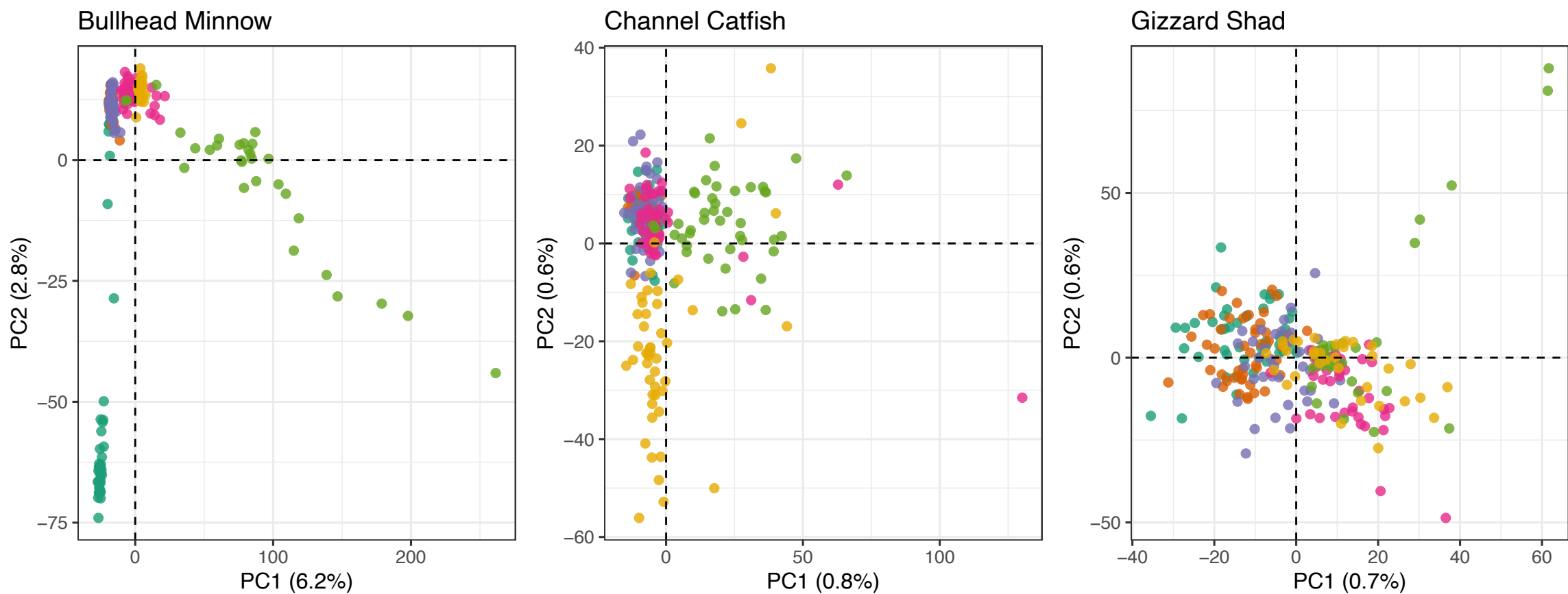
881 **Figure 6.** Comparisons of corrected F_{ST} (F_{ST}), heterozygosity (H_O), absolute divergence (D_{xy}),
882 and LD (r^2) between outlier SNPs (Outliers, red) and non-outlier SNPs (Background, gray) on the
883 corresponding chromosomes for chromosomes clusters of outlier SNPs, including on
884 chromosome 2 in Bullhead Minnow, chromosome 7 and 17 in Freshwater Drum, chromosome
885 20 in Channel Catfish, and chromosome 9 in Emerald Shiner. Significance was assessed using
886 permutation tests (10,000 permutations) with alpha level of 0.05. Note: *** = 0.001, ** = 0.01, *
887 = 0.05, n.s = not significant.

PCAs with neutral SNPs (WITHOUT putative siblings removed)

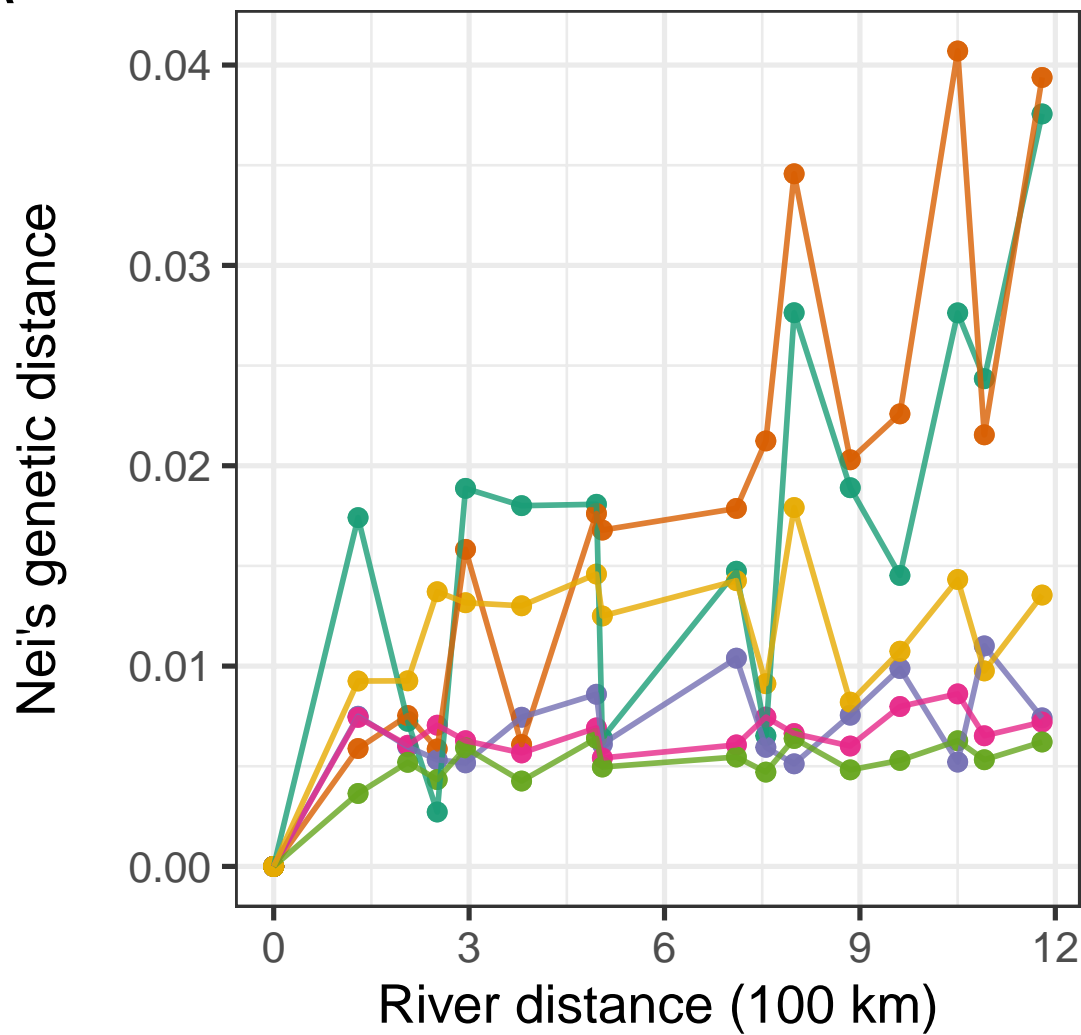


Study Reaches ● Pool 4 ● Pool 8 ● Pool 13 ● Pool 26 ● Open River ● La Grange

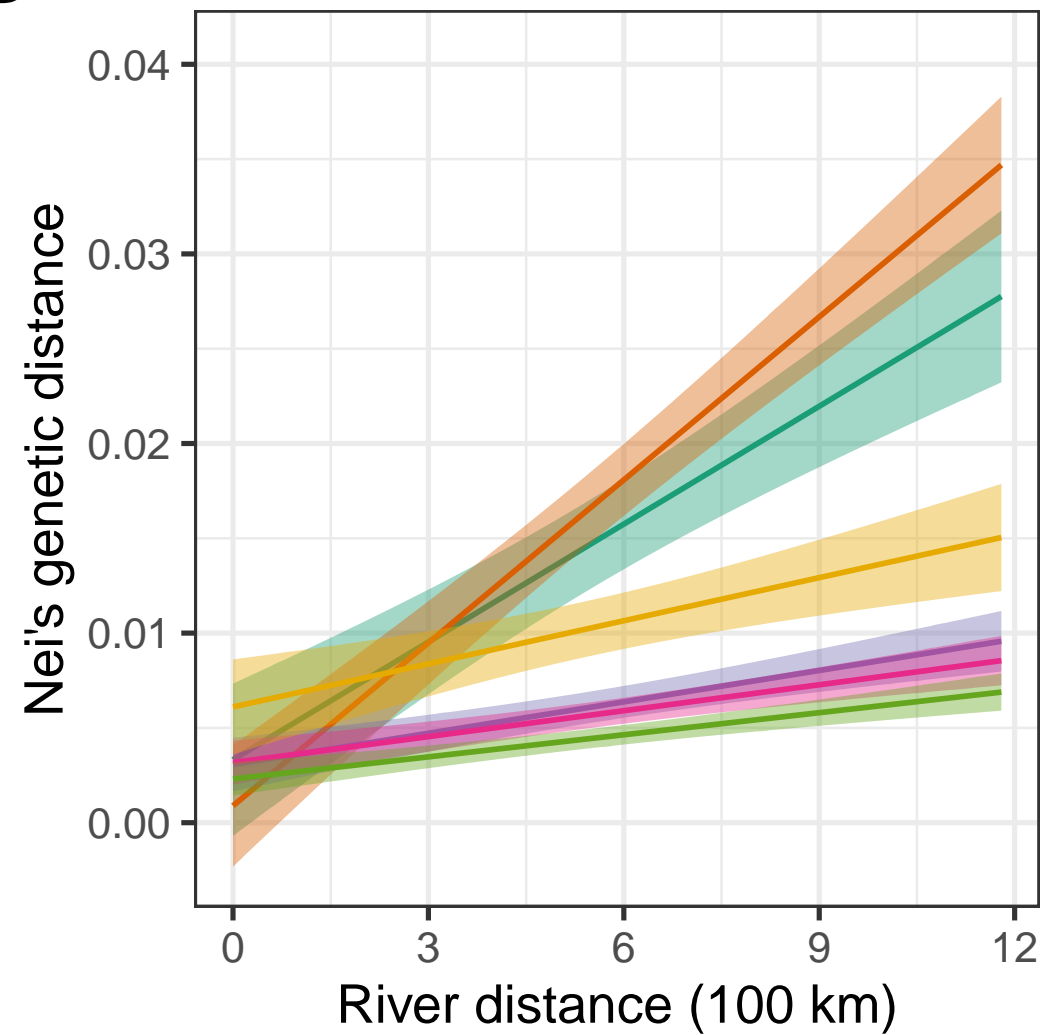
PCAs with neutral SNPs (WITH putative siblings removed)



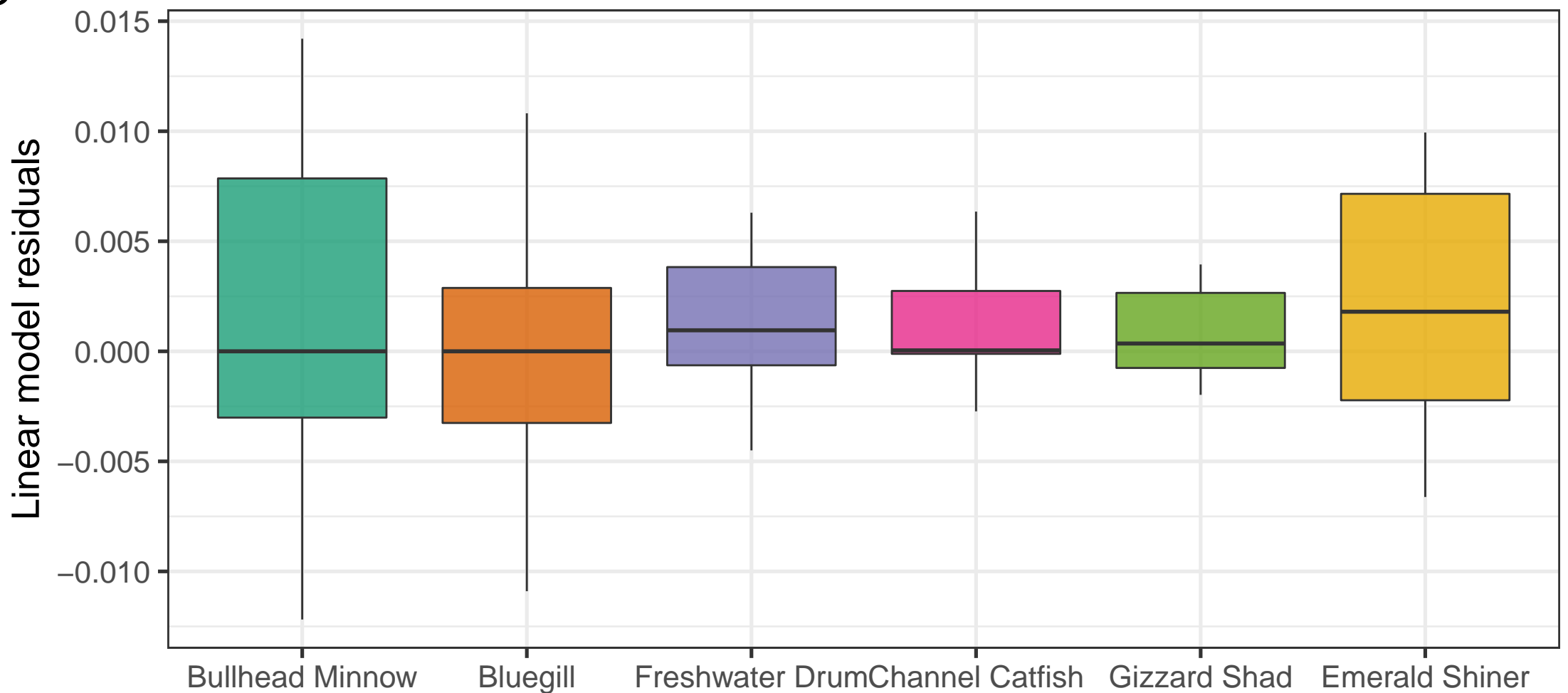
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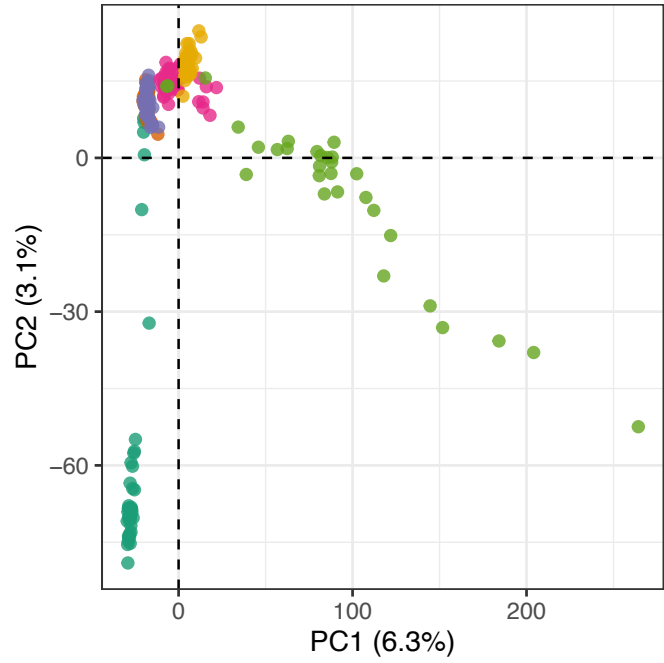
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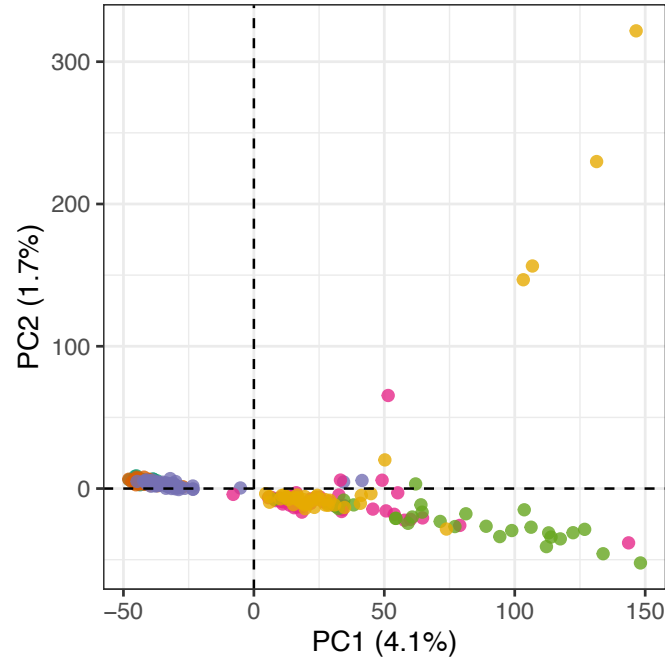
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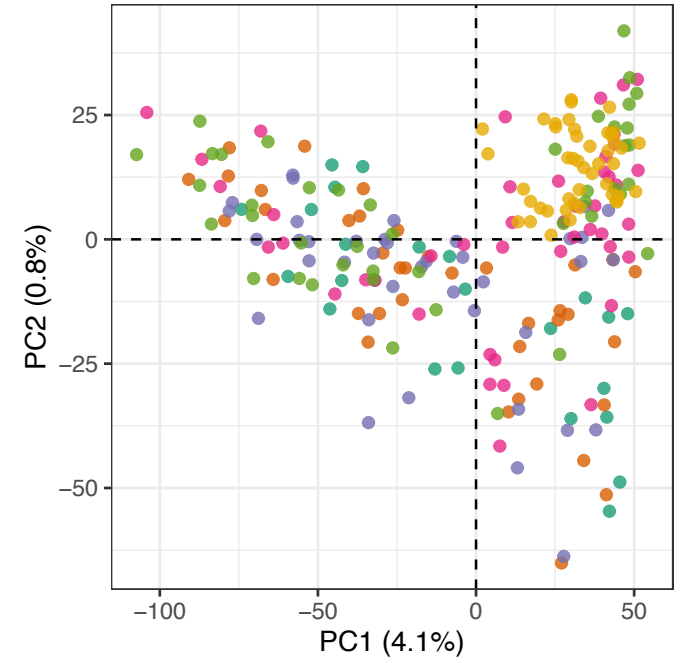
Bullhead Minnow



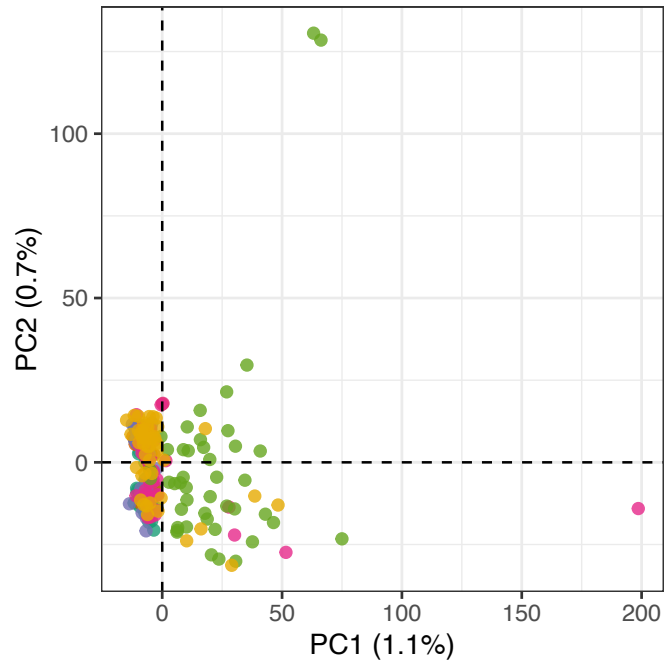
Bluegill



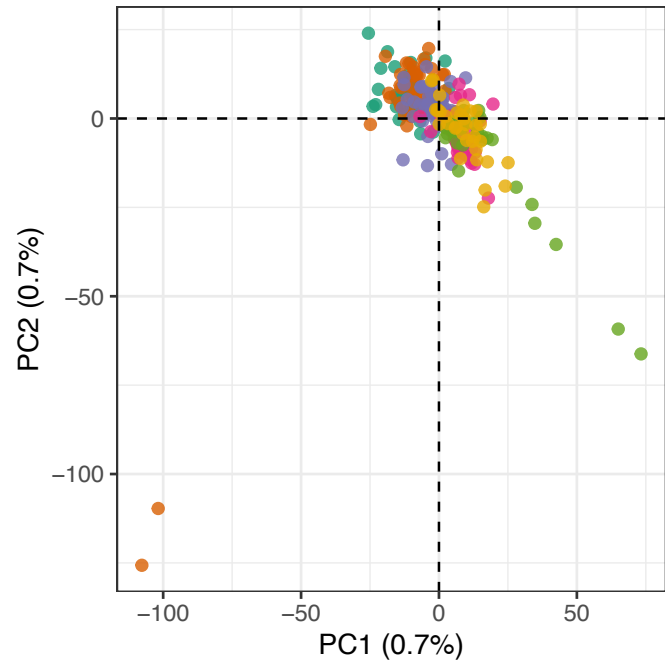
Freshwater Drum



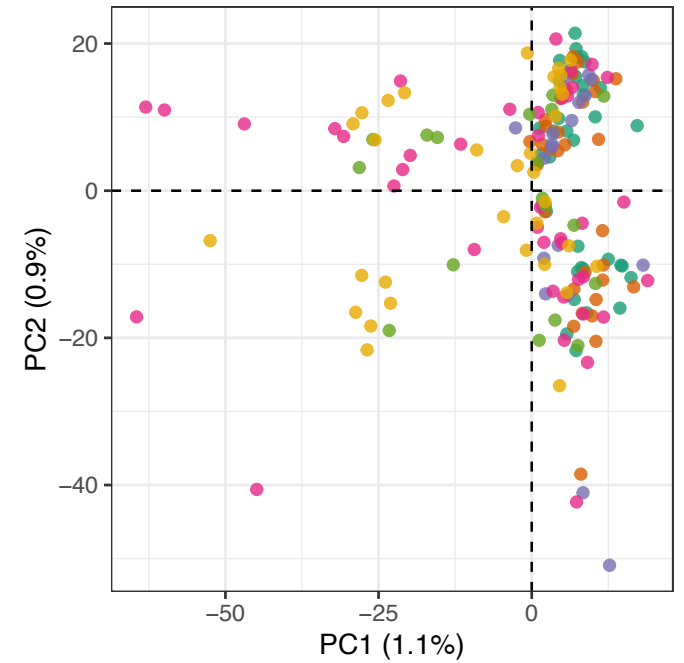
Channel Catfish



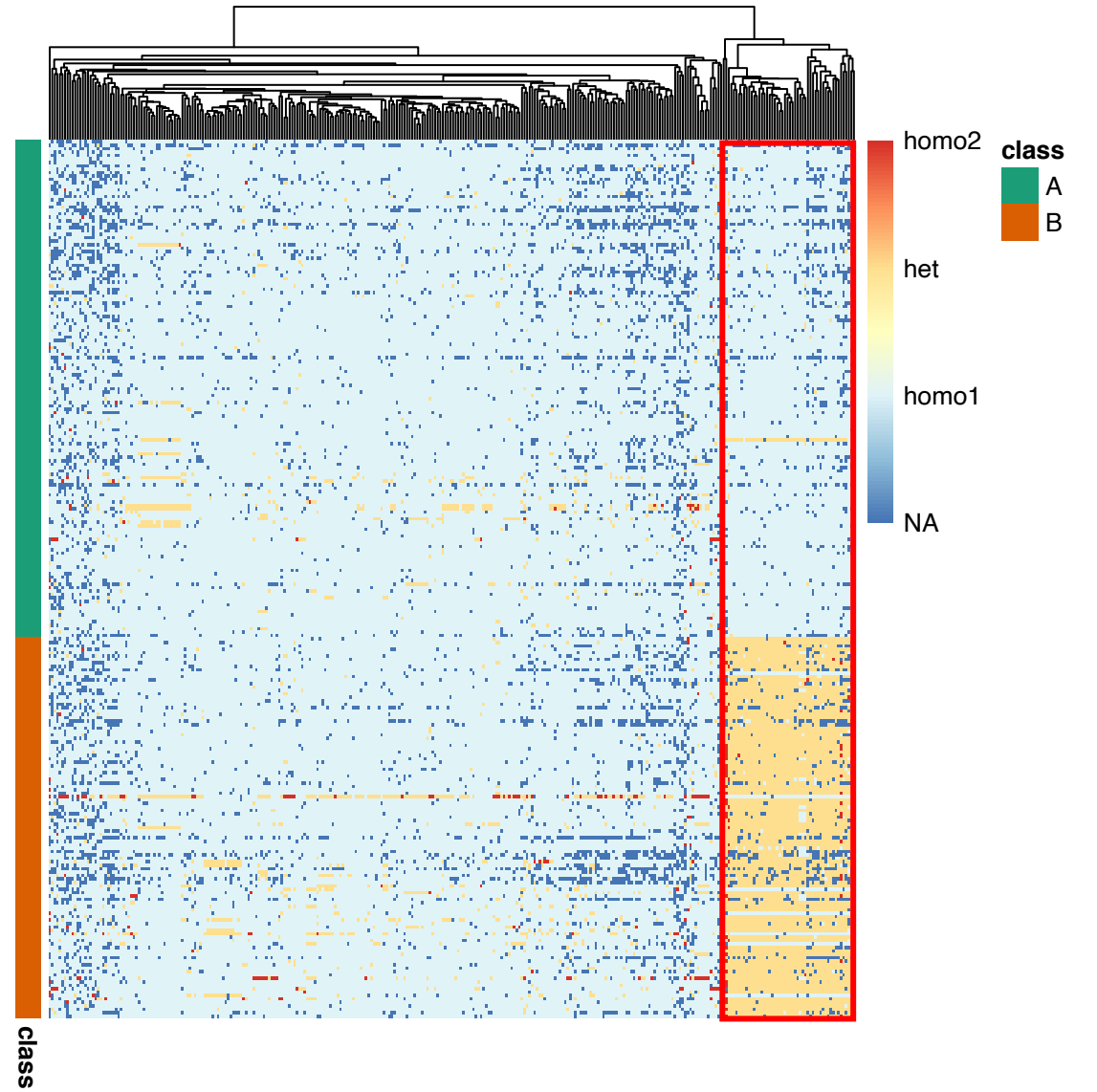
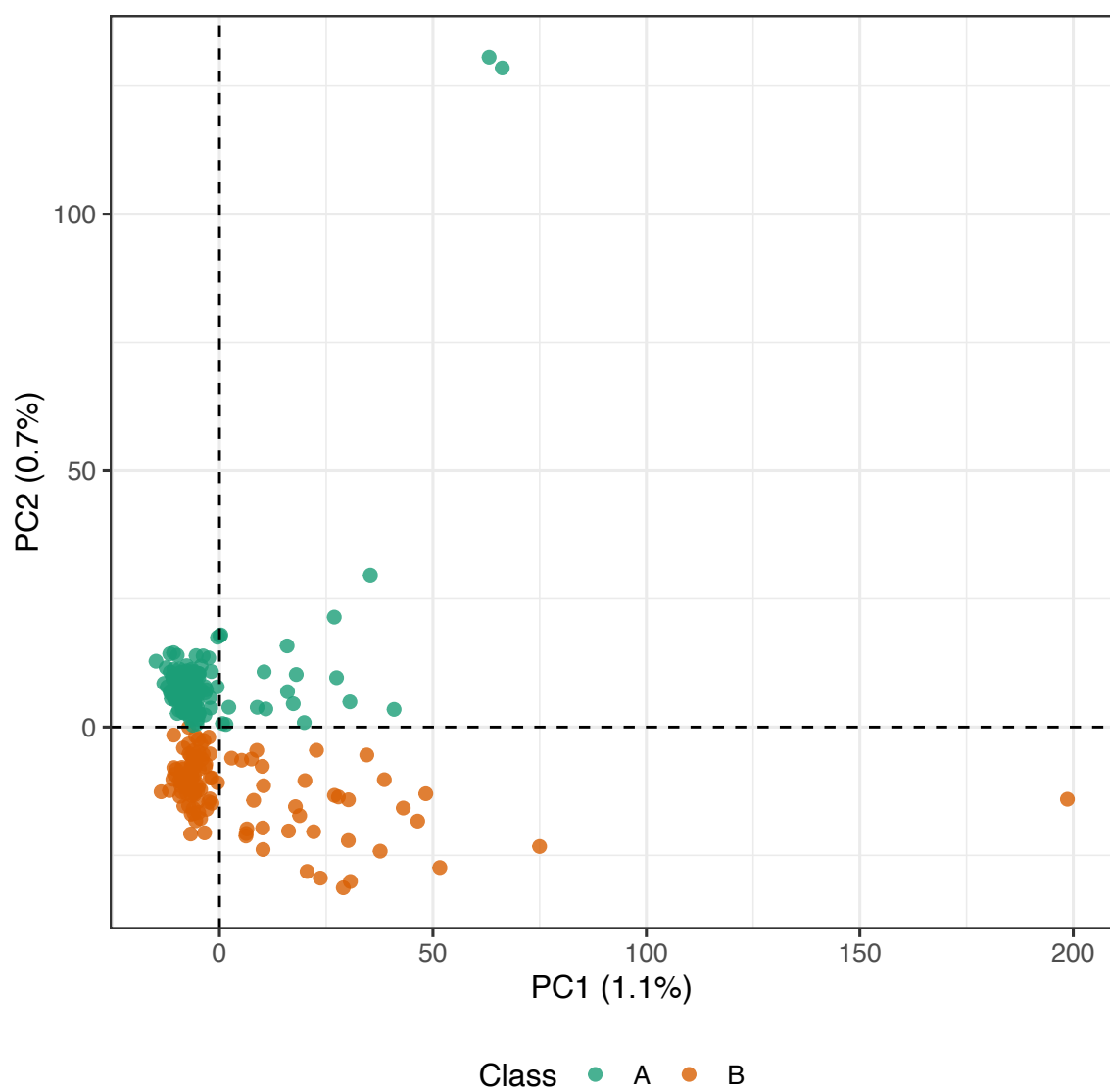
Gizzard Shad



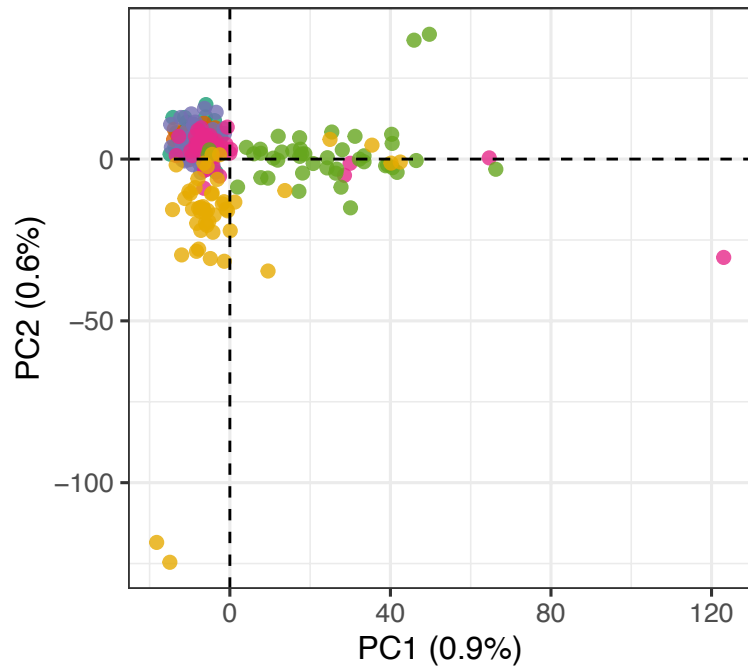
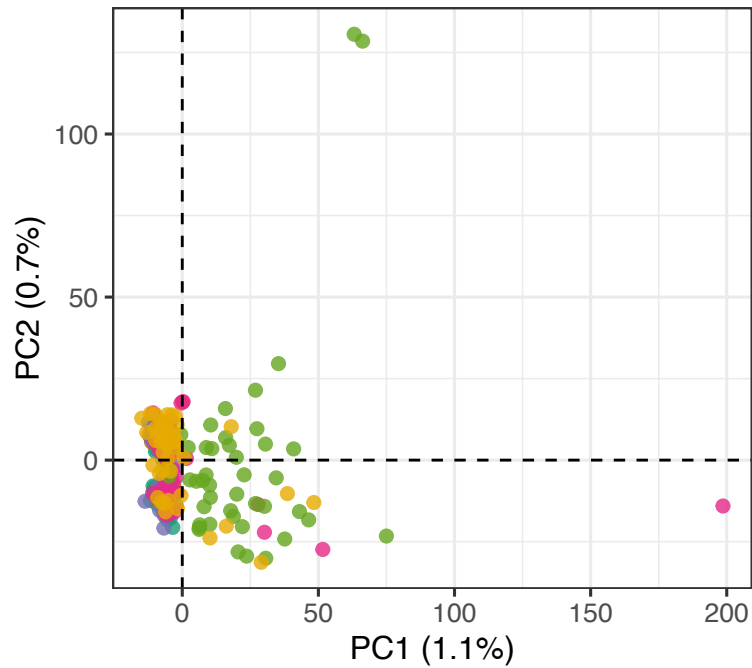
Emerald Shiner



Study Reaches: Pool 4 (teal), Pool 8 (orange), Pool 13 (blue), Pool 26 (pink), Open River (green), La Grange (yellow)

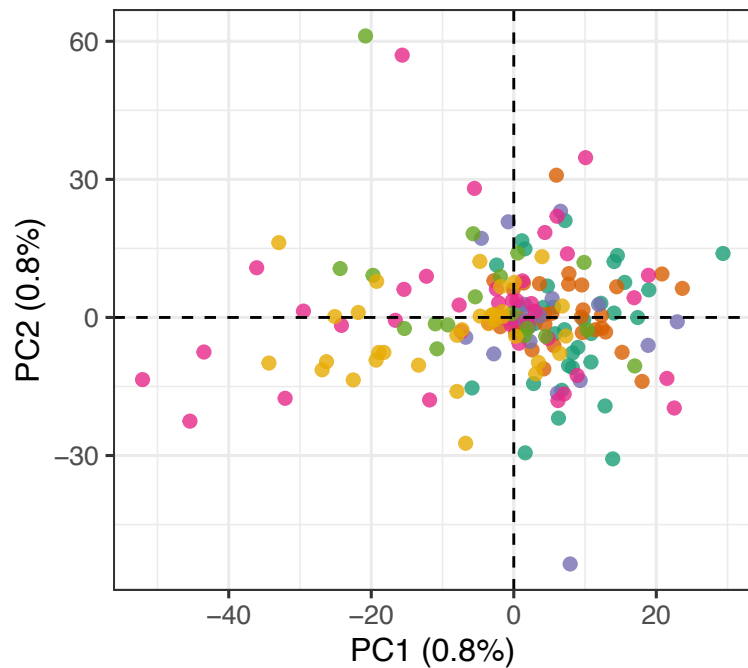
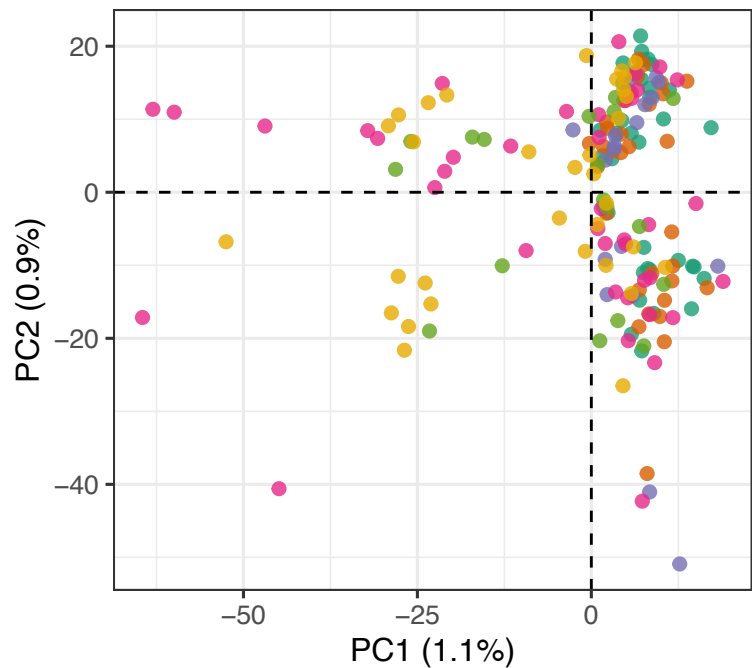


Channel Catfish WITHOUT vs. WITH removing SNPs of high LD (316 SNPs)



Study Reaches Pool 4 Pool 8 Pool 13 Pool 26 Open River La Grange

Emerald Shiner WITHOUT vs WITH removing SNPs of high LD (101 SNPs)



Study Reaches Pool 4 Pool 8 Pool 13 Pool 26 Open River La Grange