

SEA TROUT MIGRATIONS AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

P 04 J. CHAT, S. MASSON, A. MANICKI, J.-C. AYMES, F. GUERAUD, P. COSTE, F. LANGE, J. RIVES, E. HUCHET, O. LEPAIS

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Introduction

Gathering together information individual movement and gene flow is

Material & methods **SEA TROUT MOVEMENTS**

Our study took place in the South-eastern corner of the Biscay Bay, a place where brown trout exhibits a high level of genetic structuring compared to the rest of the Atlantic coast.

We genotyped 900 juveniles collected by electrofishing

and 700 sea trout

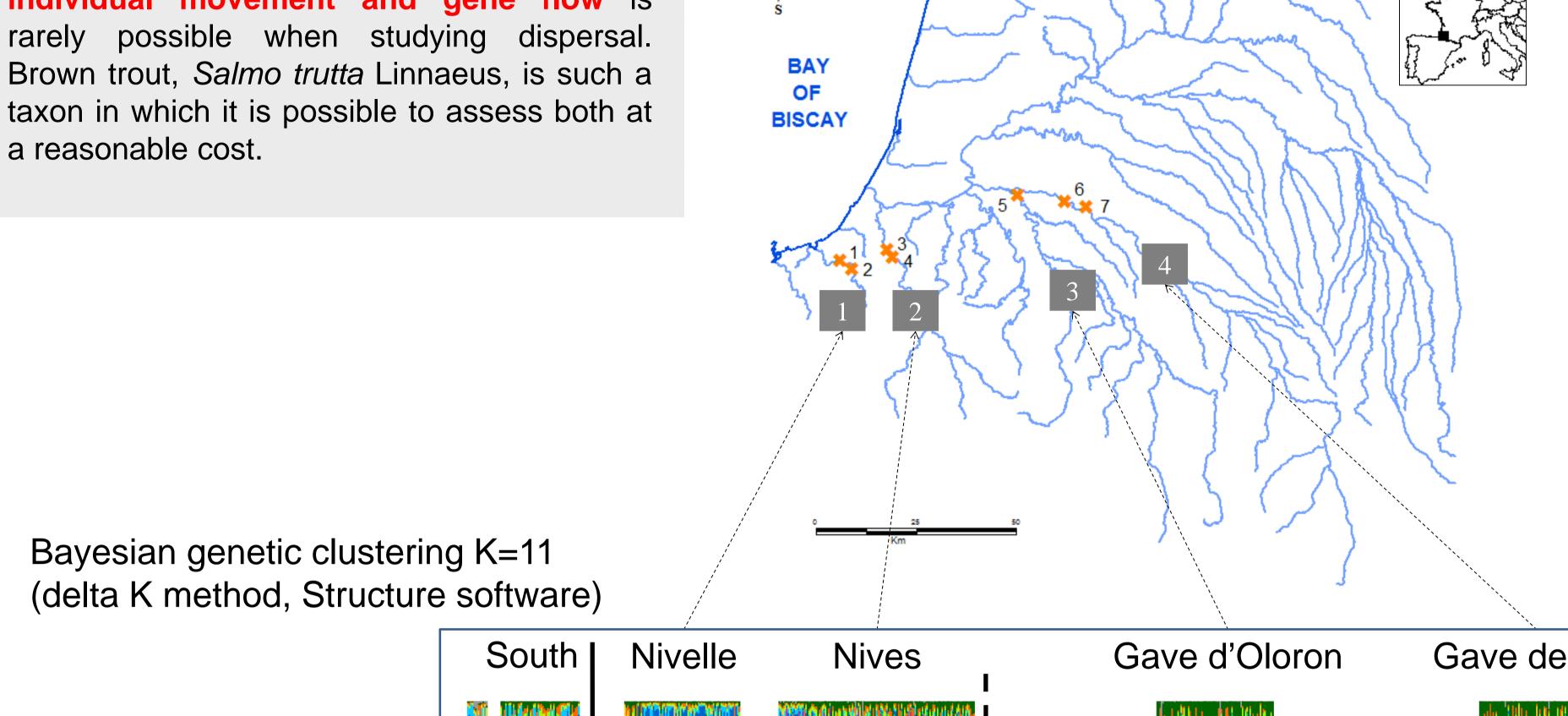
in 4 drainage basins corresponding to

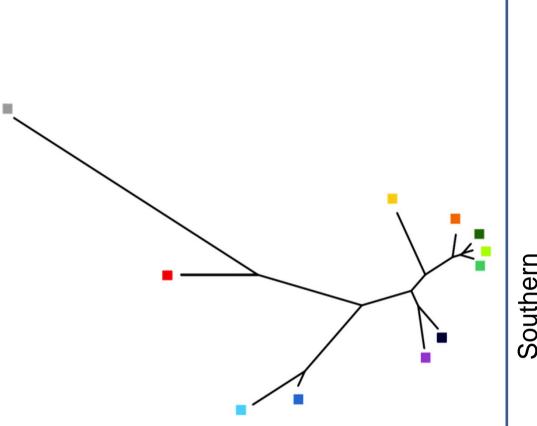
4 important migratory corridors:

Using juvenile multilocus genotypes (11 SSRs) as a baseline, we were able to dissociate sea trout movement from effective dispersal using Structure,

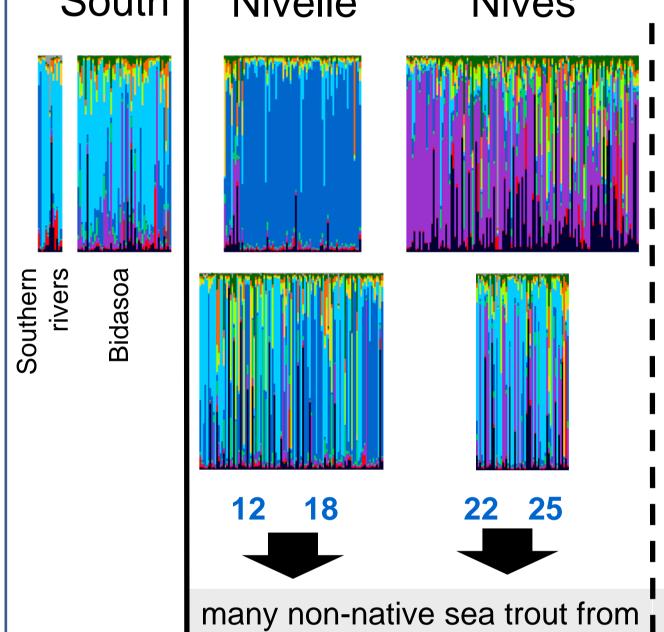
Oncor, and Bayesass softwares.

North

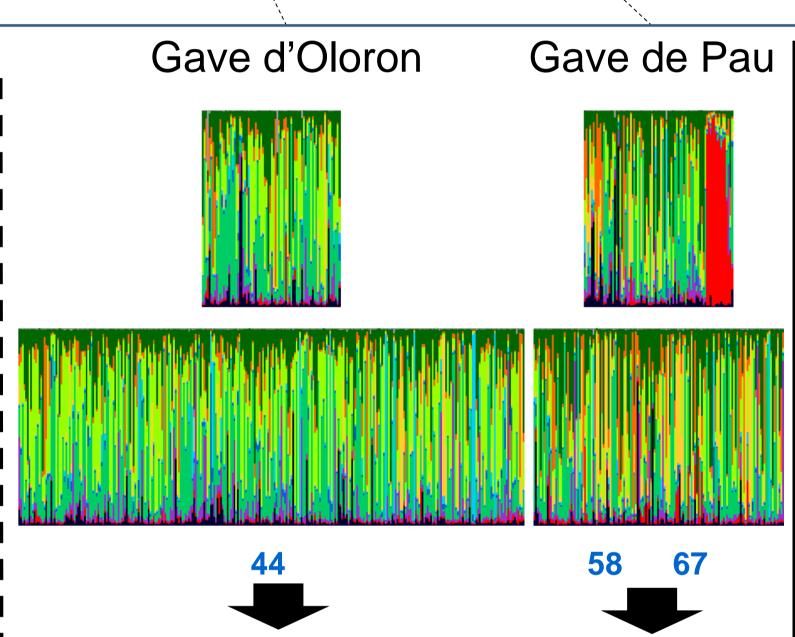




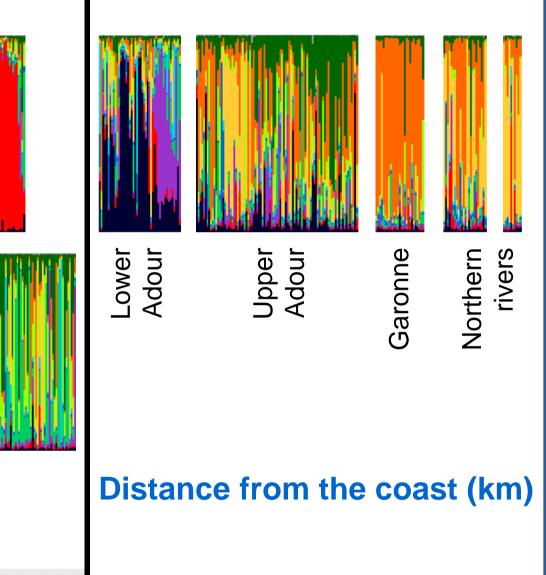
Neighbour joining tree representing distance between the 11 genetic clusters



Bidasoa or nearby rivers

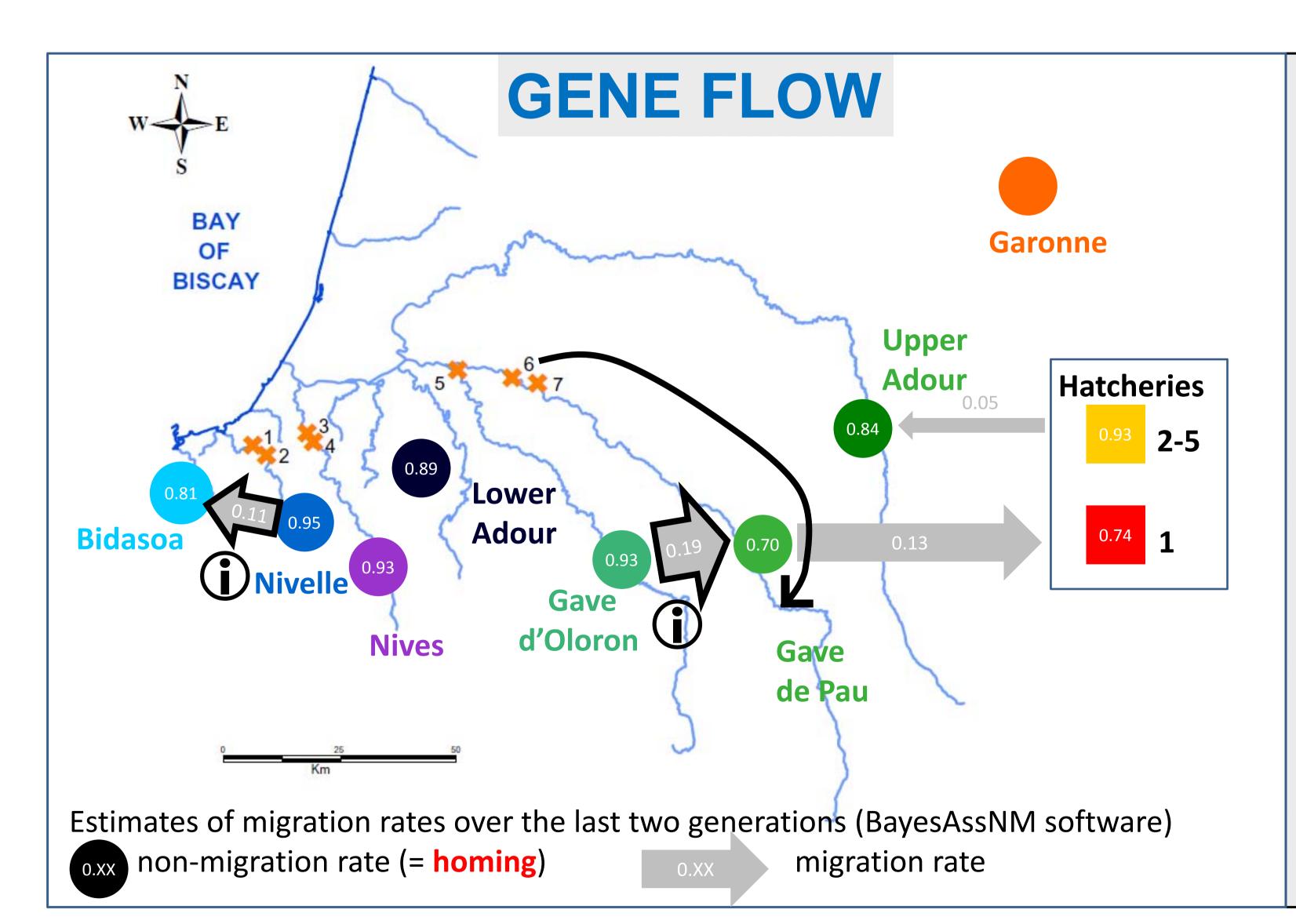


most of the sea trout are native









Stocking has a significant but locally-limited impact on population genetic structure.

Sea trout are largely driven by a homing behaviour (=movement + reproduction), as evidenced by the strong genetic structuring observed among resident trout populations and the absence of any noticeable gene flow from neighbouring catchments

BUT, some management practices involving sea trout seem to have seriously impacted local genetic structuring of the resident trout populations.

Gave d'Oloron

Gave de Pau

140 sea trout L>45 cm (among which 19% are genetically assigned to Gave d'Oloron by ONCOR) were transported from downstream to upstream between 1999-2002, more than seventy km away.



Nivelle



supportive breeding using adults captured at Bidasoa's fish traps adopted in the early 2000s.

Conclusions

- Non-native sea trout entry, even when massive, does not translate into effective dispersal unless a fish management policy interferes with, illustrating the gap between the two kinds of dispersal assessments.
- Due to the possible occurrence of non-native sea trout within any river, a precautionary approach should be applied to any management practices involving sea trout.







