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**INVESTIGATING THE EXTENT OF PARALLELISM IN MORPHOLOGICAL AND GENOMIC DIVERGENCE AMONG LAKE TROUT ECOTYPES IN LAKE SUPERIOR**

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32

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34 speciation

35 ABSTRACT

36 Understanding the emergence of species through the process of ecological speciation is a central question  
37 in evolutionary biology which also has implications for conservation and management. Lake Trout  
38 (*Salvelinus namaycush*) is renowned for the occurrence of different ecotypes linked to resource and  
39 habitat use throughout North America. We aimed to unravel the fine genetic structure of the four Lake  
40 Trout ecotypes in Lake Superior. A total of 486 individuals from four sites were genotyped at 6822  
41 filtered SNPs using RADseq technology. Our results revealed different extent of morphological and  
42 genetic differentiation within the different sites. Overall, genetic differentiation was weak but significant  
43 and was on average three times higher between sites (Mean  $F_{ST} = 0.016$ ) than between ecotypes within  
44 sites (Mean  $F_{ST} = 0.005$ ) indicating higher level of gene flow or a more recent shared ancestor between  
45 ecotypes within each site than between populations of the same ecotype. Evidence of divergent selection  
46 was also found between ecotypes and/or in association with morphological variation. Outlier loci found in  
47 genes related to lipid metabolism and visual acuity were of particular interest in this context of ecotypic  
48 divergence. However, we did not find clear indication of parallelism at the genomic level, despite the  
49 presence of phenotypic parallelism among some ecotypes from different sampling sites. Overall, the  
50 occurrence of different levels of both genomic and phenotypic differentiation between ecotypes within  
51 each site with several differentiated loci linked to relevant biological functions support the presence of a  
52 continuum of divergence in Lake Trout.

53 INTRODUCTION

54 The study of diversification and ultimately speciation is central to evolution and relevant for conservation  
55 biology (Weissing et al. 2011). The most common and established mechanism of speciation is divergence  
56 in allopatry, where spatial and geographical barriers prevent gene flow, thus allowing genetic  
57 incompatibilities to accumulate, subsequently resulting in reproductive isolation following secondary  
58 contact (Coyne and Orr 2004; Tittes and Kane 2014). Some examples of allopatric isolation mechanisms

59 in fishes include the glacial cycles in North America responsible for the origin of many freshwater species  
60 (April et al. 2013), the rise and fall of Lake Tanganyika, and the barriers created by high water flow in  
61 large rivers such as the Amazon or Congo River (reviewed in Bernardi 2013). However, a geographic  
62 barrier is not always needed and speciation can emerge in sympatry, or in parapatry despite high gene  
63 flow, by divergent selection on ecologically important traits (Tittes and Kane 2014; Gavrilets et al. 2007).  
64 Divergent selection on ecological traits can be caused by biotic and abiotic influences where adaptations  
65 to different environments or ecological niches result in the emergence of reproductive incompatibilities  
66 (Bernardi 2013; Nosil et al. 2009). The latter may create a continuum of divergence from continuous  
67 variation within a single gene pool, to ecotype formation and finally to complete differentiation and  
68 reproductive isolation (Lu and Bernatchez 1999; Nosil et al. 2009; Hendry 2009; Gagnaire et al. 2013).  
69 Models and case studies have shown that sympatric speciation is possible under gene flow when few loci  
70 underlying the divergent trait undergo strong selection, whereas gene flow homogenises the rest of the  
71 genome (Gavrilets et al. 2007; Franchini et al. 2013).

72 Ecological speciation has been extensively documented in several geologically young fish species  
73 living in sympatry. For instance sympatric speciation has occurred in Midas cichlids (*Amphilophus* spp.)  
74 (Franchini et al. 2013), Lake Victoria cichlids (Wagner et al. 2013) but more commonly in several  
75 temperate freshwater fishes such as stickleback (*Gasterosteus* spp.), smelt (*Osmerus* spp.) and especially  
76 in salmonids such as whitefish (*Coregonus* spp.), trout (*Salmo* spp.), Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.)  
77 and charrs (*Salvelinus* spp.) (Taylor 1999; Jonsson and Jonsson 2001). Sympatric speciation is usually  
78 linked to trophic polymorphism in which intra-specific ecotypes use different habitats and resources  
79 (Blackie et al. 2003; Hansen et al. 2012; Smith and Skúlason 1996). Trophic polymorphism is common in  
80 post-glacial lakes where retreat of the ice sheet creates unoccupied niches and opportunities for intra-  
81 specific competition (Blackie et al. 2003; Zimmerman et al. 2009). These conditions are believed to be  
82 responsible for the extensive radiation in North American freshwater fishes where several species are  
83 adapted to different ecological niches (Schluter 2001). Parallel evolution of shared phenotypic traits linked  
84 to trophic resource use has been demonstrated in several postglacial systems. These shared morphological  
85 traits between populations can be accompanied by shared genetic architecture underlying the ecologically  
86 important traits or can arise from independent genetic processes (Ralph and Coop 2014). For example, the  
87 repeated divergence of marine and freshwater stickleback exhibiting similar phenotypic changes in body  
88 armour have been described and the repeated reduction in armour plates was found to be controlled by the  
89 same set of loci (Colosimo et al. 2005; Jones et al. 2012). On the other hand, convergent phenotypic traits  
90 may not always be controlled by similar developmental pathways as is the case for cavefish (*Astyanax*  
91 spp.), beach mice (*Peromyscus polionotus*), and fruit fly (*Drosophila* spp.) (reviewed in Arendt and

92 Reznick 2008; Bernatchez 2016). For instance, the evolution of parallel phenotypic divergence between  
93 benthic normal and limnetic dwarf whitefish (*Coregonus* spp.) in several North American lakes was found  
94 to be only partially associated with parallelism at the genome level (Gagnaire et al. 2013; Laporte et al.  
95 2015).

96 Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) are renowned for the occurrence of different ecotypes linked  
97 to resource and habitat use throughout North America. In small lakes, Lake Trout diverge mainly into a  
98 planktivorous and piscivorous ecotype (Vander Zander et al. 2000; Bernatchez et al. 2016), whereas  
99 several large lakes harbor at least four ecotypes associated with differential resource partitioning (Muir et  
100 al. 2015). For instance, four different ecotypes occur in Great Bear Lake and Lake Superior, three in Great  
101 Slave Lake and two in Lake Mistassini and Rush Lake (Muir et al. 2015). In Lake Superior, four distinct  
102 ecotypes have been reported that are recognized based on differences in morphology and coloration but  
103 also in life history traits, physiology and ecology (Muir et al. 2015). For instance, they differ in traits such  
104 as growth rate, asymptotic length and weight, size at sexual maturity, as well as developmental rate of  
105 fertilized eggs or fry. They also differ in physiology such as buoyancy and swim bladder retention (Muir  
106 et al. 2015; Hansen et al. 2016). The ‘lean’ ecotype has a slender, streamlined body with low body lipid  
107 content, and occupies shallow waters where it preys upon pelagic fishes (Bronte et al. 2003; Goetz et al.  
108 2011; Burnham-Curtis and Smith 1994; Moore and Bronte 2001; Zimmerman et al. 2009). The ‘humper’  
109 ecotype inhabits offshore, mid-water shoals, feeds on small prey and is sexually mature at relatively  
110 smaller sizes (< 500 mm) (Stafford et al. 2014; Burnham-Curtis and Smith 1994; Hansen et al. 2016). It  
111 also has a small head with moderately large eyes dorsally positioned and short-paired fins (Zimmerman et  
112 al. 2009; Moore and Bronte 2001; Bronte et al. 2003). The ‘siscowet’ ecotype is recognized by its sloping  
113 snout, moderately large eyes and high body fat content which may facilitate diel vertical migration to  
114 follow the migration of ciscoes (Ahrenstorff et al. 2011; Hrabik et al. 2014; Bronte et al. 2003; Bronte and  
115 Sitar 2008; Burnham-Curtis and Smith 1994; Hansen et al. 2012). Lastly, the ‘redfin’ ecotype has a robust  
116 body, a large head, a long deep peduncle and large fins (Muir et al. 2014). Several hypotheses have been  
117 proposed to explain the origin of these ecotypes (Wilson and Mandrak 2004; Eshenroder 2008). These  
118 could be the result of developmental plasticity in which a single genotype expresses different phenotypes  
119 matching selection optima or can be genetically based or a mix of both (Goetz et al. 2010). While this  
120 does not rule out a role for developmental plasticity, two lines of evidence suggest some genetic basis for  
121 the phenotypic differences observed between the ecotypes. First, progeny from wild lean and siscowet  
122 gametes have been raised in a common garden experiment and key phenotypic features that differentiate  
123 wild leans and siscowets such as condition factor, morphology and lipid content were maintained (Goetz  
124 et al. 2010). Furthermore, the same study uncovered transcriptional differences in lipid-related genes

125 between the two ecotypes (Goetz et al. 2010). Second, morphological differences in the operculum and  
126 supraethmoid bones have been documented between leans, siscowets and humpers. Cranial bones are of  
127 taxonomic significance in salmonids and are unlikely affected by environmental conditions and ontogenic  
128 shifts (Burnham-Curtis and Smith 1994).

129 Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) were once the dominant predator in the Great Lakes. It  
130 historically supported one the most important freshwater commercial fisheries before being extirpated in  
131 the 1950s in all lakes except Lake Superior, where it is now considered restored and Lake Huron, where  
132 recruitment has been increasing (Riley et al. 2007), but it remains at relatively low abundance  
133 (Zimmerman and Krueger 2009, Bronte et al. 2003). The collapse of Lake Trout populations has been  
134 associated with anthropogenic factors, including habitat degradation, pollution and overfishing, as well as  
135 predation by invasive sea lamprey following the construction of navigation canals (Bronte and Sitar 2008;  
136 Page et al. 2003; Page et al. 2004). A review by Zimmerman and Krueger (2009) examined impediments  
137 to its recovery or restoration and provided guidelines to maintain, increase or reintroduce Lake Trout  
138 populations in the Laurentian Great Lakes. Here, understanding and evaluating genetic structure and  
139 diversity of remaining Lake Trout population was identified as a key research topic.

140 The general goal of this study was to gain insight into the nature and origin of the different Lake  
141 Trout ecotypes in Lake Superior. More specifically, we aimed to; 1) investigate the extent of both  
142 morphological and genome wide genetic differentiation and connectivity among the four Lake Trout  
143 ecotypes from different geographic locations within the lake; 2) identify possible adaptive genetic  
144 differentiation among ecotypes by means of genome scans and genotype-phenotype associations; and 3)  
145 examine the degree of parallelism at the phenotypic and genotypic level among ecotypes from the four  
146 sampling sites. To achieve this, we used RADseq to genotype Lake Trout from the four ecotypes and from  
147 four sites from Lake Superior. In parallel, geometric morphometric analyses were performed on head and  
148 body shape.

149  
150 **METHODS**

151 **Sampling**  
152 Fish from the four Lake Trout ecotypes were sampled in 2013-2014 from four sites in Lake Superior; Big  
153 Reef (2014), Stannard Rock (2013-2014), Superior Shoals (2013) and Isle Royale (2013) (Figure 1, Table  
154 1). For the first three sites, a nylon gill net, 183 m long by 1.8 m high, was used with 30.5 m long panels  
155 of different mesh sizes (50.8-114.3 mm). Nets were deployed for 24 hours at different depth ranges (0-50  
156 m, 50-100 m and >100 m) approximately representing preferred depths of the different ecotypes. A picture  
157 of each fish was taken following the protocol in Muir et al. (2012) and a biopsy of either the adipose or

158 pectoral fin was collected and preserved in 95% ethanol. The fourth site, Isle Royale, was sampled in 2013  
159 using overnight sets of 274-823 m long gill nets with nine panels (91.4 m long by 1.83 m high) of single  
160 mesh size (5.1 cm, 6.4 cm, 7.6 cm, 8.9 cm, 10.2 cm, 11.4 cm, 12.7 cm, 14.0 cm, 15.2 cm). Pictures were  
161 taken using the same protocol (Muir et al. 2012) and liver or gonads were conserved in RNA Later.  
162 Samples without pictures or genetic material were removed from subsequent analyses. Information about  
163 total length (mm), wet weight (g) and sex, and depth of capture were recorded for each sampled  
164 individual.

### 165 **Ecotype assignment**

166 Consensus of both morphometric analyses (body and head) and visual identification as visual  
167 interpretation of fish pictures by Lake Trout experts (see Acknowledgements) was used to assign an  
168 ecotype to each fish per Muir et al. (2014). Fish less than 430 mm long with the exception of humper-like  
169 fish, that are < 430 mm when sexually mature, were excluded to remove the confounding effect of  
170 ontogenetic shifts in morphology (Zimmerman et al. 2009). Body and head were analysed separately to  
171 distinguish locomotion (body) from feeding habit (head). In addition, morphometric analyses were  
172 conducted separately for each site to investigate morphological variation among sites. Landmarks and  
173 semi-landmarks were digitized and analysed with the Thin Plate Spline suite (TPS; State University of  
174 New York at Stony Brook; <http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/morp>). First, for each fish a rectangular grid was  
175 overlaid to identify belly curvature corresponding to 20-30-40-50% of body length using the program  
176 REVIT (Autodesk) (Figure S1a). The body grid was anchored at the tip of the snout and the midpoint of  
177 the hypural plate. Second, 16 homologous landmarks and four semi-landmarks were digitized on each fish  
178 with the program TpsDig2 and semi-landmarks were slid using TpsUtil (Figure S1a). Semi-landmarks  
179 were used to represent belly curvature which is known to be distinctive between the two major ecotypes,  
180 leans and siscowets (Muir et al. 2014). Similarly, a squared grid was overlaid on each fish head dividing it  
181 into 10 equally spaced sections using the program REVIT (Figure S1b). The head grid was anchored at the  
182 tip of the snout and the posterior edge of the opercula. Eight homologous landmarks and 20 semi-  
183 landmarks were digitized on each fish head with the program TpsDig2 and semi-landmarks were slid  
184 using TpsUtil (Figure S1b). Distortions from rotation and size were removed by the program TpsRelw  
185 producing partial warps scores which are size-free variables. A principal component analysis (PCA) was  
186 performed to reduce the number of morphometric variables or scores and extract divergent morphometric  
187 patterns. Subsequently, relevant axes were supplied to a Bayesian clustering analysis implemented in the  
188 R package Mclust v.4. Mclust is a normal mixture modeling for model-based cluster analysis,  
189 classification and density estimation that include the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) for model  
190 selection and that do not require priori information about groups such as discriminant function analysis

191 (Fraley & Raftery 2012). Components accounting for more than 65% of the variance were supplied to the  
192 Mclust algorithm. The best model (with highest BIC) was the one able to separate leans from siscowets  
193 since they are the most morphologically differentiated ecotypes (Fraley and Raftery 2012; Muir et al.  
194 2014). Group classification resulting from the chosen model was retrieved for each individual. The visual  
195 identification of each collected fish from Big Reef, Stannard Rock and Superior Shoals was conducted by  
196 visual consensus of three trained biologists. Visual identification of Isle Royale fish was provided by an  
197 experienced biologist. An ecotype was assigned to each fish based on the consensus from body shape,  
198 head shape and visual identification. Two out of three similar ecotype assignments were needed to assign  
199 to each fish a particular ecotype. In the case of different head, body and visual assignments; the fish were  
200 assigned « no consensus» and removed from subsequent analyses. Fish for subsequent genetic analyses  
201 were chosen as follows: (1) fish with 100% consensus having the lowest group uncertainty and (2) fish  
202 with 2/3 consensus having the lowest group uncertainty. However, if no individual of a given ecotype was  
203 identified based on morphometric analysis, the visual identification only was used and taken into account  
204 in subsequent analyses since ecotypes differ in several life history traits (eg. size and age at maturity,  
205 color) that are not taken into account in morphometric analyses but that are still used commonly by local  
206 expert fishery biologists to distinguish ecotypes.

### 207 **Morphometric analysis**

208 Two multivariate analyses were used to test for morphological differences between the four ecotypes at  
209 the four sites and to investigate among site differences for the same ecotype. First, a principal component  
210 analysis (PCA) was performed to reduce variable dimensionality, and components explaining most of the  
211 variance were selected based on the broken stick method. Then a multivariate analysis of variance  
212 (MANOVA) was conducted in R (package “stats”) on the selected components. Since partial scores  
213 derived from a configuration that included semi-landmarks do not have the same number of free variables  
214 as degrees of freedom, a requisite of MANOVA, a between-group analysis (groupPCA) implemented in  
215 the R package “morpho” was conducted on partial warps (Webster and Sheets 2010). This analysis takes  
216 into account uneven group size and does not require normality or homogeneity of variance (Mitteroecker  
217 and Bookstein 2011). The Euclidean distance between group mean was tested using 10 000 permutations.  
218 For both analyses, the effects of the sampling site, sex and ecotype were tested.

### 219 **Sample DNA extraction and sequencing**

220 Genomic DNA was extracted from individuals representing each ecotype at the four sites using a salt-  
221 extraction protocol adapted from Aljanabi and Martinez (1997). Sample quality and concentration were  
222 checked on 1% agarose gels and using the NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific). Each  
223 individual's genomic DNA was normalized to 20 ng/μl of 10 μl (200ng total) using PicoGreen

224 (Fluoroskan Ascent FL, Thermo Labsystems) in 96 well plates. The ddRAD libraries were constructed  
225 and sequenced on the Ion Torrent Proton platform (IBIS, Laval University) following the protocol in  
226 Mascher et al. (2013). Briefly, restriction digest buffer (NEB4) and two restriction enzymes (*PstI* and  
227 *MspI*) were added to each sample. Digestion was completed by incubation at 37°C for two hours and  
228 enzymes were inactivated by incubation at 65°C for 20 minutes. Two adaptors (one unique to each sample  
229 and the second common) were added to each sample and ligation was performed using a ligation master  
230 mix followed by the addition of T4 ligase. The ligation reaction was completed at 22°C for 2 hours  
231 followed by 65°C for 20 minutes to inactivate the enzymes. Samples were pooled in 48-plex and cleaned-  
232 up using QIAquick PCR purification kits. The library was then amplified by PCR and sequenced on the  
233 Ion Torrent Proton P1v2 chip. The detailed methods for SNP identification, SNP filtering and genotyping  
234 using STACKS v.1.32 (Catchen et al. 2011) are presented in Supplementary materials. Resulting VCF  
235 was converted to various formats necessary for other programs using PGDSpider 2.0.7.2 (Lischer and  
236 Excoffier 2012) and VCFtools (Danecek et al. 2011).

### 237 **Genetic diversity and differentiation**

238 We first estimated pairwise population differentiation using Weir's and Cockerham's estimator of  
239 pairwise  $F_{ST}$  (Weir and Cockerham 1984) in GenoDive 2.0b23 (Meirmans and Van Tienderen 2004) with  
240 10 000 permutations. Similarly, measures of observed ( $H_o$ ) and expected heterozygosity ( $H_e$ ) and  
241 inbreeding ( $F_{IS}$ ) were estimated using GenoDive 2.0b23b. Effective population size ( $N_e$ ) and number of  
242 polymorphic loci ( $N$ ) for each sampling site was estimated using the program NeEstimator v.2.01 (Do et  
243 al. 2014). Briefly, the program was run with the linkage disequilibrium model, the random mating system  
244 and a critical value of 0.05 ( $P_{crit}$ ) to exclude alleles that occur in only a single copy in the sample.  
245 Genome-wide diversity ( $\pi$ ) and the increase in individual homozygosity relative to mean Hardy-Weinberg  
246 expected homozygosity ( $F_h$ ) were estimated for each site with the dataset prior to filtration using the R  
247 package *stackr* (<https://github.com/thierygosselin/stackr>). Lastly, an analysis of molecular variance  
248 (AMOVA) was conducted to quantify the proportion of genetic variance explained by sites relative to that  
249 explained by variation among the four ecotypes (Meirmans and Van Tienderen 2004). The AMOVA was  
250 run with two different levels of hierarchical subdivision; first with sites nested within ecotypes and then  
251 ecotypes nested within sites. A total of 10 000 permutations were used to assess significance and an  
252 infinite allele model was chosen. Because AMOVA does not allow missing data, missing values were  
253 replaced by randomly selecting alleles proportional to total allele frequency in Genodive 2.0b23. A Mantel  
254 test between genetic divergence ( $F_{ST}$  matrix) and phenotypic divergence (head and body Euclidean  
255 distances matrices) was conducted using the R package "vegan" (Oksanen et al. 2016) to assess the extent  
256 of association/parallelism in morphology and genetic among ecotypes and sampling sites.



257 **Population clustering**

258 Population clustering and connectivity was estimated with the program ADMIXTURE 1.23 (Alexander et  
259 al. 2009). This program estimates ancestry in a model-based manner where individuals are considered  
260 unrelated and allows choosing the best number of possible genetic groups present in the data based on a  
261 cross-validation procedure. The program was run with values of K ranging from 1 to 20. A population tree  
262 was built using the program TreeFit (Kalinowski 2009) and visualized with the program FigTree v1.4.2  
263 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/>). Genetic distances were calculated using  $\theta$  (Weir and  
264 Cockerham 1984) between each pair of population and the neighbor-joining (NJ) distance-based method  
265 was used for tree construction. Support for each branch was assessed by bootstrapping using 1000  
266 permutations (Kalinowski 2009).

267 **Population assignment**

268 Population assignment was conducted to investigate the power to classify an unknown individual to either  
269 a sampling site or an ecotype. This analysis was run using Genodive 2.0b23 with the home likelihood  
270 criteria (the likelihood that an individual comes from the population where it was sampled), which is more  
271 appropriate when only part of all possible source population have been sampled (Meirmans and Van  
272 Tienderen 2004). A significance threshold of 0.05 was applied and zero frequencies were replaced by  
273 0.005 as suggested by Meirmans and Van Tienderen (2004). To avoid bias due to the calculation of allele  
274 frequencies from the same individuals which are subsequently assigned, the program uses the leave one  
275 out (LOO) validation procedure in which a targeted individual is removed from its source population  
276 before calculation of the allele frequency. For this analysis, missing values were replaced by randomly  
277 picking alleles from the global allele pool. All loci were used for this analysis such that no correction was  
278 necessary to avoid high grading bias associated with using a subset of markers based on their ranking of  
279 level of differentiation (Anderson 2010).

280 **Outlier detection and phenotype-genotype associations**

281 We used two different types of approaches to detect outlier SNPs potentially under divergent selection  
282 between ecotypes and sites: 1) genome scans performed among the different ecotypes and/or sites; and 2)  
283 association tests between genotypes and continuous phenotypic values.

284 For the first approach, two different methods were used to detect outlier SNPs potentially under  
285 divergent selection (1) among the four sites (individuals from the different ecotypes were pooled), (2)  
286 among the four ecotypes (individuals from the different sites were pooled) and (3) among the four  
287 ecotypes within each site, independently. First, the program Bayescan v1.2 was used to detect outliers  
288 based on locus-specific  $F_{ST}$  with a prior odd of 10 000 and a false discovery rate (FDR) of 0.05. Bayescan  
289 was run with 5000 iterations and a burn-in length of 100 000 as recommended by Foll and Gaggiotti

290 (2008). Second, the program LFMM (Latent Factor Mixed Models) from the R package LEA was used to  
291 detect outliers based on allele frequencies exhibiting significant statistical association with selected  
292 phenotypes. Categorical variables were coded as orthogonal matrices on which a principal component  
293 analysis was applied and resulting scores were supplied to the LFMM analysis. LFMM was run with five  
294 repetitions, 10 000 cycles and 5000 burn-in as recommended by Frichot and François (2015). P-values  
295 were adjusted from their distribution and possible associations corrected for population structure detected  
296 from the admixture analysis as suggested by Frichot and François (2015).

297 For the second approach, phenotype-genotype associations were analysed with LFMM. This  
298 technique can uncover subtle changes in allele frequencies (such as expected in polygenic selection) that  
299 are not detected in traditional outlier analyses (Rellstab et al. 2015). LFMM was run with the same  
300 parameters stated in the previous paragraph with ten repetitions including the p-value adjustment, an FDR  
301 of 0.05 and a correction for population structure based on the admixture analyses. The phenotypic  
302 variables were the principal components scores for each individual that explain most of the variation for  
303 head and body shape based on the broken stick method.

#### 304 **Gene ontology**

305 Loci potentially under selection detected by either of the different approaches (Bayescan and LFMM)  
306 were blasted against the Rainbow Trout genome (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (Berthelot et al. 2014) to  
307 determine possible functions with the following parameters: an e-value threshold of  $1e-6$ , a word size of  
308 11 bp and a max target of 100 bp. Resulting loci were filtered based upon three criteria; the number of  
309 similar hits, the bit-score and sequence length. First, loci with only one hit and having  $\geq 50$  bp long were  
310 kept. Second, loci with multiple hits having the first best hit  $\geq 20$  bit -score higher than the second best hit  
311 with sequence length  $\geq 50$ bp were kept.

312

## 313 **RESULTS**

### 314 **Ecotype identification and morphometric analyses**

315 Based upon consensus analysis between head, body and visual identification, an ecotype was assigned to  
316 each fish. First, the best model for each site that distinguished, at least, between leans and siscowets with  
317 BIC values and mean uncertainties was used for ecotype assignment (Table S1). For each site, fish to be  
318 genotyped were chosen from the consensus identification (Table 1). If some ecotypes were not  
319 distinguished by the morphometric analysis from either the head or body shape, expert visual  
320 identification from these fish was used based upon the presence of life history traits divergence as stated in  
321 the Methods section (Muir et al. 2015). Based on the broken stick method, the first four PCs were retained  
322 for body shape and the first six PCs were retained for head shape corresponding to 70% and 81% of total

323 variance respectively to conduct the multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA). First, the overall shape  
324 difference between ecotypes was assessed by pooling similar ecotypes from the four sites. For the head  
325 shape, the ecotypes, the sites and the sex were significantly different ( $p < 0.001$ ). Interactions between  
326 ecotypes and sex ( $p < 0.01$ ) or sites ( $p < 0.001$ ) were also significant. Similar results were observed for  
327 body shape ( $p < 0.001$ ) (Table 2). The group-PCA revealed the same pattern for the head and body shape  
328 except that no difference between sexes was detected (Table S2, Supporting information). The first axes of  
329 the group-PCA for head shape explained 56.2% of the variance and discriminated siscowets from leans,  
330 whereas the second axis explaining 15.9% of the variance discriminated humpers from redfins (Figure 2a).  
331 For body shape, the first two axes of the group-PCA explained 65.5% and 14.5% of the variance and  
332 mainly distinguished leans from siscowets (Figure 2b). In both head and body analyses, the third and  
333 fourth axes discriminated Lake Trout more by sampling sites than ecotypes (Figure. 2c-2d). Ecotypes  
334 were not significantly different within all sites, either based on morphometric analyses of head or body  
335 shape but yet could be differentiated by visual inspection (Figure 2a-2b, Figure 3b, Table S3, Supporting  
336 information). Within Big Reef, only leans differed from siscowets and redfins in terms of both head and  
337 body shapes ( $p < 0.05$ ). Within Isle Royale, head and body shape differed between all four ecotypes ( $p <$   
338  $0.05$ ) with two exceptions; humpers did not differ from leans in body shape and leans did not differ from  
339 redfins in head shape. Within Stannard Rock, leans differed from siscowets and redfins in both head and  
340 body shape ( $p < 0.05$ ). Finally, within Superior Shoals, siscowet body shape differed from all other  
341 ecotypes ( $p < 0.05$ ), except for head shape which was not different from humper's. In addition, leans head  
342 shape was different from redfin's ( $p < 0.05$ ). In some cases, similar ecotypes from different sites had  
343 significant different head and/or body shapes (Figure 2c-2d, Figure 3b, Table S3, Supporting information).  
344 Indeed, siscowets head shape differed among sites whereas body shape was not different between Big  
345 Reef and Stannard Rock. Body shape of Superior Shoals leans differed from other leans except Isle  
346 Royale's whereas Isle Royale leans differed from Stannard Rock's. On the other hand, Isle Royale lean  
347 heads differed from both Stannard Rock and Big Reef leans. Redfins from Isle Royale differed in head  
348 and body shape from all other redfins and lastly humpers were not different from site to site. Despite the  
349 fact that not all ecotypes from all sites were morphologically different based on morphometric analyses,  
350 we conserved this grouping for the genetic analysis based on the visual inspection of other traits (e.g. size  
351 of mature fish, body or fin colours).

### 352 **Sequencing and SNP calling**

353 Raw reads cleaning and demultiplexing resulted in a total of 1.6 billion reads with an average of 3.2  
354 million reads per individual and a relatively small mean coefficient of variation (CV) of 0.23. The  
355 assembly resulted in a catalog containing 1,052,664 loci and a total of 212,804 SNPs (49,399 loci) after

356 the population module. Fifteen individuals having more than 40% missing genotype were removed from  
357 the analysis. After custom filtration 6822 high quality SNPs were retained for subsequent analysis (Table  
358 3).

### 359 **Genetic diversity and differentiation among sites and ecotypes**

360 Genetic statistics revealed modest but significant  $F_{ST}$  among some ecotypes within each sampling site  
361 (Mean  $F_{ST} = 0.0055$ ) (Figure 3a, Table S4, Supporting information). Mean  $F_{ST}$  among ecotypes within  
362 sites were as follow: Big Reef 0.0047 [0.000; 0.012], Isle Royale 0.0087 [0.001; 0.017], Stannard Rock  
363 0.0053 [0.002; 0.012] and Superior Shoals 0.0032 [0.000; 0.006]. No trend in patterns of genetic diversity  
364 was observed between ecotypes within each site (Table 4). That is, there was no evidence that diversity in  
365 some ecotypes tended to be higher than in others. On the other hand,  $F_{ST}$  among sites were on average  
366 three times higher than observed among ecotypes within site (Mean  $F_{ST} = 0.016$ ). For instance,  $F_{ST}$   
367 between sites (all four ecotypes pooled) were all significant: Big Reef ↔ Isle Royale 0.017, Big Reef ↔  
368 Stannard Rock 0.009, Big Reef ↔ Superior Shoals 0.022, Stannard Rock ↔ Isle Royale 0.02, Superior  
369 Shoals ↔ Isle Royale 0.01 and Stannard Rock ↔ Superior Shoals 0.02. A lower value between Big Reef  
370 ↔ Stannard Rock and Isle Royale ↔ Superior Shoals site pairs was consistent with their closer  
371 geographic proximity. Also genetic diversity parameters tended to show greater differences between sites,  
372 than between ecotypes within sites (Table 4). Namely, genetic diversity, in terms of nucleotide diversity  
373 ( $\pi$ ) and heterozygosity ( $H_o$ ,  $H_e$ ), was notably lower within Stannard Rock in comparison to the three other  
374 sites (Table 4). Overall, Superior Shoals ecotypes had the lowest effective population size ( $N_e$ ) estimates  
375 while having, with Isle Royale, the highest inbreeding coefficient ( $G_{is}$ ,  $F_h$ ) whereas ecotypes from Big  
376 Reef had the highest effective population size ( $N_e$ ) and the lowest inbreeding coefficient ( $G_{is}$ ,  $F_h$ ) while  
377 Stannard Rock showed intermediate indices. The more pronounced pattern of population differentiation  
378 between sites than between ecotypes was also evidenced by the AMOVA which revealed no net genetic  
379 variance explained by the ecotype grouping ( $F_{CT} = -0.002$ ) compared to the net and significant genetic  
380 variance explained by sites grouping ( $F_{CT} = 0.011$ ) (Table 5). Finally, no significant association was  
381 obtained between the  $F_{ST}$  matrix and either head ( $r = -0.1025$   $p_{value} = 0.862$ ) or body ( $r = 0.1032$   $p_{value} =$   
382 0.115) shape Euclidean distances matrices (Figure 3).

### 383 **Clustering analysis**

384 The Admixture program identified two groups (best K) corresponding to pairs of sites: Big Reef and  
385 Stannard Rock vs. Isle Royale and Superior Shoals (Figure 4a). No migrants from Isle Royale and  
386 Superior Shoals were detected in the Big Reef/Stannard Rock cluster while results suggested the  
387 occurrence of migrants and admixed individuals in the Isle Royale/Superior Shoals cluster with a tendency

388 for a greater proportion of migrants in Superior Shoals (Figure 4a). At K3-K4 Big Reef individuals tended  
389 to cluster separately from those of Stannard Rock although lean trout from Big Reef tended to be more  
390 similar to Stannard Rock leans. At K5, Isle Royale could be discriminated from Superior Shoals. Lastly, at  
391 K6 all four sites differed and some additional within-site distinctions began to appear. Within Big Reef,  
392 leans were distinct from other ecotypes, being more similar to the lean/redfin cluster from Stannard Rock.  
393 Within Isle Royale, siscowets were distinct from the other ecotypes while no obvious difference emerged  
394 between ecotypes within Superior Shoals. In addition, some siscowets from Stannard Rock seemed to be  
395 similar to Isle Royale siscowets. The NJ population tree mainly grouped ecotypes from different sites  
396 together with pair of sites closer geographically also clustering more closely in the tree (Figure 4b). In  
397 addition, as observed in the Admixture analysis, leans from Big Reef were closer to leans from Stannard  
398 Rock than from the other ecotypes within Big Reef. Admixture also showed that siscowets from Isle  
399 Royale were most distinct from the other three ecotypes within this site (Figure 4b).

#### 400 **Population assignment**

401 Assignment success to sampling sites, based on the 6822 SNPs, was high, being 85% on average and up to  
402 95% for Isle Royale and 93% for Stannard Rock (Figure 5a). Miss-assigned individuals from Big Reef  
403 were only assigned to Stannard Rock and vice-versa. Superior Shoals had a lower assignment success  
404 (78%) and had miss-assigned individuals to the three other sites. On the contrary, assignment success to  
405 ecotypes was low, being 41% on average, ranging from 12% for humpers up to 61% for siscowets (Figure  
406 5b). Ecotype assignment success within each sampling site was highly variable, being highest on average  
407 within Isle Royale (55%) and lowest within Superior Shoals (21%) and in fact similar to random  
408 expectation while Big Reef (33%) and Stannard Rock (40%) showed intermediate results (data not  
409 shown). Assignment success within Isle Royale was 76% for siscowets, 62% for leans, 52% for humpers  
410 and 33% for redfins, whereas assignment success within Superior Shoals was 46% for siscowets, 23% for  
411 redfins, 18% for leans and 0% for humpers. Within Big Reef, individuals were assigned either to  
412 siscowets or leans whatever their current ecotype was. For instance, assignment success for siscowets was  
413 82%, 51% for leans and 0% for humpers or redfins. Stannard Rock showed a similar pattern, where  
414 assignment success for siscowets was the highest (76%) followed by leans (74%) while the assignment for  
415 humpers (10%) and redfins (0%) was low.

#### 416 **Outlier detection and phenotype-genotype associations**

417 Bayescan identified a total of 52 outliers from which 49 occurred between the four sites and three between  
418 the four ecotypes (Figure 6a-6b). No outliers were detected between ecotypes within each site. In addition,  
419 no outliers were common between sites and ecotype comparisons. For LFMM, the p-values were adjusted

420 using a lambda of 0.55 ( $\lambda$ ) and population structure was corrected for each analysis using the number of  
421 ancestral groups (K) identified by Admixture for the overall dataset or within each site separately.  
422 According to the Admixture results, a K of five was used for between sites and between pooled ecotype  
423 comparisons while for within site comparisons, a K of two was used for Big Reef and Superior Shoals and  
424 a K of three was used for Isle Royale and Stannard Rock. LFMM identified a total of 670 unique outliers:  
425 554 between sites, and 116 between ecotypes in which 20 were common to both comparisons (Figure 6a-  
426 6b). Thus, the number of outliers between ecotypes was lower than that observed between sites. For within  
427 site comparisons between ecotypes, 359 outliers were detected within Big Reef, 131 within Isle Royale,  
428 360 within Stannard Rock and 120 within Superior Shoals. Overall, up to 27 outliers were common  
429 between some sites but none were common to all sites (Figure 6c). No outliers detected among ecotypes  
430 were common between LFMM and BAYESCAN but eight were common among sites.  
431 Based on the broken stick method, the first four principal components were selected to represent head  
432 shape and the first six principal components were selected to represent body shape, for a total of 10 shape  
433 variables. Briefly, the p-values were adjusted using a lambda of 0.55 ( $\lambda$ ) and population structure was  
434 corrected using a K of five. A total of 915 unique associations were detected with an FDR of 0.05 in  
435 which several were common between variables (Table S5, Supporting information). Four of these  
436 associated SNPs were common with BAYESCAN outliers (one with the between ecotype comparison and  
437 three with the between site comparison) (Figure 6a-6b). In addition, 349 of these associated SNPs were  
438 common with the previous LFMM analysis. Briefly, 71 were in common with between site comparison,  
439 20 with between ecotypes comparison, 85 with within Big Reef comparison, 48 with within Isle Royale  
440 comparison, 91 with within Stannard Rock and 34 with within Superior Shoals comparisons.

#### 441 **Annotation**

442 A total of 2056 loci detected either by BAYESCAN or LFMM between sites, between ecotypes or in  
443 association with phenotypic variation were blasted against the Rainbow Trout genome. After quality  
444 filtering, 258 loci that had an annotation in genes were retained (Table S6). From those with a known  
445 biological function, markers linked to lipid transport and metabolism as well as visual development and  
446 perception were of particular interest given previously documented phenotypic characteristics  
447 differentiating Lake Trout ecotypes (see Discussion).

#### 448 449 **DISCUSSION**

450 This is the first study to combine genomic and morphometric analyses from all four Lake Trout ecotypes  
451 from several different locations in Lake Superior. This provided the unique opportunity to investigate

452 among and within site variation and the extent of parallelism, both at the phenotypic and genomic level.  
453 Both morphometric and genomic analyses revealed within-site morphological and genetic differences  
454 between ecotypes, but in general, genetic differences were more pronounced among sites than among  
455 ecotypes, even when comparing populations of the same ecotype. Similarly, we observed that values of  
456 demographic and genetic diversity parameters generally varied more by site than by ecotype. Moreover,  
457 the extent of both morphological and genetic differences among ecotypes observed within site varied from  
458 one location to the other, thus creating a continuum of differentiation. In addition, genome scans and  
459 association tests identified several loci potentially implicated in local adaptation and phenotypic  
460 divergence among ecotypes, among which loci linked to lipid metabolism and transport as well as visual  
461 acuity and development are of particular interest (see Discussion below). The relatively large number of  
462 outlier loci identified, which globally showed relatively modest levels of genetic differentiation among  
463 sites or ecotypes, suggests a polygenic origin of both local adaptation between sites and ecotypic  
464 differentiation. We discuss the implications of these results for the understanding of the biological  
465 processes responsible for the emergence of the different ecotypes of Lake Trout as well as for their  
466 management.

#### 467 **Parallel evolution of Lake Trout ecotypes?**

468 Parallel evolution, the repeated evolution of similar phenotypic traits, has been documented in many  
469 populations within the same species (reviewed in Elmer and Meyer 2011). Shared phenotypic traits that  
470 evolved independently are generally believed to indicate parallel adaptive evolution in the face of shared  
471 environmental pressures between locations driving changes to similar optimum (Butlin et al. 2013). The  
472 evolution of these similar traits can be underlain by similar or different genome architecture (Elmer and  
473 Meyer 2011; Ralph and Coop 2014; Bernatchez 2016). Here, similar ecotypes corresponding to previously  
474 published descriptions were identified among all sampling sites. That is, a greater proportion of  
475 morphological variance, explaining 14.5% to 65.5%, clustered individual by ecotypes (first and second  
476 components of the PCAs, Figure 2a-2b) thus revealing parallelism in morphology between ecotypes from  
477 the four sampling sites. It is noteworthy that head shape better discriminated ecotypes than body shape  
478 (Figure 2a, Figure 3b), as reported previously in other Lake Trout studies both from the Great lakes and  
479 elsewhere (Chavarie et al. 2013; Moore and Bronte 2001; Alfonso 2004; Moore and Bronte 2007;  
480 Magalhaes et al. 2009). Moreover, a greater proportion of markers identified as outliers or associated with  
481 phenotypic differentiation was found for head shape compared to whole body shape. More pronounced  
482 ecotypic differentiation of head shape could suggest a predominant role for feeding ecology compared to  
483 other factors (e.g. locomotion) as the main driver for these morphological differences (Chavarie et al.  
484 2013; Magalhaes et al. 2009; Jonsson and Jonsson 2001).

485 The fact that different ecotypes within sites were generally genetically more similar than different  
486 populations of the same ecotype among sites suggests that parallel evolution is implicated in the origin  
487 and maintenance of ecotypes. Moreover, while both explanations are not exclusive, we cannot refute the  
488 possibility that more pronounced genetic similarity within sites might also reflect higher gene flow among  
489 ecotypes within sites than among population of a same ecotype among sites. This would also reflect less  
490 pronounced reproductive isolation among ecotypes within sites than among populations of a same ecotype  
491 among sites. It is also noteworthy that, although to a lesser extent some morphological components  
492 (explaining 3% to 11.5% of variance) could discriminate Lake Trout by sampling sites (third and fourth  
493 components of the PCAs, Figure 2c-2d). In some cases, such as siscowets, leans, and redfins different  
494 populations of a same ecotype from particular sites were morphologically divergent, indicating some  
495 dissimilarity in morphology. Such inter-site differences within ecotype have previously been reported by  
496 Bronte and Moore (2007) for siscowet and these were interpreted as either the presence of different  
497 reproductive populations and/or a plastic response to different environmental conditions among sites.

498 Both outlier detection methods (Bayescan and LFMM) differentiated more outlier markers among  
499 sampling sites than among ecotypes, again supporting the view that spatial variables (e.g. different  
500 environmental conditions or random genetic changes) may be more important than ecotypic differentiation  
501 in explaining the observed pattern of population structure in Lake Superior. Moreover, LFMM uncovered  
502 markers potentially under selection among ecotypes within all four sampling sites, none being common to  
503 all sites. These results also suggest that phenotypic parallelism in Lake Trout ecotypes is not accompanied  
504 by parallelism at the genome level, as reflected by the lack of association between the genetic and  
505 phenotypic divergence matrices, whereby the expression of a given ecotype in different sites is controlled  
506 by a different genetic architecture. Hypothetically there may have been random genetic differentiation  
507 (drift, founder effects in different parts of the lakes such that subsequent selection driving adaptive  
508 changes may have been acting on somewhat different gene pools in different parts of the lakes, This  
509 would lead to apparent non parallelism at the genome level. The absence of parallelism between  
510 phenotypic and genotypic differentiation has been reported in many species, including mice (*Peromyscus*  
511 *maniculatus*), cichlids, cavefish (*Astyanax mexicanus*), stickleback (*Gasterosteus* spp.), as well as ciscoes  
512 and whitefish (*Coregonus* spp.) (reviewed in Elmer and Meyer 2011; Bernatchez 2016). For instance,  
513 ciscoes in Lake Nipigon exhibit four morphological and ecological different species without evidence of  
514 corresponding neutral genetic differentiation (Turgeon et al. 1999). Similarly, ciscoes from several inland  
515 lakes showed variable levels of phenotypic differentiation which was not correlated to genetic divergence  
516 (Turgeon et al. 2016). Also, Laporte et al. (2015) recently documented a clear pattern of phenotypic  
517 parallelism in body shape between dwarf and normal sympatric pairs of lake whitefish with similar



518 genomic architecture underlying these traits being observed between some pairs but different genome  
519 architecture in others.

## 520 **Genetic origin of ecotypes**

521 Generally speaking, we found very limited support for a shared genetic origin among populations of the  
522 same ecotype. That is, we generally observed fewer genetic differences among ecotypes within sites than  
523 among populations (sites) for the same ecotype. The exception to this general pattern was for the lean  
524 ecotype for which we observed more genetic similarity between populations from Big Reef and Stannard  
525 Rock than between leans and other ecotypes from these locations. Similar results were previously reported  
526 by Ihssen (1988) and Dehring et al. (1981) who showed based on allozymes that Lake Trout of the lean  
527 ecotype from four different locations differed in allele frequencies. Different markers identified as being  
528 under selection among sites provide further support for the independent origin of ecotypes within each  
529 site. Alternatively, we cannot rule out that this may also reflect the presence of different genetic  
530 architecture underlying phenotypic variation within sites, or that markers under parallel selection were not  
531 detected because of insufficient coverage of the genome. Taken together, the combined results obtained  
532 for “neutral” and potentially “adaptive” markers highlight the contribution of both spatial isolation and  
533 local adaptation in shaping ecotypic variation within each sampling site.

534 Here, relatively large geographic distances between these sites, known for the relatively high occurrence  
535 of the four ecotypes separated by ranges of much lower abundance, may have contributed to reduce  
536 genetic exchange between spatially isolated populations. Thus, localized movements have been reported  
537 for Lake Trout based on tagging studies where an average movement of approximately 40 km has been  
538 reported (Kapusinski et al. 2005; Eschmeyer 1955). Considering that the closest sites in this study are  
539 separated by about 69 km (Big Reef/Stannard Rock) to 87 km (Isle Royale/Superior Shoals) and that sites  
540 that are the farthest are separated by 98 km (Superior Shoals/Stannard Rock) to 212 km (Isle Royale/Big  
541 Reef), the presence of spatially genetically differentiated stocks is consistent with this observation. Spatial  
542 isolation could also have been exacerbated by historical water level fluctuations. Lake Superior has a very  
543 diverse bathymetric habitat covered by peaks and valleys, thus creating geographical barriers particularly  
544 when water levels fluctuated. This situation is thought to have occurred 8000 years ago, which could have  
545 triggered the spatial pattern of genetic divergence seen today (Bronte and Moore 2007).

546 Our data also revealed a continuum in the extent of both genetic and phenotypic divergence underlying the  
547 observed ecotypes ranging from intra-population polymorphism to clear genetically distinct populations  
548 within a sampling location. The extent of morphological differentiation in both head and body shape was  
549 also variable depending on the site being examined. Although the explanations for this pattern of  
550 continuum in morphological divergence are only hypothetical at this time, this could reflect different

551 levels of trophic polymorphism associated with different selective pressures (e.g. competitive  
552 interactions), as reported for other species, including Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) (Lu and  
553 Bernatchez 1999; Gagnaire et al 2013), Arctic Charr (*S. alpinus*) (Gislason et al. 1999), or Three-spined  
554 Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) (Hendry et al. 2009). The extent of genetic divergence between  
555 ecotypes was also variable depending on the site examined suggesting that different levels of reproductive  
556 isolation accompany different levels of phenotypic divergence (see references above, also reviewed by  
557 Hendry 2009).

558 In contrast to our general observation of higher genetic differentiation among sites than among ecotypes  
559 within site, a recent study conducted in Great Bear Lake, found more pronounced genetic differentiation  
560 among Lake Trout ecotypes than among sampling sites (Harris et al. 2014). These authors hypothesized  
561 that stronger genetic and morphological differentiation in Great Bear Lake could be due to its more  
562 pristine environment and limited human impact compared to Lake Superior where these factors may have  
563 altered the original pattern of population structuring. For instance, considerable stocking and fishery  
564 harvest has occurred in Lake Superior, which could certainly have had an impact on the extent of  
565 population admixture (Guinand et al. 2003) compared to Great Bear Lake, which has not been stocked and  
566 has only been subject to minor fishery harvest. However, it is noteworthy that stocking has been done  
567 essentially for the lean ecotype (Page et al. 2004). Consequently, it seems unlikely that this could explain  
568 the general pattern of structuring we documented for other ecotypes, although it could possibly explain  
569 why leans from different locations were more similar in some cases, as explained above.

570 In sum, the combined genomic and morphological data support the hypothesis that ecotypic differentiation  
571 among Lake Trout ecotypes from different geographic locations within Lake Superior can be arrayed  
572 along a continuum from quasi-panmixia to relatively pronounced reproductive isolation, mimicking the  
573 inter-specific pattern described by Hendry et al. (2009) among lacustrine north temperate freshwater  
574 fishes. Consequently, variation along this continuum might profitably be used for studying factors,  
575 outlined by Hendry et al. (2009), which can promote or constrain progress toward ecological speciation,  
576 including plasticity, natural selection, mate choice, geography, or historical contingency. However, the  
577 present study cannot rule out the possibility that different anthropogenic impacts among sites could have  
578 also contributed to the observed pattern of genomic and phenotypic variation. Indeed, a recent study  
579 conducted by Baillie et al. (2016) highlighted substantive losses of genetic diversity and genetic distances  
580 in lean, siscowet and humper trout from post-collapse recovery (1995-1999) compared to contemporary  
581 period (2004-2013). This homogenisation could be the result of overexploitation, intensive stocking and  
582 invasions of non-native species which could have led to the overlap in breeding or foraging area thus  
583 increasing hybridisation. Biodiversity losses and speciation reversal caused by anthropogenic activities

584 have been recorded in several freshwater species such as Lake Victoria cichlids (Seehausen et al. 2008),  
585 Great Lakes ciscoes (*Coregonus spp.*) (Todd and Stedman 1989) as well as the European whitefish  
586 (*Coregonus spp.*) (Bhat et al. 2014; Hudson et al. 2013).

#### 587 **Evidence of local adaptation and functional annotation**

588 In both spatial and ecotypic differentiation however, a much larger proportion of markers potentially  
589 under selection were detected by the LFMM method compared to Bayescan, the former known to be more  
590 sensitive to polygenic effects, suggesting that weak or polygenic selection might be responsible for the  
591 observed pattern of “adaptive differentiation”, both spatially and between ecotypes (Rellstab et al. 2015).  
592 Of the 258 loci for which successful annotation could be retrieved, several were of particular interest and  
593 linked to ecotypic differences observed in the present system. Two loci were linked to visual development  
594 and acuity of the retina; retinal guanylyl cyclase 2 and retinitis pigmentosa 1-like 1 protein, and one to  
595 visual perception; peripherin-2-like. Both markers linked to visual development and acuity were found in  
596 significant association with the second component of the head shape analysis from which the highest  
597 loading was for the eye position (landmark number 26). Changes in size, location and sensitivity of the  
598 eyes have been associated to adaptation to low light environment (Von der Emde et al. 2004). Indeed,  
599 larger eyes with a predominance of rods are known to increase visual acuity (Von der Emde et al. 2004).  
600 Large eyes, close to the snout have been reported in other deepwater, salmonid morphs similar to the  
601 siscowet and humper ecotypes in Lake Superior, potentially reflecting adaptation to low light condition  
602 (Eshenroder 2008; Skoglund et al. 2015; Moore and Bronte 2001).

603 Annotated markers of interest were also linked to lipid binding, transport, regulation and metabolism. A  
604 total of three annotated markers were linked to lipid binding; the spectrin beta non-erythrocytic 4-like  
605 isoform x1 and 1-like isoform x2 (SPTBN4, SPTBN1) and the calcium-dependant secretion activator 1  
606 (CADPS), and one marker was linked to transport; the lipid phosphate phosphatase-related protein type 4-  
607 like (LPPR4) (<http://genecards.org>). SPTBN4 was found in significant association with the first  
608 component of the body shape analysis which was linked to belly curvature whereas SPTBN1 and CADPS  
609 were found in significant association with among ecotype analyses and LPPR4 in significant association  
610 with head depth. High lipid levels in the muscle of the deepwater siscowet ecotype have long been  
611 described and suggested to facilitate vertical migration in the water column by providing hydrostatic lift  
612 (Henderson and Anderson 2002; Eschmeyer and Phillips 1965).

613 Also, Goetz et al. (2010) showed that differences in lipid levels between the lean and the siscowet ecotype  
614 persist when reared under identical conditions. They also found several differentially expressed genes in  
615 controlled conditions between these two ecotypes linked to lipid metabolism. Interestingly, four of the  
616 annotated markers in the present study were also found to be differentially expressed by Goetz et al.

617 (2010), further suggesting that our study identified some candidate genes involved in the differentiation  
618 between these ecotypes. The four markers in common are the alpha-tectorin-like protein, the fk506-  
619 binding protein 5-like isoform x3, the galactosamine (n-acetyl)-6-sulfate sulfatase and the Peroxisome  
620 proliferator activated receptor. Functional descriptions of most of these genes are still lacking, therefore  
621 mechanistic links between these markers and Lake Trout ecotypic adaptations remains unknown. In sum,  
622 the hypothesis of genetically based adaptation in Lake Trout is supported by at least a few divergent  
623 annotated genes that are linked to biological functions (e.g., vision, lipid metabolism). These same genes  
624 are believed to play roles in the local adaptation to different water depths and trophic resource use (Goetz  
625 et al. 2010).

### 626 **Limitations**

627 Admittedly, we must also consider the possibility that several alternative factors could explain the pattern  
628 of continuum in ecotypic divergence observed here. Namely, sample sizes were small in some cases,  
629 especially for the humper ecotype, which could have limited our power to detect genetic divergence,  
630 namely between humper and redfin ecotypes. Also, our capability of assigning Lake Trout to different  
631 ecotypes based on their morphology varied among sites, which may have created artificially admixed  
632 groups of individuals resulting in lower level of differentiation among them. In such a case however, the  
633 clustering analysis performed with Admixture should have detected such groups of admixed individuals  
634 from different populations, which was not the case here. Instead, Admixture revealed homogeneous  
635 groups of individuals, independent of their ecotype in locations where we observed very weak or no  
636 genetic differentiation. Arguably, our results do not rule out a role for phenotypic plasticity induced by  
637 exposure to different environmental conditions, which will require further common garden studies of other  
638 ecotypes (humper and redfins ecotypes) from other locations, as performed by Goetz et al. (2010). In fact,  
639 phenotypic plasticity may have played an important role in the diversification of Lake trout ecotypes  
640 within Lake Superior. Indeed, the presence of environmentally induced (plastic) polymorphism within  
641 population has been hypothesized to facilitate the process of divergence (Adams and Huntingford 2004;  
642 Pfennig et al. 2010). Thus, phenotypic plasticity can promote the emergence of divergent phenotypes on  
643 which selection can act (Pfennig et al. 2010). In addition, trophic polymorphism may be an effective way  
644 to promote speciation by resource use because it may trigger reproductive isolation (Pfennig et al. 2010;  
645 Smith and Skúlason 1996). Finally, studies on sympatric ecotypes such as cichlids, whitefish and arctic  
646 charr have shown, using common-garden experiments, that some morphological characters were plastic  
647 and others heritable, thus demonstrating the role of phenotypic plasticity in shaping divergence (Adams  
648 and Huntingford 2004; Magalhaes et al. 2009; Lundsgaard-Hansen et al. 2013). Finally, when using  
649 methods of reduced genome representation such as RADseq, it is important to keep in mind that only a

650 small subsample of the whole genome variation has been screened. Consequently, some important targets  
651 of selection are most likely missed in such studies and results must be interpreted cautiously and  
652 accordingly. Here, this means that the interpretations of observed differences with a reduced genome  
653 representation are conservative.

#### 654 **Management implications**

655 The maintenance of genetic diversity, and thus the potential of a species to evolve in the face of a  
656 changing environment is central in conservation genomics and fishery management (Toro and Caballero  
657 2005). Improper management may lead to depletion of the resource and/or impaired resilience by  
658 decreasing genetic diversity or eroding local adaptations (Laikre et al. 2005; Zimmerman et al. 2009).  
659 Management units are groups of conspecific individuals among which connectivity is sufficiently low so  
660 that each group should be managed separately (Palsboll et al. 2007). The delineation of these management  
661 units is still debated and has usually been based upon the rejection of panmixia (Waples and Gaggiotti  
662 2006) or the absolute amount of population divergence between populations (Palsboll et al. 2007).  
663 Thresholds above which populations should be considered distinct management and demographically  
664 independent units do not exist, but a dispersal level < 10% has been suggested (Palsboll et al. 2007).  
665 Based on our results, the primary basis to define management units in Lake Trout of Lake Superior should  
666 be the sampling sites rather than ecotypes since we observed pronounced levels of net genetic  
667 differentiation and high assignment success (varying between 74-95%) among sites compared to net  
668 genetic differentiation and very low assignment success (varying between 12-61%) among ecotypes. Yet,  
669 depending on locations, ecotypic differentiation must also be considered since ecotypes were also  
670 genetically distinct in some cases, such as Isle Royale in particular. Also, evidence of local adaptation was  
671 uncovered and therefore, caution must be taken within sites to avoid depletion of locally adapted traits by  
672 stocking or exploitation. Since the extirpation of Lake Trout from most of the Great Lakes other than  
673 Superior, stocking programs have been developed in some lakes without success (Page et al. 2003).  
674 Matching stocking sites with proper ecotype could increase reintroduction success (Zimmerman et al.  
675 2009). Based on this study, we would advocate for reintroduction and translocation of Lake Trout from  
676 the least genetically differentiated site, namely Superior Shoals since this would provide the full range of  
677 ecotypic differentiation within a quasi-panmictic gene pool, a situation that would be reminiscent of the  
678 early stage of ecological speciation (Smith and Skúlason 1996; Hendry 2009). Moreover, such intra-  
679 population polymorphism may increase survival in a new environment while maintaining genetic diversity  
680 and potential for local adaptation (Wennersten and Forsman 2012). In addition, our results provided  
681 limited evidence for local adaptation associated with ecotypic differentiation at this location, which could  
682 improve survival in a different lake environment given that local adaptation is typically associated with

683 trade-offs wherein locally adapted individuals exhibit higher fitness in their local environment compared  
684 with individuals from a different population and environment (Kawecki and Ebert 2004). However,  
685 further studies on the extent of population differentiation throughout Lake Superior will be necessary not  
686 only to better define boundaries to gene flow but also characterise potentially adaptive traits in other  
687 localities.

688

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1028

1029 **Data accessibility**

1030 Individuals raw sequences are available at the Sequence Read Archive (SRA) (Study accession  
1031 SRP096183) and necessary data for genomic and morphometric analyses are available at Dryad doi:  
1032 10.5061/dryad.k713n .

1033

1034 **Author contributions**

1035 A. Muir and F. Goetz provided samples and visual identification. L. Bernatchez and A. Muir conceived  
1036 the study, and A. Perreault did the laboratory work, analysed the data and wrote the paper. C. Perrier  
1037 assisted in data analysis and writing the manuscript. E. Normandeau helped for bioinformatic analysis. P.  
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1039 manuscript. All authors approved and edited the manuscript.

1040



1041 **Figures**

1042

1043 **Figure 1.** Map of Lake Superior sampling sites; Isle Royale, Superior Shoals, Stannard Rock and Big  
1044 Reef. Circles correspond to sampling locations for each site.

1045

1046 **Figure 2.** Between-group PCA on partial warps of 501 Lake Trout. **(a)** First and second principal  
1047 components for head shape representing 56.2% and 15.9% of the variance respectively distinguishing the  
1048 four ecotypes. **(b)** First and second principal components for body shape representing 65.5% and 14.5% of  
1049 the variance respectively that distinguish leans from siscowets based mainly on belly curvature. **(c)** Third  
1050 and fourth principal component for head shape representing 11.5% and 7.2% of the variance respectively  
1051 distinguishing the four sites. **(d)** Third and fourth principal components for body shape representing 8.8%  
1052 and 3.0% of the variance respectively distinguishing the four sites. The colored points refer to the mean  
1053 scores for each ecotype in each site. The sites are: Big Reef (black), Isle Royale (blue), Stannard Rock  
1054 (red) and Superior Shoals (green). Ecotypes are: Siscowet (FT), Humper (HT), Lean (LT) and Redfin  
1055 (RF). Under each ecotype are drawn the consensus shapes of all four ecotypes (gray) with the outline of  
1056 the ecotype in question (black). The shaded ellipses have been drawn for clarity.

1057

1058 **Figure 3.** Heatmaps of (a) calculated  $F_{ST}$  values, and (b) calculated Euclidean distances between groups  
1059 averages for body (below diagonal) and head (above diagonal) shape for the four ecotypes and four  
1060 sampling sites. Ecotypes are: Siscowet (FT), Humper (HT), Lean (LT) and Redfin (RF).

1061

1062 **Figure 4.** Population structure analysis of Lake Trout. **(a)** Admixture plot based on 486 individuals and  
1063 6822 SNPs (including outliers) for different values of K. Individuals are shown by sites and ecotypes. **(b)**  
1064 Neighbour joining tree based on 486 individuals and 6822 SNPs including outliers. Yellow circles  
1065 represent Big Reef, orange circles Stannard Rock, blue circles Isle Royale and green circles Superior  
1066 Shoals. Bootstrapping support is indicated on each branch. The four ecotypes are represented for each site;  
1067 Lean (LT), Humper (HT), Redfin (RF) and Siscowet (FT).

1068

1069 **Figure 5.** Assignment success of individuals to their sampling sites **(a)** or ecotypes **(b)**. Percentage  
1070 assignment is written below circles with the exact number of individuals assigned within brackets.  
1071 Percentage of correct assignment to either sampling sites or ecotypes is in bold. Sites are: Big Reef (BR),  
1072 Isle Royale (IR), Stannard Rock (SR), Superior Shoals (SS). Ecotypes are: Humper (HT), Siscowet (FT),  
1073 Lean (LT) and Redfin (RF).

1074  
1075 **Figure 6.** Venn diagrams of outliers detected by LFMM and BAYESCAN among sites, ecotypes or  
1076 among ecotypes within sites. **a)** Outliers detected among the four sites by BAYESCAN and LFMM  
1077 including outliers detected by LFMM using morphological PC scores. **b)** Outliers detected among the four  
1078 pooled ecotypes by BAYESCAN and LFMM including outliers detected by LFMM using morphological  
1079 PC scores. **c)** Outliers among ecotypes within each site detected by LFMM.

1080

## 1081 **Tables**

1082

1083 **Table 1.** Sampling site information and consensus analysis of body shape, head shape and visual  
1084 identification. Number of fish sampled per sampling site (N), year of collection and coordinates is  
1085 provided. Ecotypes were identified by consensus analysis of body shape (B) and/or head shape (H) and/or  
1086 visual identification (V). Fish for subsequent genetic analysis were chosen based on ecotype consensus.  
1087 Fish less than 430 mm long were removed prior to the analysis.

1088

1089 **Table 2.** MANOVA on body and head shape to investigate the effect of the ecotype, the site of origin, the sex and  
1090 all interactions. Significant variables are in bold.

1091

1092 **Table 3.** Number of SNPs remaining after each filtration step. Allelic imbalance corresponds to the ratio  
1093 of the number of sequences for the major allele on the number of sequences for the minor allele.

1094

1095 **Table 4.** Population statistics estimated with 6822 SNPs: the observed heterozygosity ( $H_o$ ), the expected  
1096 heterozygosity ( $H_e$ ), the inbreeding coefficient ( $G_{is}$ ), the effective population size ( $N_e$ ) and confidence  
1097 interval in brackets, and the number of polymorphic loci (N). Genome-wide diversity ( $\pi$ ) and the increase  
1098 in individual homozygosity relative to mean Hardy-Weinberg expected homozygosity ( $F_h$ ) was calculated  
1099 on the dataset prior to filtration. Effective population size for ecotypes with sample size < 15 individuals  
1100 were not calculated (NA). Ecotypes are: Siscowet (FT), Humper (HT), Lean (LT) and Redfin (RF).

1101

1102 **Table 5.** Analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) on 486 individuals and 6822 SNPs. Missing data has  
1103 been replaced by random picking in the overall pool of allele frequency.

Sites	Year	Coordinates	N		Lean-like	Siscowet-like	Humper-like	Redfin-like	no consensus	Total
Big Reef	2014	46°46,545°N	132	Consensus	39 <sup>B, H, V</sup>	46 <sup>B, H, V</sup>	8 <sup>V</sup>	17 <sup>V</sup>	13	123
		86°28,378°W		Chosen	39	40	8	17	104	
Stannard Rock	2013-2014	47°11,450°N	362	Consensus	63 <sup>B, H, V</sup>	66 <sup>B, H, V</sup>	24 <sup>V</sup>	24 <sup>v</sup>	40	217
		87°11,531°W		Chosen	40	40	24	24	128	
Isle Royale	2013	47°21,550°N	214	Consensus	55 <sup>B, H, V</sup>	37 <sup>B, H, V</sup>	35 <sup>H, V</sup>	33 <sup>H, V</sup>	42	202
		88°30,497°W		Chosen	40	37	34	33	144	
Superior Shoals	2013	48°02,464°N	394	Consensus	35 <sup>B, H, V</sup>	133 <sup>B, H, V</sup>	11 <sup>V</sup>	62 <sup>B, V</sup>	74	315
		87°07,536°W		Chosen	31	41	11	42	125	

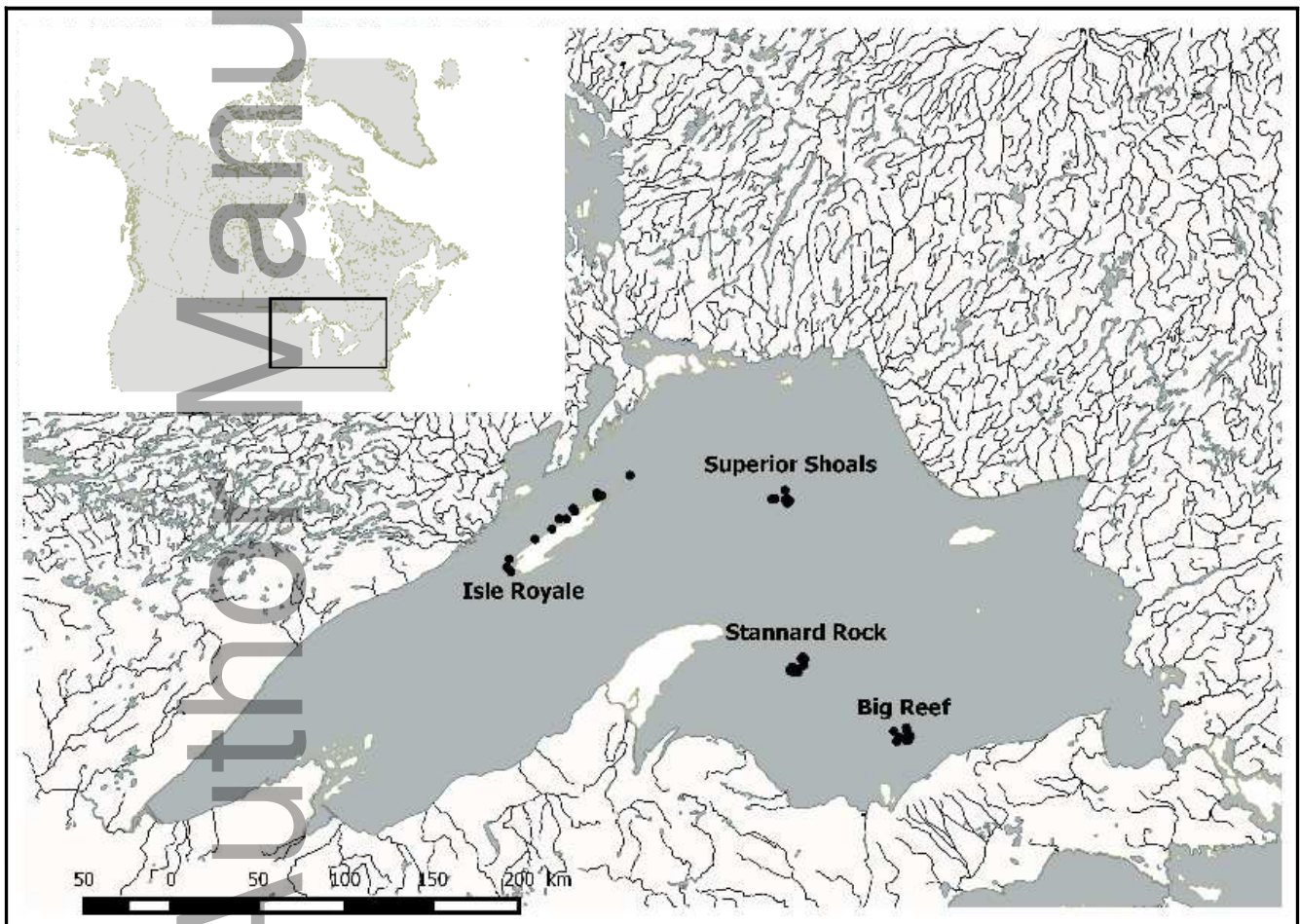
Variables	Df	Body					Head					
		Pillai	Approx F	Num Df	Den Df	Pr (> F)	Df	Pillai	Approx F	Num Df	Den Df	Pr (> F)
Ecotype	3	0.59616	28.7686	12	1392	< <b>2.2 e-16</b>	3	0.79729	27.871	18	1386	< <b>2.2 e-16</b>
Site	3	0.43694	19.7752	12	1392	< <b>2.2 e-16</b>	3	0.90345	33.181	18	1386	< <b>2.2 e-16</b>
Sex	1	0.10732	13.8857	4	462	<b>1.052e-10</b>	1	0.10040	8.556	6	460	<b>7.883 e-09</b>
Ecotype: Site	9	0.47419	6.9486	36	1860	< <b>2.2 e-16</b>	9	0.52612	4.966	54	2790	< <b>2.2 e-16</b>
Ecotype: Sex	3	0.05388	2.1214	12	1392	<b>0.01339</b>	3	0.11061	2.948	18	1386	<b>3.28 e-05</b>
Site : Sex	3	0.04189	1.6427	12	1392	0.07412	3	0.04268	1.111	18	1386	0.3344
Ecotype: Site : Sex	9	0.07982	1.0520	36	1860	0.38565	9	0.12499	1.099	54	2790	0.2891

<b>Before filtration:</b>	<b>Count</b>
Catalog	1,052,664 loci
After population module ( $\geq$ 70% individuals in $\geq 2$ sites )	212,804 SNP
<b>Filters:</b>	
<u>Genotype quality:</u>	
Genotype likelihood ( $\geq 6$ )	
Allelic imbalance ( $\leq 5$ )	193,678 SNP
<u>Hardy-Weinberg:</u>	
Heterozygosity ( $\leq 0.6$ )	
Fis [-0.3; 0.3]	185,445 SNP
<u>MAF:</u>	
Global ( $\geq 0.01$ ) and/or Local (site) ( $\geq 0.05$ )	17,812 SNP
<u>Locus:</u>	
Maximum number of SNP per locus ( $\leq 8$ )	13,984 SNP
<u>Position:</u>	
1th SNP per locus kept	6822 SNP

		<b>H<sub>0</sub></b>	<b>H<sub>e</sub></b>	$\pi$	<b>N<sub>e</sub></b>	<b>G<sub>is</sub></b>	<b>F<sub>h</sub></b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Big Reef</b>	<b>LT</b>	0.067	0.067	0.000319	415 [356; 498]	-0.007	-1.04E-07	4132
	<b>FT</b>	0.074	0.072	0.000353	925 [698; 1365]	-0.027	-1.29E-07	4564
	<b>RF</b>	0.073	0.071	0.000337	1341 [646; infinite]	-0.03	-1.44E-07	3238
	<b>HT</b>	0.072	0.069	0.000334	NA	-0.034	-1.84E-07	2022
<b>Isle Royale</b>	<b>LT</b>	0.075	0.077	0.000393	181 [171; 194]	0.027	-5.58E-08	4904
	<b>FT</b>	0.074	0.075	0.000358	122 [116; 128]	0.012	-5.52E-08	4751
	<b>RF</b>	0.079	0.080	0.000387	124 [118; 131]	0.015	-5.41E-08	4663
	<b>HT</b>	0.074	0.075	0.000366	192 [178; 209]	0.017	-5.36E-08	4510
<b>Stannard Rock</b>	<b>LT</b>	0.062	0.061	0.000284	487 [408; 603]	-0.011	-9.50E-08	3649
	<b>FT</b>	0.062	0.061	0.000285	159 [149; 171]	-0.007	-9.18E-08	3638
	<b>RF</b>	0.062	0.061	0.000281	250 [213; 301]	-0.018	-1.03E-07	2923
	<b>HT</b>	0.061	0.060	0.000276	199 [174; 230]	-0.016	-1.05E-07	2920
<b>Superior Shoals</b>	<b>LT</b>	0.081	0.082	0.000385	146 [137; 155]	0.01	-6.30E-08	4538
	<b>FT</b>	0.078	0.080	0.000378	133 [127; 139]	0.021	-5.14E-08	5022
	<b>RF</b>	0.076	0.077	0.000367	94 [91; 97]	0.007	-7.57E-08	5227
	<b>HT</b>	0.073	0.074	0.000367	NA	0.012	-7.57E-08	2727

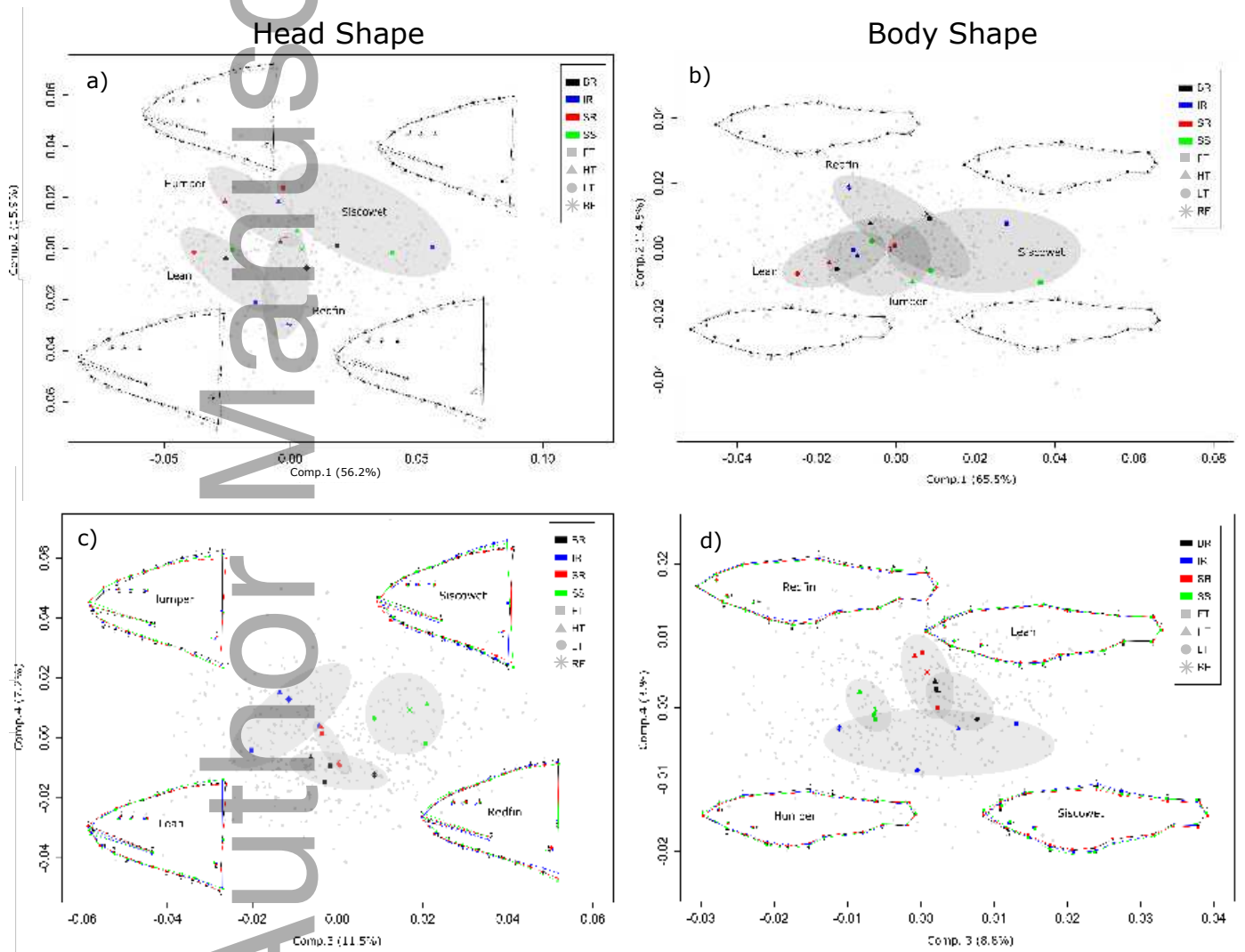
Source of variation	% Variance	F-stat	F-value	Std.Dev.	c.i.2.5%	c.i.97.5%	p-value
<b>Sites as group</b>							
Among sites	0.011	F <sub>CT</sub>	0.011	0.000	0.01	0.012	< 0.001
Among ecotypes within sites	0.004	F <sub>SC</sub>	0.004	0.000	0.004	0.005	< 0.001
<b>Ecotypes as group</b>							
Among ecotypes	-0.002	F <sub>CT</sub>	-0.002	0.000	-0.002	-0.002	0.95
Among sites within ecotypes	0.015	F <sub>SC</sub>	0.015	0.000	0.014	0.016	< 0.001

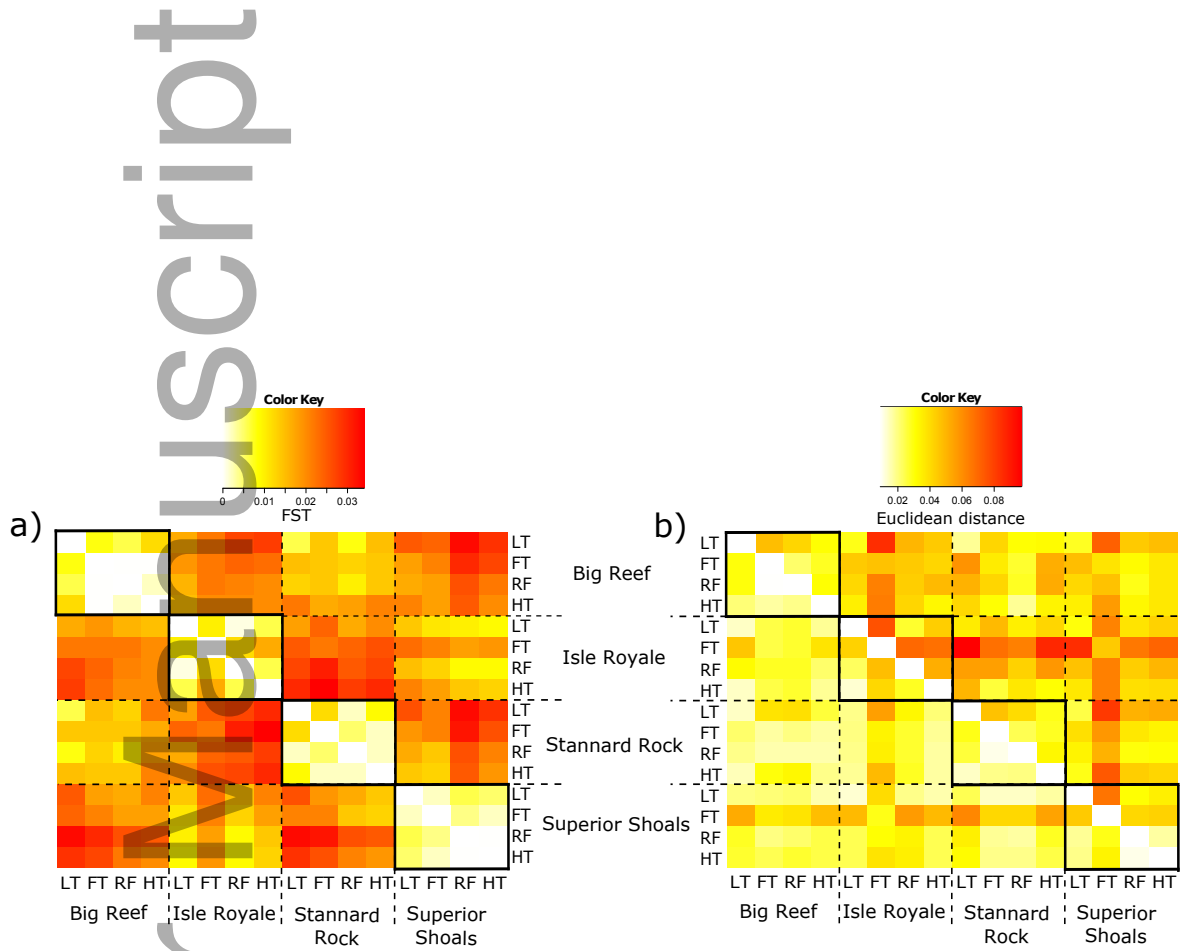
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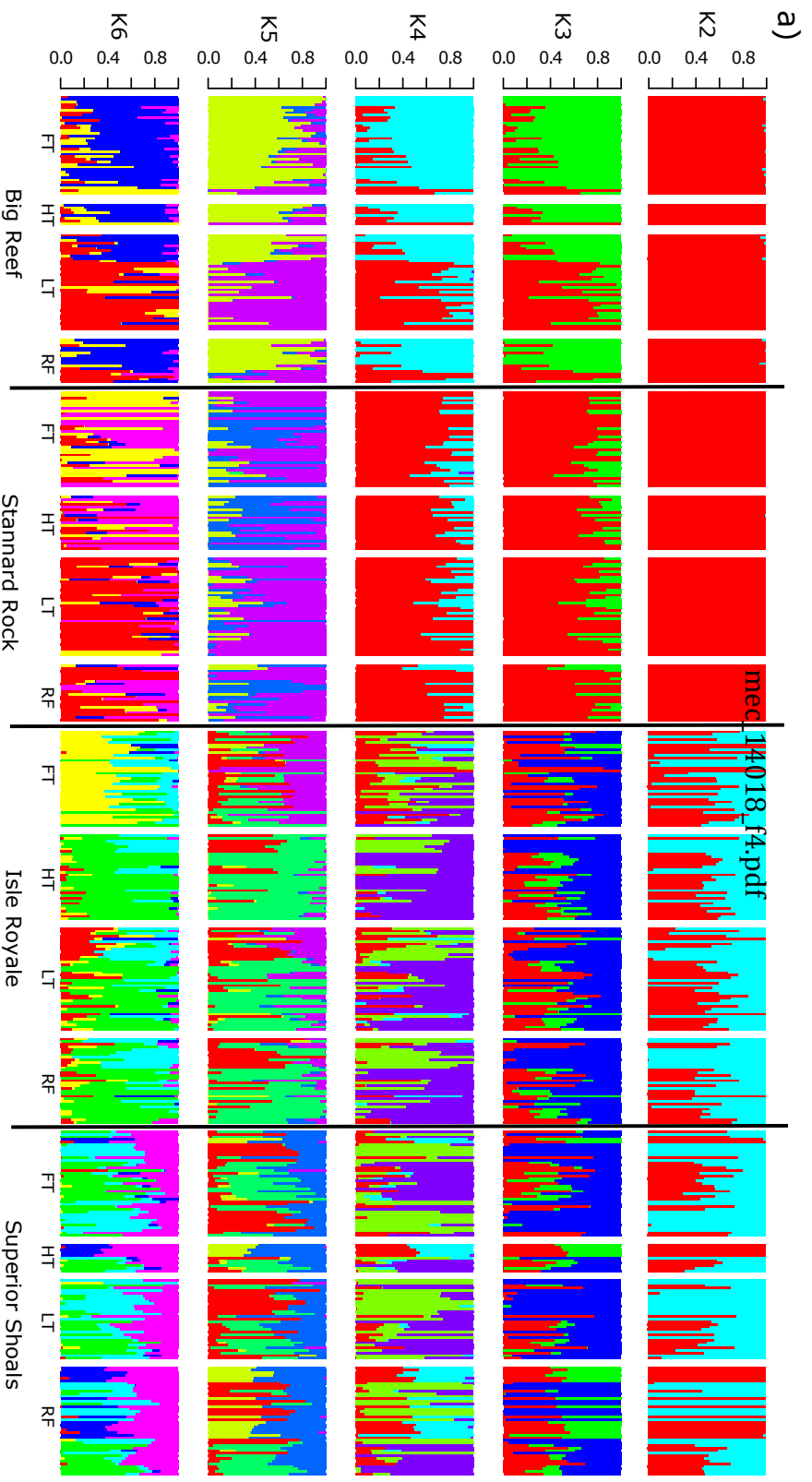




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