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**Stock structure of Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus* L.) in the Norwegian  
Sea and adjacent waters**

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25 ABSTRACT: The genetic structure of Atlantic herring *Clupea harengus* was investigated in  
26 its north-easterly distribution at the Norwegian Sea and adjacent waters, using 23 neutral and  
27 one non-neutral (Cpa111) microsatellite loci. Fish from the two main suspected populations,  
28 the Norwegian spring-spawning herring (NSSH) and the Icelandic summer-spawning herring  
29 (ISSH), were collected at spawning locations/seasons from 2009 to 2012. Samples were also  
30 collected from Norwegian autumn spawning locations and from different local Norwegian  
31 fjords such as inner part of Trondheimsfjorden, Lindås pollene, Landvikvannet and  
32 Lusterfjorden, as well as from suspected Faroese spawning components. The observed level  
33 of genetic differentiation was significant but low ( $F_{ST} = 0.007$ ) and mostly attributable to the  
34 differentiation of the local Norwegian fjord populations. The locus Cpa111, which was  
35 detected to putatively be under positive selection, exhibited the highest  $F_{ST}$  value, ( $F_{ST} =$   
36 0.044). The observed genetic patterns were robust to exclusion of this locus. Landvikvannet  
37 herring was also genetically distinguishable from the three other fjord populations. In  
38 addition, the present study does not support genetic structuring among the Icelandic summer-  
39 spawning herring and the Norwegian spring-spawning herring.

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42 KEY WORDS: Atlantic herring, Norwegian Sea, Norwegian fjords, microsatellite loci,  
43 adaptation, gene flow.

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## INTRODUCTION

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Several approaches have been used to understand the population structuring of marine taxa from life-history (Einarsson 1951, Ricklefs & Wikelski 2002, Arai et al. 2006, Curtis & Vincent 2006, Clarke et al. 2007, Silva et al. 2013) and tracking studies (Fridriksson & Aasen 1950, Fritsch et al. 2007, Wood et al. 2007, Donaldson et al. 2008, Tamdrari et al. 2012a, Tamdrari et al. 2012b, Thorsteinsson et al. 2012, Whitlock et al. 2012), to population dynamics (Amilhat & Lorenzen 2005, Syrjänen et al. 2008, Jung et al. 2012, Pampoulie et al. 2012). However, in the last 20 years one of the most common approaches employed to understand population structuring has been the indirect estimation of gene flow and migration rates as inferred from genetic markers (Carvalho & Hauser 1994, Hauser & Carvalho 2008, Reiss et al. 2009). In the marine environment, neutral genetic markers such as microsatellite loci have been extremely useful to complement other means of inferring population differentiation such as life-history studies (Smith et al. 2002, Conover et al. 2006; Higgins et al. 2010), as well as to understand the complex population dynamics of several marine species (Ruzzante et al. 2006, Bradbury et al. 2010, Pampoulie et al. 2012). Yet, such information are prerequisites for devising sustainable management and conservation measures for exploited species (Hutchinson 2008). Moreover, the discovery of microsatellite loci showing signatures of selection (e.g. Nielsen et al. 2006) has changed our perception about genetic structuring of marine populations. The combined use of neutral and non-neutral loci has potential to yield deeper insights into patterns and degree of genetic structuring of populations (e.g. Beaumont 2005, Conover et al. 2006, Cano et al. 2008, Gaggiotti et al. 2009), and introduces an ecological-time scale approach more suitable to conservation and management practices (Hauser & Carvalho 2008).

The Atlantic herring *Clupea harengus* is a typical marine pelagic species which exhibits spatio-temporally separate spawning aggregations across the North Atlantic and the Baltic

70 Sea. These discrete stocks also exhibit large distance migration from their spawning-areas to  
71 common feeding grounds (Dragesund et al. 1997, McQuinn 1997, Óskarsson et al. 2009)  
72 where mixed fisheries occur. Atlantic herring has, indeed, a long history of fishing and has  
73 been a commercially important species over nearly two centuries (Smylie 2004). It occurs on  
74 both side of the North Atlantic and has exhibited considerable fluctuations in stock size and  
75 spatial distribution in the last hundred years, marked by drastic concurrent collapses in several  
76 stocks in the 1960's (Jakobsson 1980, Toresen & Østvedt 2000, Overholtz 2002, Dickey-  
77 Collas et al. 2010). Contrary to the Atlantic cod and other marine resources, most of the  
78 herring stocks recovered from collapses over periods of varying length, and are today subject  
79 to intense fishing pressure. Today, the largest Atlantic herring stock is the Norwegian spring-  
80 spawning herring (NSSH), which is distributed from the southern part of Norway to the  
81 Barents Sea and from the Norwegian Sea to the Northeast coast of Iceland. Prior to the  
82 collapse of NSSH in the late 1960s, a part of this stock spawned on the banks east of the  
83 Faroe Islands, fed over a wide area in the NE-Atlantic and had wintering grounds off the east  
84 coast of Iceland (Jakobsson 1980, Dragesund et al. 1997), therefore mixing with the Icelandic  
85 summer-spawning herring (ISSH) and Icelandic spring-spawning herring (ISPH), the latter  
86 which has not recovered from it's collapse in the late 1960s (Jakobsson 1980). After the  
87 collapse of NSSH, the stock was primarily confined to the coastal areas along the western  
88 coast of Norway (Dragesund et al. 1997). Since the 1970s, the stock has slowly recovered  
89 with a maximum level in 2010 of around 10 million tons (ICES 2012) and again feeding in  
90 the open ocean between Norway, Faroe Islands and Iceland (Fig. 1). Three different  
91 management units are currently considered for stock assessment in the Norwegian Sea and  
92 adjacent waters: the Norwegian spring-spawning herring (NSSH), the Icelandic summer-  
93 spawning herring (ISSH) and the North Sea autumn spawning herring (NSAH). In addition,  
94 the occurrence of Norwegian local spring-spawning herring (NLSSH) (Johannessen et al.

95 2009, Silva et al. 2013) mainly spawning in local fjords and of a Norwegian autumn-  
96 spawning (NASH) herring has been mentioned (Husebo et al. 2005). Moreover, the presence  
97 of a spring-spawning herring (FSSH) and an autumn-spawning (FASH) herring have been  
98 suggested in Faroese waters. So far, the discrimination of these stocks is primarily based on  
99 spawning time and location.

100 The genetic structure of the Atlantic herring has received considerable attention in recent  
101 years, as the species has been shown to exhibit a complex population dynamics and life-  
102 history variations within the management units (Husebo et al. 2005), as well as a relatively  
103 low level of differentiation among isolated local populations overlapping geographically  
104 during feeding migrations (Bekkevold et al. 2005, Jørgensen et al. 2005, Mariani et al. 2005,  
105 Ruzzante et al. 2006, Gaggiotti et al. 2009, André et al. 2011, Lamichhaney et al. 2012,  
106 Corander et al. 2013, Teacher et al. 2013). However, most of these studies performed to  
107 genetically discriminate stocks and assess their contribution to mixed fisheries have been  
108 focusing on the southern distribution of the Atlantic herring.

109 The conservation and sustainable exploitation of the herring stocks in the Norwegian Sea and  
110 adjacent waters crucially depends on our understanding of genetic structuring and interactions  
111 of the potentially distinct populations in this area. Until now, the genetic differentiation  
112 among NSSH and ISSH management units and/or subpopulations has never been  
113 investigated, even with already available microsatellite loci (O'Connel et al. 1998, McPherson  
114 et al. 2001, Miller et al. 2001, Olsen et al. 2002, Libungan et al. 2012). Hence, it is not  
115 currently known if and which genetic markers can be used to discriminate stocks occurring in  
116 this area, and thereby to assess their respective contributions to mixed-stock fisheries of this  
117 commercially highly important species. Here we present one of the first genetic studies of the  
118 Norwegian Sea and adjacent waters herring populations using 24 microsatellite loci of which  
119 several are known to be under selection in other herring populations (Gaggiotti et al. 2009,

120 André et al. 2011, Teacher et al. 2013). Our aims were three-fold- First, to attempt to confirm  
121 the aforementioned reproductive isolation (spawning time and location) between different  
122 herring populations around the Norwegian Sea. Second, to assess the aforementioned  
123 uniqueness of the Norwegian fjord spawning herring, and third, to compare neutral to non-  
124 neutral genetic variation in order to detect potential signatures of selective differentiation.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

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### Sampling areas and protocol

128 In all, 1258 Atlantic herring were collected at several spawning locations in the Northeast  
129 Atlantic from 2009 to 2012 during local spawning seasons (Fig. 2, Table 1) including samples  
130 from different local Norwegian fjords such as Trondheimsfjorden (inner part of Trondheim  
131 fjord), Lindås pollene, Landvikvannet and Lusterfjorden as well as suspected FASH and  
132 FSSH. Individuals fish were selected for genotyping owing to their reproductive status using  
133 the following maturity scale (see Table 1 for the percentage of breeding fish per sample): 1–2  
134 immature, 3–5 maturing, 6 spawning, 7 recently spawned and 8 resting (Bowers & Holliday  
135 1961, Anonymous 1962).

136 Genetic samples were collected from muscle or fin clips preserved in 99% ethanol. Samples  
137 were genotyped at 24 microsatellite loci: msild12, msild13, msild17, msild24, msild27 and  
138 msild32 (Libungan et al. 2012), Cha1017, Cha1020, Cha1027, Cha1059 and Cha1202  
139 (McPherson et al. 2001), Cha4 (Cpa4 in Miller et al., 2001), Cha17, Cha63 and Cha113  
140 (O'Connel et al. 1998), Cpa101, Cpa102, Cpa103, Cpa104, Cpa108, Cpa111, Cpa112, Cpa113  
141 and Cpa114 (Olsen et al. 2002).

142 DNA was extracted either from muscle, or fin clips by AGOWA mag Midi DNA Isolation  
143 Kit (AGOWA GmbH) or hot shot DNA extraction method (Montero-Pau et al. 2008). The  
144 forward primers of each microsatellite loci were labelled with one fluorescent dye (6-FAM,

145 VIC, NED or PET). Polymerase chain reactions (PCR) were performed in Multiplexes  
146 (Supplementary Table S1) as follows: 10  $\mu$ l volume containing 2-3  $\mu$ l DNA (10-100 ng/ $\mu$ l),  
147 0.80  $\mu$ l of dNTP (10mM), 0.6-1.2 U T<sub>eg</sub> polymerase (Matís Ltd., Taq comparable, see  
148 Ólafsson et al. 2010), 1  $\mu$ l of 10x buffer (Matís Ltd.), 0.03-0.25  $\mu$ l of a 50:50 ratio of labelled  
149 forward (100  $\mu$ M) and reverse (100  $\mu$ M) primer tagged on the 5'-end with a GTTTCTT PIG-  
150 tail (Brownstein et al. 1996) adding 1  $\mu$ l betaine (5 M) when improvement of DNA  
151 amplification was needed. Samples were analysed on an ABI PRISM 3730 sequencer using  
152 the GeneScan-500 LIZ size standard and genotyped with GeneMapper v4.0 (Applied  
153 Biosystems).

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### Genetic analyses

156 As the neutrality assumption of genetic markers is crucial for the conclusion drawn from  
157 genetic data, we applied the coalescent-based simulation methods of Beaumont and Nichols  
158 (Beaumont & Nichols 1996) to detect potential outlier loci (loci under selection). Coalescent  
159 simulations were performed with the software LOSITAN (Antao et al. 2008) with samples of  
160 the same size as the observed samples assuming an island model with 100 islands. A total of  
161 100,000 independent loci were generated with the infinite allele mutation model and the  
162 “neutral” mean  $F_{ST}$  function (outlier loci were excluded to calculate the initial mean  $F_{ST}$ ).  
163 Simulated distribution of  $F_{ST}$  values conditional to heterozygosity under a neutral model were  
164 obtained and thus compared to observed  $F_{ST}$  values to identify potential outlier loci. In  
165 addition, we performed outliers’ tests in BayeScan (Foll & Gaggiotti 2008), which allows for  
166 different demographic histories and drift between populations. BayeScan was run with 50,000  
167 Burn-in, 50 thinning, a sample size of 1,000, 300,000 iterations, 20 pilot runs with a length of  
168 5,000 and a FDR of 0.05. Outliers which were identified with both methods (LOSITAN and  
169 BayeScan) were considered to be under selection.



170 A statistical power analysis of the microsatellite loci was performed to assess whether  
171 genetic structure could be detected among the North Atlantic samples with the developed  
172 sampling strategy and the genetic markers used. The Norwegian local spring-spawners  
173 samples which showed the highest level of differentiation in our samples' collection were  
174 therefore excluded for this analysis. The statistical power of the microsatellite loci was  
175 estimated using the program POWSIM (Ryman & Palm 2006), which assesses the  $\alpha$  (type I)  
176 error (the probability of rejecting  $H_0$  when it is true) and the power of the genetic design  
177 performed using information on sample sizes, number of samples, number of loci, and allele  
178 frequencies for any hypothetical degree of true differentiation quantified as  $F_{ST}$  (Ryman &  
179 Palm 2006). The significance of the tests was assessed by Fisher's exact tests as well as by  $\chi^2$   
180 tests. These tests were performed without the NLSSH samples.

181 Genetic diversity of samples (evaluated using allele frequencies), observed and expected  
182 heterozygosities, and deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) were calculated in  
183 GENEPOP'007 (Rousset 2008). Population differentiation was estimated both between  
184 pairwise samples and overall using the unbiased  $F_{ST}$  estimator  $\theta$  of Weir & Cockerham  
185 (1984). Statistical significance was assessed using the exact G-test implemented in  
186 GENEPOP'007.

187 To visualize the level of genetic differentiation among samples, the pairwise estimates of  
188  $F_{ST}$  were plotted using the multidimensional scale (MDS) function in R (cmdscale, Team RC  
189 2012).

190 The number of subpopulations ( $K$ ) potentially contained in our samples set was assessed  
191 using STRUCTURE (Pritchard et al. 2000) with no prior information on sample location.  
192 STRUCTURE was run using 350,000 burn-in and 500,000 iterations for 10 independent runs  
193 for  $K = 1$  to 10 using an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies. The results were  
194 scrutinized in STRUCTURE HARVESTER (Earl & vonHoldt 2012) in order to estimate the

195 optimal number of  $K$  using the Evanno's method (Evanno et al. 2005). DISTRUCT was then  
196 used to visualise the data (Rosenberg 2004). As STRUCTURE is likely to detect the highest  
197 level of differentiation among the samples, we conducted a hierarchical analysis by  
198 performing similar STRUCTURE runs on detected populations ( $K$ ) containing several  
199 samples.

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## RESULTS

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### Genetic diversity

203 Biological information retrieved from the samples is listed in Table 1. Except sample 1  
204 and 14, most of the fish collected were ready to spawn (maturity stage 5) or spawning  
205 (maturity stage 6) (Table 1). The number of alleles per locus was high, ranging from 9  
206 (Cap111) to 63 (msild24; data not shown). The unbiased expected heterozygosity per sample  
207 ranged from 0.836 (NSSH4) to 0.850 (FSSH) (Supplementary Table S2). Genotypic  
208 proportion were out of HWE in 26 of 336 exact tests, of which two remained significant after  
209 the Bonferroni correction for multiple tests, and were not attributable to any loci or samples  
210 (Supplementary Table S2).

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### Outlier tests

213 Simulations for detection of outlier loci performed in LOSITAN suggested that two loci  
214 fell outside the 95% confidence interval; locus Cpa111 and msild13 were suggested to be  
215 under positive selection (Supplementary Table S3). Using a 99% confidence interval, only  
216 Cpa111 was suggested to be under positive selection (Supplementary Table S3). BayeScan  
217 simulations only identified Cpa111 as putatively under selection (Supplementary Table S4).  
218 Hence, all following structure analyses were performed with and without the outlier locus  
219 (Cpa111), except the statistical power test.

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### Statistical power of the microsatellite loci

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### Population structure

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Excluding the Norwegian local spring-spawners samples, the estimate of the statistical  $\alpha$  (type I) error rate (i.e. the probability of rejecting the null hypothesis of genetic homogeneity when it is true), varied from 0.075 with Fisher's exact tests to 0.077 with  $\chi^2$  tests (Supplementary Table S5), which is slightly higher than the 5% limit for significance, but still at a reasonable level (Ryman & Palm 2006). The simulations on the power analysis of the microsatellite loci revealed that the combination of the microsatellite loci and sample sizes used, conferred a statistical power sufficient to detect any level of differentiation among the North Atlantic samples collected, equal to or above  $F_{ST} = 0.001$  with a maximum power (Supplementary Table S5).

The overall genetic estimates revealed a highly significant  $F_{ST}$  ( $F_{ST} = 0.007$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI: 0.005-0.0010) and  $F_{IS}$  ( $F_{IS} = 0.021$ ,  $p < 0.001$ , 95% CI: 0.012-0.031). Locus Cpa111 exhibited the highest  $F_{ST}$  value ( $F_{ST} = 0.044$ ), while all other loci exhibited lower similar values. Out of 91 pairwise  $F_{ST}$  comparisons, 53 were significantly different from zero (Supplementary Table S6), and 50 remained significant after Bonferroni correction. All significant 50 comparisons involved samples from Norwegian local spawning herring (NLSSH). The pattern of significance of pairwise  $F_{ST}$  comparisons remained similar when the Cpa111 locus was removed (Supplementary Table S7).

The multidimensional scale analysis (MDS) for all loci confirmed these results and revealed that all NLSSH samples were highly distinct from the Northeast Atlantic ones. NLSSH samples were also clearly distinct from each other apart from sample 13 and 14 (Fig.

244 3a). The same pattern was observed when the outlier locus was excluded from the analysis  
245 (Fig. 3b).

246 Using all loci, the Bayesian cluster analysis (STRUCTURE) revealed that the most likely  
247 number of populations contained in our samples was for  $K = 2$  (Fig. 4a, Supplement Fig. S1),  
248 both with  $\text{LnP}(k)$  values and  $\Delta K$  (Evanno et al. 2005). One cluster was composed of all  
249 Northeast Atlantic samples while the second one was composed of the Norwegian fjord  
250 samples (NLSSH). The hierarchical analysis of the North Atlantic cluster did not reveal any  
251 further structuring (Supplementary TableS8) while it detected two additional clusters in the  
252 fjord samples (NLSSH), one composed of sample 12 (Landvikvannet) and one composed of  
253 the three other fjord samples (samples 11, 13 and 14: Supplementary Table S8, Fig. S2).  
254 Further analyses of the second cluster (samples 11, 13 and 14) did not reveal any additional  
255 structuring (Supplementary Table S8, Fig. S3).

256 Using the neutral loci only, the most likely number of cluster detected with STRUCTURE  
257 was for  $K = 3$  (Fig. 4b, Supplement Fig. S3) both with  $\text{LnP}(k)$  values and  $\Delta K$  (Evanno et al.  
258 2005). The first cluster was composed of all samples from the Northeast Atlantic, the second  
259 of the sample collected in Landvikvannet (sample 12), and the third one of samples collected  
260 in other fjords (samples 11, 13 and 14). Additional hierarchical analysis of the third cluster  
261 (samples 11, 13 and 14) did not reveal any substructure in these fjords, i.e. the most likely  
262 number of cluster was  $K = 1$  (Supplementary Table S9). The same result was observed for the  
263 first cluster, i.e. the samples collected in Northeast Atlantic (Supplementary Table S9).

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## DISCUSSION

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### Global genetic structure

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Genetic markers have been intensively used to assess genetic structure of the Atlantic herring in its south-eastern distribution, but we are among the first ones (but see: Shaw et al.

269 1999) to investigate it in the Norwegian Sea and surrounding waters, including the Norwegian  
270 local spawning herring. The results of this study showed that, even with 23 neutral and one  
271 non-neutral microsatellite loci, the Atlantic herring did not exhibit any significant genetic  
272 differentiation among stocks across the investigated area, although the Norwegian local-  
273 spawning herring samples were indeed genetically differentiated from all other samples.  
274 Although one can suggest that STRUCTURE analyses might not correctly uncover genetic  
275 pattern due to the observed low level of differentiation, this study presents a robust  
276 interpretation of the developed statistical approaches based on a combination of  $F_{ST}$  values,  
277 MDS and STRUTURE runs, which strongly support the observed genetic pattern.

278         The populations of Atlantic herring which have been genetically studied in the south-  
279 eastern distribution (Jørgensen et al. 2005, Mariani et al. 2005, Ruzzante et al. 2006, Gaggiotti  
280 et al. 2009, André et al. 2011), exhibited low level of differentiations except at some  
281 hitchhiking microsatellite loci such as Cpa112 and Her14 (Gaggiotti et al. 2009, Teacher et al.  
282 2013). Genetic differentiation is indeed expected to be more pronounced at coding (or linked)  
283 loci, especially in large populations in which even weak selection might override effects of  
284 genetic drift (Gaggiotti et al. 2009). Microsatellite loci and other genetic markers under  
285 selection (like SNPs) were found to show some striking differentiation among herring  
286 populations (Lamichhaney et al. 2012, Nielsen et al. 2012, Corander et al. 2013). In the  
287 current study, we failed to detect any genetic structuring among the large Northeast Atlantic  
288 herring populations. NSSH is by far the largest and ISSH among the largest herring  
289 populations of the Northeast Atlantic, and their effective population size ( $N_e$ ) is expected to be  
290 very large, and hence, provides a probable explanation for lack of genetic differentiation. The  
291 potential combination of high  $N_e$  and considerable level of gene flow among herring  
292 populations have been suggested to hinder the detection of structure among local populations  
293 of this species using neutral markers (Bekkevold et al. 2005, Mariani et al. 2005). However,

294 an earlier microsatellite loci study has discovered genetic differences between ISSH and  
295 NSSH at neutral loci (Shaw et al. 1999), but only a small number ( $n = 4$  loci) of microsatellite  
296 loci and a relatively small sample collection were used in that study. The North Atlantic  
297 herring exhibits large effective population size and such a low number of microsatellite might  
298 not be sufficient to uncover the genetic pattern of this species. For such a species, a higher  
299 number of samples and loci are necessary to fully fathom genetic structure (see Ruzzante  
300 1998 for bias and sampling variance when using microsatellite loci).

301 Another potential explanation for the lack of significant genetic differentiation among  
302 Northeast Atlantic populations of herring might be found from the low power of the  
303 microsatellite loci resolving population structuring, as well as the quality of the sampling  
304 design (Ryman & Palm 2006). However, the power analysis of the 24 microsatellite loci used  
305 revealed that the estimated  $\alpha$  (type I error) was reasonably low, and that the sampling design  
306 should have been sufficient to detect level of differentiation of  $F_{ST} = 0.001$  if it was present  
307 (see Table 5). Until now, the distinction of ISSH vs. NSSH is mainly based on morphological,  
308 physiological and biological characteristics (Einarsson 1951, Jakobsson et al. 1969). Single  
309 nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) have recently been developed and seem to be promising  
310 for such marine species with large  $N_e$  and complex biodynamic, especially when investigating  
311 functionally important genetic loci (Helyar et al. 2012, Limborg et al. 2012, Nielsen et al.  
312 2012, Corander et al. 2013, Teacher et al. 2013).

313 Most of the local populations of herring included in this study (NLSSH, samples 11, 13,  
314 and 14) have recently been studied in terms of reproductive investment and growth (Silva et  
315 al. 2013). The stationary herring of Trondheimsfjord was described in the early 1900's and  
316 suggested to be distinct from NSSH (Broch 1908, Runnstrom 1941, see Silva et al. 2013 for a  
317 full description). An allozyme study of samples from ISSH, NSSH and two Norwegian fjords  
318 (including Trondheimsfjord) also only found significant genetic differentiation between the

319 stationary Trondheimsfjord herring and all other localities (Turan et al. 1998). Recent life-  
320 history studies have suggested that Trondheimsfjord herring was “a few of many potentially  
321 genetically unique populations with phenotypic adaptations to a stationary life in well defined  
322 environment...” (Silva et al. 2013). Trondheimfjord (Broch 1908, Runnstrom 1941, Sørensen  
323 2012, Silva et al. 2013), Lusterfjord (Aasen 1952), Lindås pollene (Lie et al. 1978,  
324 Johannessen et al. 2009, Silva et al. 2013) and Landvikvannet herrings (Silva et al. 2013,  
325 Eggers 2013) have long been considered to belong to self-sustaining and rather stationary  
326 populations characterized by a lower vertebral count, slower growth, lower length at maturity,  
327 shorter life span and a higher relative fecundity than the migratory oceanic NSSH. The fact  
328 that these populations with apparent adaptations to life mostly spent inside fjord areas have  
329 been known to exist for up to a century suggests that they may be genetically unique as  
330 supported by the present study. In addition, the analysis of the fjord samples revealed that  
331 Landvikvannet sample was genetically distinguishable from all other fjord samples. This is  
332 most likely linked to the potential mixture with oceanic herring at various life stages that  
333 differ between Landvikvannet herring and the other fjord populations. The herring in Lindås  
334 pollene, Lusterfjord and Trondheimfjord may all mix with NSSH herring drifting into the  
335 fjord areas as larvae from spawning grounds outside the fjord areas. Albeit most of NSSH  
336 grow up in the Barents Sea, portions always tend use the fjords as nursery areas until age of  
337 two years (Holst & Slotte 1998). Even though the NSSH is genetically tuned to leave the  
338 fjords by two years age to grow further and join the adult spawning stock in the open ocean,  
339 one cannot exclude the possibility that some choose to stay, especially if there is numerical  
340 domination of the local herring of the same size (Huse et al. 2002). Hence, over time gene  
341 flow might have occurred consistently between the NSSH and local fjord populations. Recent  
342 studies from Lindås pollene even indicate that gene flow among adult NSSH and local herring  
343 might explain the evolution of the fjord population’s life history traits from the 1960s to the

344 2000s towards a regime with higher growth and higher length at maturity (Langård 2013). In  
345 Landvikvannet the link to NSSH is not clear as this local fjord is outside the observed  
346 spawning area of NSSH. In the latter, local herring might mix with coastal spring spawners or  
347 even with Western Baltic spring spawners (WBSS) migrating into the Skagerrak area and  
348 feeding close to the Norwegian coast during summer. Landvikvannet was artificially  
349 connected to the open sea through a 3 km long canal in 1887, and has been a brackish  
350 environment ever since with anoxic condition at depths below 4 m. Therefore, the observed  
351 genetic differences among Landvikvannet herring and the other fjords is likely due to the fact  
352 that Landvikvannet was colonized by straying of WBSS herring already being adapted to low  
353 salinity conditions. In fact the very low vertebral count in Landvikvannet herring perfectly  
354 equals that of WBSS (55.7). However, data on vertebral counts and growth from the most  
355 recent study in Landvikvannet (2012) indicate that NSSH herring has also recently visited this  
356 area, mixing with a group of coastal spring spawners and what is believed to be  
357 Landvikvannet herring (Eggers 2013). The three groups occupy this ecological niche at  
358 different times with some overlap in spawning stages. NSSH arrive first in March, while the  
359 coastal spring spawners arrive in March-April and finally Landvikvannet herring peaks in  
360 abundance in May. The genetic sample used in the present study was taken in May, which has  
361 been the main sampling period since 1980s used as a basis for the suggestion of a local fjord  
362 population. Given the results from 2012 further genetic studies are needed of the herring in  
363 the area of Landvikvannet to be able to draw firm conclusions.

364

### 365 **Neutral vs. non neutral genetic markers**

366 While levels of differentiation ( $F_{ST}$ 's) and their visual representation (MDS) tend to  
367 suggest similar genetic patterns when all loci are included or when excluding Cpa111, the  
368 primary results of the Bayesian cluster analysis would have resulted in fairly different



369 conclusions based on these two approaches. In fact, the first Bayesian cluster analysis  
370 including all loci supported a main differentiation between all fjords samples and all samples  
371 collected around the Norwegian Sea, while the neutral loci analysis clearly distinguished one  
372 additional cluster, the fjord sample from Landvikvannet (NLSSH, sample 12). On the  
373 contrary, when all loci were used, the Bayesian cluster analysis could not detect differences  
374 among the fjord samples without an additional hierarchical analysis. A closer look into  
375 Cap111 (the locus under selection) allele frequencies (Fig. 6) revealed a clear shift in allele  
376 frequencies among the fjords and the Northeast Atlantic populations (the former exhibited a  
377 high frequency of allele-275 compared to the latter), but also a slightly different pattern in  
378 Landvikvannet “sample” (NLSSH, sample 12) compared to the other fjord samples. Indeed, it  
379 exhibited a higher frequency at allele-287 than any other fjords and Northeast Atlantic  
380 samples, and did exhibit a somehow lower allele-275 frequency than the other fjord samples,  
381 differences that the Bayesian cluster analysis did not catch except when an additional  
382 hierarchical analysis was performed on the fjord samples. As suggested above, these observed  
383 genetic differences among the fjord samples might be due to differences in their origin and  
384 their respective interaction with NSSH but might also reflect potential different ongoing  
385 genetic evolution of the fjords populations.

386

387

### **Fisheries management**

388 In term of management, although the power analysis performed suggested that a relatively  
389 low level of differentiation would be detectable with our research design, we only detected  
390 genetic differences among the North Atlantic and the Norwegian local populations. The  
391 combination of large effective population size and the relatively short time for divergence  
392 since the recovery of the North Atlantic populations might have precluded evolution of  
393 genetic differences. However, the herring populations in the investigated area are exhibiting

394 different life-history patterns, which, in the absence of genetic evidence, should be integrated  
395 (and are already) in fisheries management. The observed biological uniqueness of the  
396 Norwegian local populations, and especially the exceptionality of Landvikvannet herring  
397 should be investigated further to decipher their interactions with the NSSH component and  
398 Western Baltic component to ensure appropriate management of herring stocks in future.

399

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411

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655

**Table 1.** Sampling areas and information for 14 samples of North Atlantic herring *Clupea harengus*. The maturity stage of individual fish is expressed in percentage per stages.

<i>Sample acronym</i>	FASH	FSSH	ISSH403	ISSH411	ISSH463	ISSH473	NASH	NSSH12	NSSH10	SCOTLAND	NLSSH	NLSSH	NLSSH	NLSSH
<i>Information</i>														
Sampling area	Faroese Islands	Faroese Islands	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Lofoten	Norway	Norway	Scotland	Trondheims-fjorden	Landvik-vannet	Lindås pollene	Luster-fjorden
Stock acronym	FASH	FSSH	ISSH	ISSH	ISSH	ISSH	NASH	NSSH	NSSH	NASH.S	NLSSH	NLSSH	NLSSH	NLSSH
Sample code	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Maturity stage*:														
Maturing (3-5)	5 (5)	95 (5)	2 (3) 17 (4) 81 (5)	99 (5)	1 (4) 9 (5)	15 (4) 60 (5)		52 (4) 30 (5)	13 (4) 84 (5)		na	1 (4) 62 (5)	13 (4) 44 (5)	77 (4) 5 (5)
Spawning (6)		5			90	10	1	18	2	100		36	42	
Recently spawned (7)				1			57		1			1	2	
Resting (8)	95					5	33							
Date	27.11.2009	28.3.2011	5.7.2009	9.7.2009	2.7.2010	5.7.2010	11.8.2010	29.1.2012	14.2.2010	9.1.2010	3.12.2010	12.5.2010	3.2010	8.11.2011
Coordinates	60°48.00'N 06°10.80'W	62°06.06'N 06°45.00'W	64°13.75'N 22°56.29'W	63°44.84'N 16°26.80'W	64°05.40'N 23°01.90'W	63°46.10'N 16°19.40'W	67°14.60'N 13°17.00'E	63°17.50'N 07°14.70'E	62°531.00'N 05°14.00'E	58°743.80'N 05°22.20'W	63°42.00'N 11°00.00'E	58°19.20'N 08°30.10'E	60°43.80'N 05°08.00'E	61°47.67'N 07°57.33'E
Sample size	119	40	48	84	70	93	88	87	63	105	120	149	64	128
Age range	4-11	5-10	4-13	2-11	4-14	2-11	3-12	3-13	4-15	3-12	3-15	2-10	NA	2-6
Length (mm):														
mean	373	333	325	326	329	308	338	329	324	296	272	276	325	181
SD	13	11	23	22	19	36	17	15	15	15	12	17	14	14
Range	318-396	310-350	280-360	260-360	280-370	190-360	280-370	295-360	295-360	267-337	230-305	225-320	295-360	145-225

\* numbers between brackets indicates the specific stage in which fish were. na, non available data.



700 **Figure legends**

701

702 Fig. 1. Current migration pattern of the adult part of the Norwegian spring-spawning herring  
703 (NSSH) and interactions with other surrounding stocks, i.e. Icelandic summer-spawning  
704 herring (ISSH), Faroese autumn-spawning herring (FASH), and Norwegian autumn-spawning  
705 herring (NASH).

706

707 Fig. 2. Sampling locations of Atlantic herring *C. harengus* in Norwegian Sea and surrounding  
708 waters. See Table 1 for sample codes.

709

710 Fig. 3. Multi-dimensional scaling plot of Atlantic herring *C. harengus* in Norwegian Sea and  
711 surrounding waters: a) all loci included, b) without the outlier Cpa111. See Table 1 for sample  
712 codes.

713

714 Fig. 4. Hierarchical Bayesian cluster analysis performed in STRUCTURE using all loci and  
715 all samples. A total of 10 runs were performed for each  $K$ , from  $K = 1$  to 10 with 350,000  
716 Burn-in, 500,000 MCMC, using an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies and no  
717 prior information on sample location. (a) Represents the first hierarchical level including all  
718 samples. Two clusters were detected, the first one composed of composed of all Northeast  
719 Atlantic samples, and the second of the fjord samples (NLSSH), (b) represents the second  
720 hierarchical level only including the NLSSH samples. Two clusters were detected, the first  
721 one composed of composed of sample 12, and the second of samples 11, 13 and 14. See Table  
722 1 for sample codes.

723

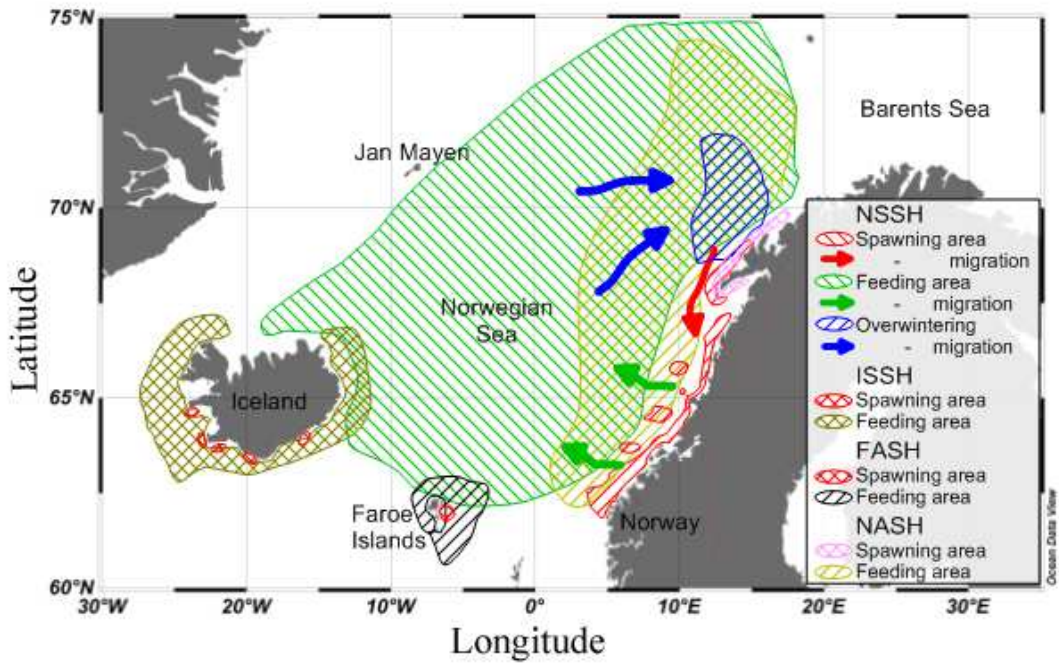
724 Fig. 5. Bayesian cluster analysis performed in STRUCTURE using neutral loci and all herring  
725 samples. A total of 10 runs were performed for each  $K$ , from  $K = 1$  to 10 with 350,000 Burn-  
726 in, 500,000 MCMC, using an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies and no prior  
727 information on sample location. Additional hierarchical analyses did not detect any additional  
728 clusters within the two main groups, i.e. the Northeast Atlantic samples and the fjords  
729 samples (NLSSH). See Table 1 for sample codes.

730

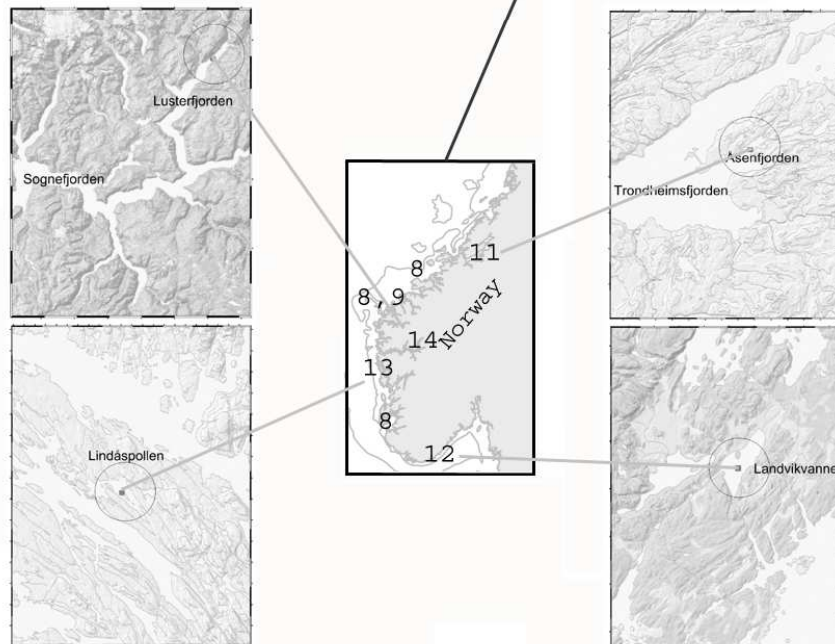
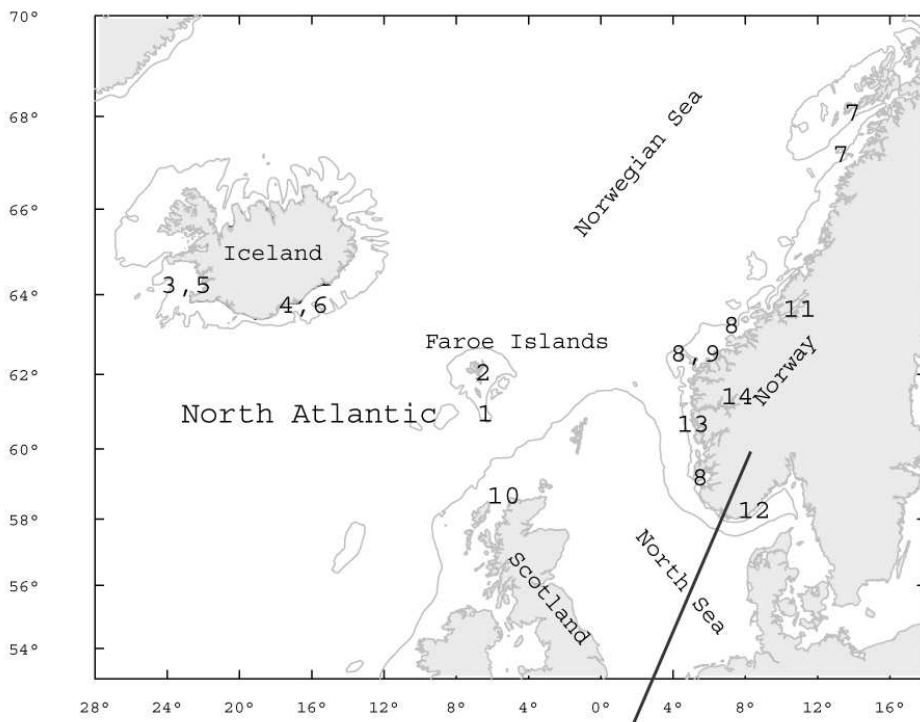
731 Fig. 6. Allele frequencies at Cpa111 locus. All samples of North Atlantic populations were  
732 combined while allele frequencies of the four Norwegian local-spawning herring are depicted  
733 separately. NA, North Atlantic population; See Table 1 for sample codes.

734

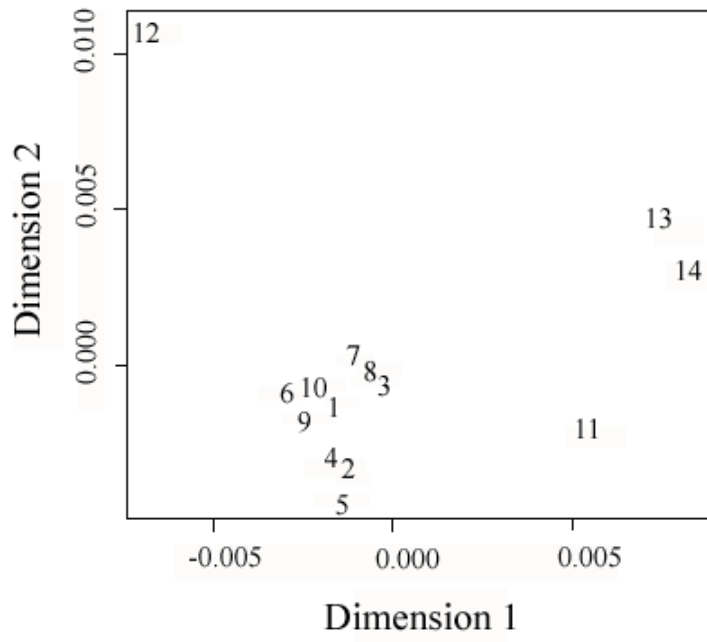
735



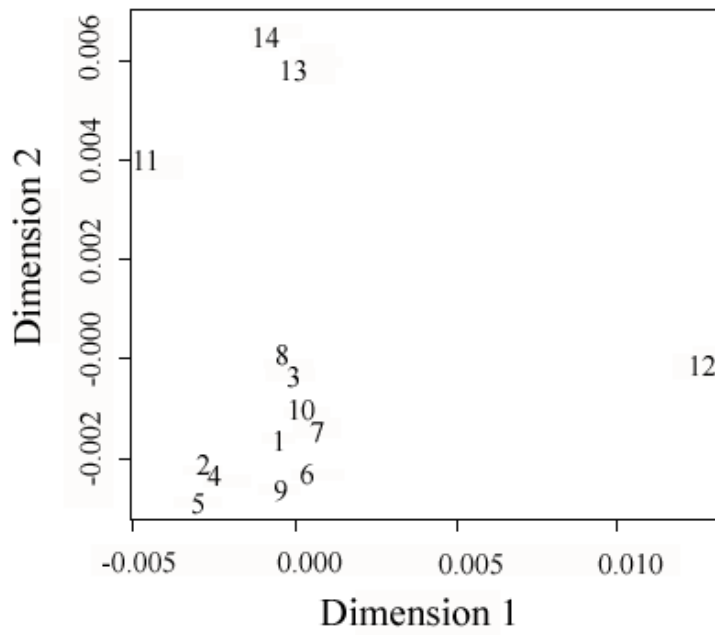
736  
737 Fig. 1.  
738  
739



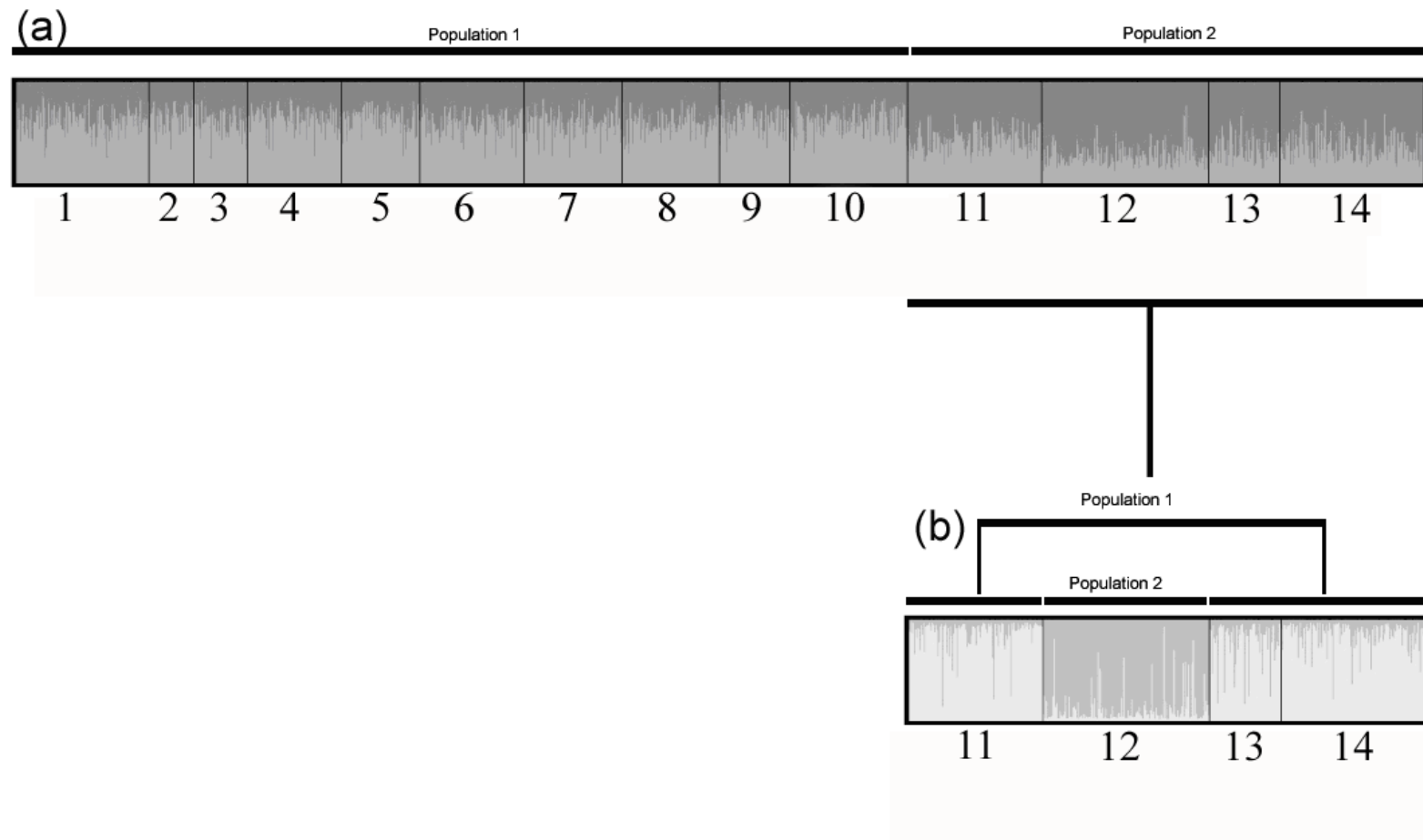
740  
741 Fig. 2.  
742



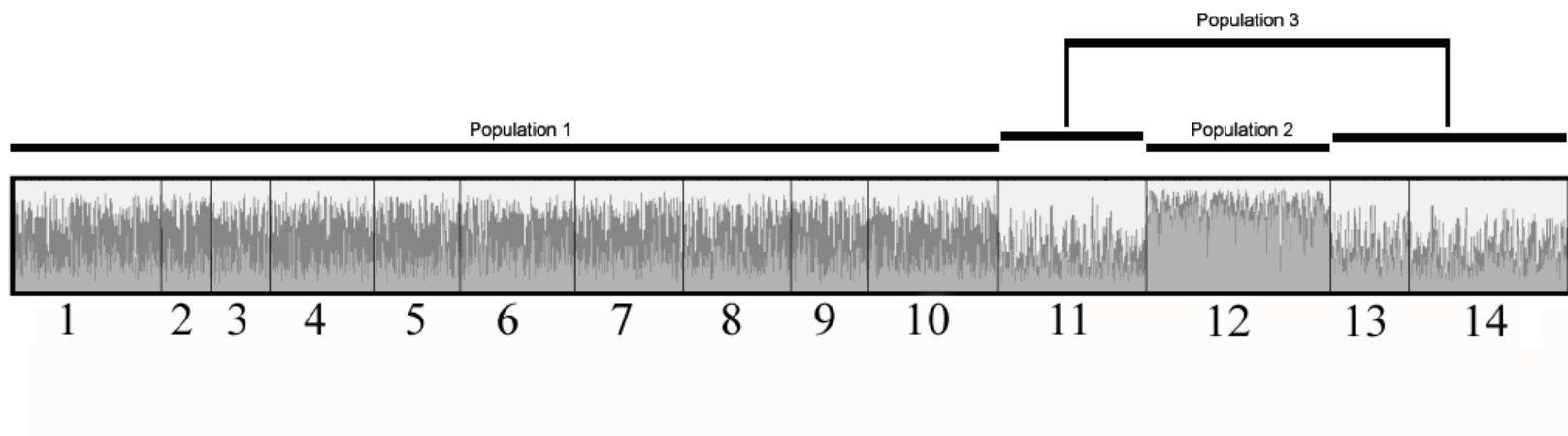
743 Fig. 3a.  
744



745 Fig. 3b.  
746



747  
748 Fig. 4.  
749  
750



751  
752 Fig. 5.

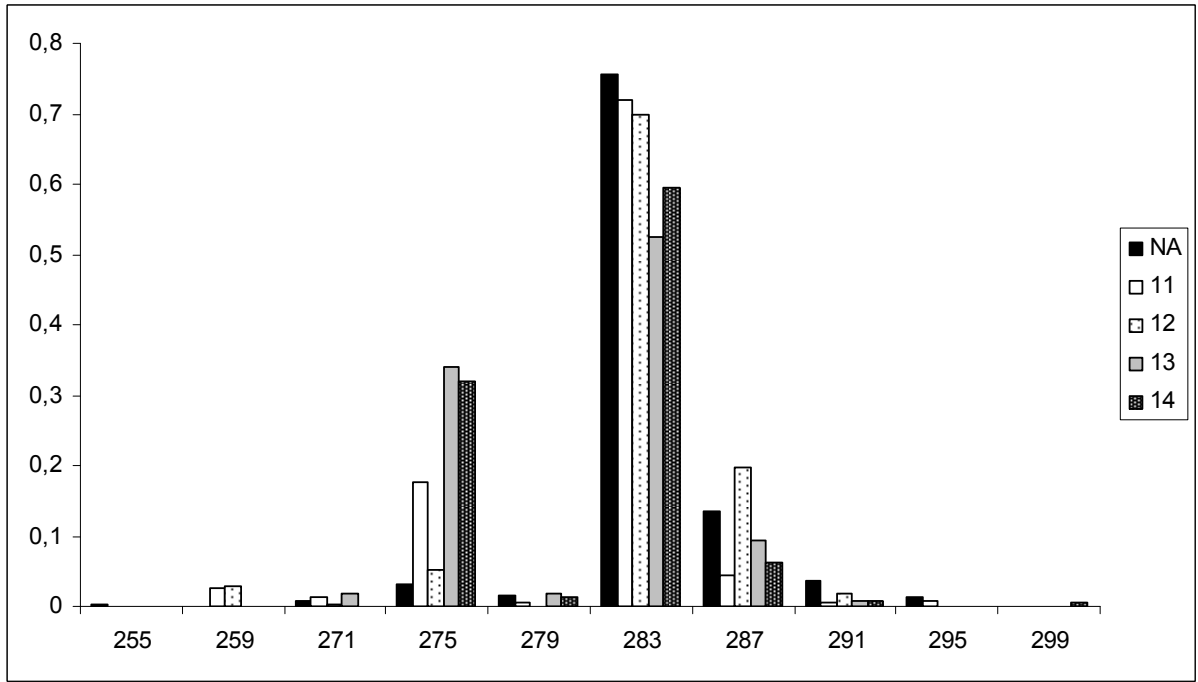


Fig. 6.



**Supplementary Table S1: Characteristics of multiplexes for 24 microsatellite loci of Atlantic herring *C. harengus*.** *T<sub>m</sub>* stands for annealing temperature and  $\mu$ l for micro-litres of primer used. Genotyping quality reports the percentage of individuals which were correctly genotyped at a specific microsatellite loci.

Multiplex	Loci	$\mu$ l	T <sub>m</sub>	Dye	Allele range	Genotyping quality
SildPrint2	Cha113	0.10	58	PET	104-156	97
	Cha17	0.18	58	6FAM	85-189	99
	Cha1059	0.03	58	NED	63-127	98
	Cha1020	0.14	58	VIC	153-245	90
	Cpa111	0.16	58	VIC	256-295	91
SildPrint4	Cpa113	0.06	57	PET	118-230	93
	Cha1017	0.15	57	VIC	161-213	98
	Cpa103	0.13	57	6FAM	163-263	93
	Cpa112	0.14	57	VIC	232-416	92
	Cpa108	0.10	57	NED	233-275	96
SildPrint6	msild12	0.03	58	VIC	73-139	97
	Cha1027	0.10	58	PET	113-213	100
	Cha63	0.10	58	NED	137-181	100
	Cpa101	0.06	58	VIC	169-321	98
SildPrint7	Cpa104	0.08	60	NED	180-506	97
	Cpa114	0.08	60	VIC	178-282	98
	Cha1202	0.10	60	6FAM	97-173	100
SildPrint9	Cha4	0.07	58	VIC	106-194	99
	Cpa102	0.06	58	NED	128-420	99
	msild13	0.16	58	6FAM	176-251	99
SildPrint13	msild17	0.10	58	VIC	336-420	95
	msild24	0.15	58	PET	165-351	96
	msild27	0.06	58	6FAM	185-233	99
	msild32	0.10	58	VIC	172-272	99

**Supplementary Table S2: Genetic diversity of the 24 microsatellite loci.** Expected heterozygosity ( $H_e$ ) and deviation from HWE ( $F_{IS}$ ) for 24 microsatellite loci in 14 samples of Atlantic herring *C. harengus*. See Table 1 for sample codes.

Sample	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13		14	
Locus	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$	$H_e$	$F_{IS}$
Cha4	0.874	<b>0.091</b>	0.884	-0.031	0.862	<b>0.098</b>	0.856	0.037	0.889	0.076	0.875	-0.025	0.853	0.020	0.858	0.020	0.865	0.058	0.868	0.074	0.884	0.034	0.852	0.012	0.854	0.060	0.882	<b>0.020</b>
Cha17	0.941	0.025	0.937	0.002	0.929	0.025	0.944	0.010	0.941	0.023	0.944	0.026	0.943	0.019	0.949	<b>0.036*</b>	0.945	0.024	0.941	0.015	0.942	0.006	0.928	0.007	0.941	-0.055	0.940	0.025
Cha63	0.862	0.010	0.878	0.136	0.862	<b>0.019</b>	0.868	<b>0.005</b>	0.860	-0.054	0.858	0.005	0.851	0.044	0.855	-0.060	0.847	-0.024	0.841	0.014	0.846	0.021	0.816	-0.083	0.859	-0.022	0.863	0.053
Cha113	0.891	-0.003	0.875	0.016	0.893	0.026	0.884	-0.017	0.883	0.039	0.872	-0.005	0.877	0.091	0.866	-0.036	0.863	-0.003	0.889	0.010	0.881	0.036	0.861	0.023	0.905	0.010	0.881	-0.014
Cha1017	0.793	0.018	0.788	0.054	0.839	0.066	0.834	0.095	0.843	0.051	0.798	0.134	0.825	0.008	0.797	0.098	0.833	0.124	0.815	0.047	0.802	0.050	0.778	-0.015	0.762	0.084	0.812	0.035
Cha1020	0.926	0.008	0.931	-0.003	0.920	-0.004	0.918	-0.042	0.923	<b>0.028</b>	0.923	-0.017	0.914	0.026	0.915	0.013	0.921	0.004	0.920	0.036	0.917	-0.036	0.881	-0.055	0.871	-0.073	0.901	-0.044
Cha1027	0.934	-0.012	0.923	0.096	0.907	-0.022	0.936	<b>0.052</b>	0.923	0.032	0.930	0.058	0.939	-0.023	0.938	0.139	0.929	<b>-0.022</b>	0.930	0.061	0.922	0.028	0.917	0.023	0.908	0.033	0.914	0.008
Cha1059	0.670	0.035	0.695	0.257	0.708	0.132	0.674	0.065	0.666	<b>0.020</b>	0.663	0.061	0.660	<b>0.130*</b>	0.679	0.059	0.663	<b>-0.043</b>	0.729	0.091	0.693	0.123	0.668	<b>0.035</b>	0.787	0.080	0.680	0.143
Cha1202	0.701	0.057	0.744	0.082	0.676	-0.007	0.709	-0.048	0.763	-0.056	0.722	0.023	0.750	0.060	0.761	<b>0.097</b>	0.761	0.009	0.750	-0.085	0.753	0.002	0.704	-0.008	0.760	0.027	0.752	0.065
Cpa101	0.919	0.000	0.916	0.006	0.909	0.033	0.915	0.047	0.910	0.119	0.915	0.028	0.913	-0.039	0.914	-0.036	0.912	0.044	0.926	-0.006	0.918	-0.011	0.900	0.054	0.912	0.040	0.916	0.032
Cpa102	0.923	-0.024	0.927	-0.038	0.912	0.034	0.929	-0.031	0.922	0.050	0.924	0.028	0.927	0.062	0.928	<b>-0.001</b>	0.923	0.048	0.930	0.002	0.939	-0.007	0.913	-0.003	0.913	-0.053	0.919	0.060
Cpa103	0.874	0.045	0.880	0.162	0.878	0.085	0.891	0.086	0.878	0.034	0.885	<b>0.130</b>	0.884	<b>0.025</b>	0.883	0.096	0.870	0.047	0.874	0.144	0.874	-0.018	0.884	0.077	0.865	0.039	0.839	<b>0.045</b>
Cpa104	0.836	0.022	0.840	0.120	0.823	0.049	0.870	0.041	0.834	0.073	0.878	<b>0.040</b>	0.823	0.155	0.810	0.0182	0.847	0.101	0.832	0.024	0.739	0.071	0.830	0.067	0.719	-0.023	0.699	0.057
Cpa108	0.481	0.070	0.535	0.103	0.492	0.121	0.540	0.135	0.447	0.024	0.461	-0.043	0.424	<b>-0.093</b>	0.543	0.072	0.448	0.059	0.457	0.025	0.627	-0.018	0.396	-0.083	0.533	0.020	0.576	0.082
Cpa111	0.434	-0.003	0.389	-0.028	0.331	0.003	0.372	-0.001	0.397	0.021	0.402	0.033	0.502	0.009	0.464	0.0138	0.402	0.140	0.349	0.041	0.447	-0.085	0.468	-0.010	0.600	0.019	0.541	-0.065
Cpa112	0.904	-0.027	0.882	0.066	0.879	-0.078	0.889	0.003	0.886	0.033	0.887	-0.020	0.860	0.038	0.904	<b>-0.092</b>	0.878	0.085	0.885	-0.017	0.901	-0.019	0.791	-0.065	0.872	-0.050	0.880	-0.017
Cpa113	0.937	0.030	0.921	-0.044	0.919	-0.025	0.935	-0.025	0.925	0.035	0.929	0.016	0.928	0.010	0.919	0.035	0.926	0.030	0.929	0.011	0.935	0.010	0.886	0.022	0.930	0.035	0.924	-0.020
Cpa114	0.917	0.043	0.903	-0.038	0.902	0.087	0.905	0.049	0.905	0.111	0.908	0.013	0.913	0.089	0.918	0.038	0.910	-0.013	0.905	0.016	0.912	-0.010	0.908	0.044	0.903	0.048	0.909	0.008
msid12	0.883	0.042	0.849	-0.075	0.892	0.036	0.873	-0.040	0.874	0.004	0.877	0.016	0.876	<b>-0.007</b>	0.893	-0.032	0.883	0.011	0.881	0.005	0.881	0.086	0.860	0.044	0.873	0.015	0.879	0.025
msid13	0.898	0.012	0.898	0.011	0.899	0.014	0.884	-0.004	0.898	-0.026	0.901	-0.057	0.894	0.005	0.881	0.051	0.907	0.021	0.895	0.028	0.865	0.003	0.845	-0.006	0.838	-0.003	0.851	<b>0.012</b>
msid17	0.895	0.055	0.898	0.042	0.881	-0.045	0.887	0.024	0.884	0.030	0.888	0.056	0.878	0.002	0.878	0.023	0.894	0.057	0.896	0.058	0.857	-0.034	0.811	0.005	0.847	0.123	0.821	-0.029
msid24	0.957	0.023	0.943	-0.021	0.943	<b>0.039</b>	0.956	<b>0.053</b>	0.951	<b>0.062</b>	0.951	<b>0.034</b>	0.953	0.041	0.955	-0.006	0.951	-0.016	0.961	0.004	0.949	-0.014	0.925	-0.018	0.945	-0.048	0.952	<b>0.030</b>
msid27	0.816	0.013	0.790	0.007	0.811	0.040	0.786	0.033	0.791	-0.015	0.823	0.054	0.801	-0.013	0.787	-0.039	0.753	0.020	0.806	0.032	0.816	0.067	0.782	-0.015	0.808	0.010	0.811	0.004
msid32	0.910	-0.028	0.899	<b>0.178</b>	0.904	-0.025	0.905	0.047	0.891	0.022	0.907	-0.026	0.902	-0.053	0.904	0.056	0.903	0.041	0.908	0.061	0.893	-0.020	0.897	0.040	0.890	-0.037	0.913	-0.028
<b>Overall all loci</b>	<b>0.844</b>	<b>0.020</b>	<b>0.850</b>	<b>0.042</b>	<b>0.841</b>	<b>0.028</b>	<b>0.845</b>	<b>0.022</b>	<b>0.843</b>	<b>0.032</b>	<b>0.843</b>	<b>0.024</b>	<b>0.841</b>	<b>0.025*</b>	<b>0.847</b>	<b>0.031</b>	<b>0.842</b>	<b>0.032</b>	<b>0.842</b>	<b>0.028</b>	<b>0.845</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>0.813</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.838</b>	<b>0.010</b>	<b>0.836</b>	<b>0.019</b>

Values in bold indicate significant deviations from HWE (Exact tests,  $p < 0.05$ ).

\*Values remaining significant after Bonferroni correction ( $\alpha = 0.05/168 = 0.0003$ ).

**Supplementary Table S3: Results from Lositan outlier tests for the 24 microsatellite loci in 14 samples of Atlantic herring *C. harengus*.** Expected heterozygosity ( $H_E$ ) and  $F_{ST}$  are given. The loci in bold were identified as 95% outliers, while those marked with asterix were identified as significant outliers at a false discovery rate of 0.01.

Locus	Heterozygosity	$F_{ST}$	P(Simul $F_{ST} <$ Sample $F_{ST}$ )
Cha4	0.881	0.008	0.824
Cha17	0.948	0.002	0.113
Cha63	0.863	0.003	0.344
Cha113	0.889	0.003	0.358
Cha1017	0.816	0.003	0.389
Cha1020	0.927	0.008	0.882
Cha1027	0.935	0.004	0.480
Cha1059	0.695	0.004	0.471
Cha1202	0.742	0.001	0.293
Cpa101	0.922	0.002	0.236
Cpa102	0.935	0.006	0.706
Cpa103	0.885	0.004	0.483
Cpa104	0.824	0.007	0.691
Cpa108	0.504	0.005	0.547
<b>Cpa111*</b>	<b>0.457</b>	<b>0.040</b>	<b>0.998</b>
Cpa112	0.894	0.011	0.940
Cpa113	0.936	0.006	0.694
Cpa114	0.916	0.002	0.209
msild12	0.884	0.002	0.269
<b>msild13</b>	<b>0.899</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>0.986</b>
msild17	0.889	0.012	0.972
msild24	0.960	0.003	0.234
msild27	0.805	0.001	0.239
msild32	0.910	0.003	0.298

**Supplementary Table S4: Outlier tests performed in BAYESCAN for the 24 microsatellite loci in 14 samples of Atlantic herring *C. harengus*.** The posterior probability for the model including selection (p), the log10 of the Posterior Odds for the model including selection (log10(PO)), and the estimated alpha coefficient indicating the strength and direction of selection (alpha; positive values indicate positive selection, while negative values indicate putative balancing selection) are given for each locus. It should be noted that the power to detect loci under putative balancing selection is low. The loci in bold were identified as significant outliers under a false discovery rate of 0.05.

Locus	p	log10(PO)	alpha	$F_{ST}$
Cha4	1	1000	-1.40	0.006
Cha17	1	1000	-2.36	0.002
Cha63	1	1000	-2.19	0.003
Cha113	1	1000	-1.77	0.004
Cha1017	1	1000	-2.46	0.002
Cha1020	1	1000	-1.14	0.006
Cha1027	1	1000	-1.81	0.004
Cha1059	1	1000	-2.30	0.003
Cha1202	1	1000	-2.04	0.003
Cpa101	1	1000	-2.71	0.002
Cpa102	1	1000	-1.60	0.005
Cpa103	1	1000	-1.48	0.006
Cpa104	1	1000	-2.03	0.003
Cpa108	1	1000	-1.65	0.005
<b>Cpa111</b>	<b>0.046</b>	<b>-1.23</b>	<b>-0.007</b>	<b>0.024</b>
Cpa112	1	1000	-1.17	0.008
Cpa113	1	1000	-1.78	0.004
Cpa114	1	1000	-2.38	0.002
msild12	1	1000	-2.60	0.002
msild13	1	1000	-1.11	0.009
msild17	1	1000	-0.96	0.010
msild24	1	1000	-2.23	0.003
msild27	1	1000	-2.31	0.003
msild32	1	1000	-2.35	0.003

**Supplementary Table S5: Power of the 24 microsatellite loci in 10 samples of Atlantic herring *C. harengus*.** The Norwegian local spring-spawning herring were excluded from the analysis. Estimate of the resolution power of the microsatellite loci were performed using POWSIM (Ryman & Palm 2006).

Expected $F_{ST}$	Average $F_{ST}$	$\chi^2$ -test	Fisher's test	$N_e$	Generation (t)	Runs
0.0000	0.0000	0.077	0.075	1,000	0	1,000
0.0000	0.0000	0.089	0.076	5,000	0	1,000
0.0010	0.0010	1.000	1.000	500	1	1,000
0.0010	0.0010	1.000	1.000	1,000	2	1,000
0.0010	0.0010	1.000	1.000	5,000	10	1,000
0.0025	0.0025	1.000	1.000	1,000	5	1,000
<b>0.0050</b>	0.0050	1.000	1.000	1,000	10	1,000

The resolution power is assessed by simulating different expected level of  $F_{ST}$  according to the effective population size ( $N_e$ ) and generations (t) and to Nei (1987) formula:  $F_{ST} = 1 - (1 - 1/2N_e)^t$ . The significance, evaluated using Fisher's exact tests as well as  $\chi^2$  tests, reflects the power to detect any given level of differentiation (Average  $F_{ST}$ ) with the sampling design developed during our study.  $N_e$  values used during the test are based on estimates calculated from fisheries data. "Runs" denotes the number of simulation performed. The setting  $F_{ST} = 0$  and t = 0 estimates  $\alpha$  (type I error; in the absence of genetic drift).

**Supplementary Table S6: Genetic differentiation among samples.** Pairwise  $F_{ST}$  (above diagonal) and p-values (below diagonal) among 14 samples of Atlantic herring *C. harengus* based on allelic frequencies at 24 microsatellite loci. See Table 1 for sample codes.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	0	-0.0010	-0.0008	-0.0003	0.0006	-0.0007	-0.0003	0.0003	0.0008	0.0007	<b>0.0074*</b>	<b>0.0127*</b>	<b>0.0106*</b>	<b>0.0110*</b>
2	0.998	0	-0.0006	-0.0004	-0.0002	0.0001	-0.0005	-0.0001	0.0012	-0.0004	<b>0.0082*</b>	<b>0.0154*</b>	<b>0.0117*</b>	<b>0.0115*</b>
3	0.907	0.850	0	-0.0002	-0.0009	-0.0008	-0.0014	0.0001	0.0007	-0.0013	<b>0.0064*</b>	<b>0.0124*</b>	<b>0.092*</b>	<b>0.0010*</b>
4	0.494	0.803	0.490	0	0.0005	-0.0001	-0.0001	<b>0.0003</b>	0.0011	<b>0.0024</b>	<b>0.0087*</b>	<b>0.0150*</b>	<b>0.0122*</b>	<b>0.0116*</b>
5	0.127	0.808	0.598	0.117	0	<b>-0.0005</b>	-0.0001	<b>0.0011</b>	<b>0.0012</b>	<b>0.0015</b>	<b>0.0088*</b>	<b>0.0160*</b>	<b>0.0130*</b>	<b>0.0115*</b>
6	0.928	0.929	0.916	0.639	0.038	0	0.0009	-0.0003	0.0001	0.0002	<b>0.0082*</b>	<b>0.0115*</b>	<b>0.0122*</b>	<b>0.0122*</b>
7	0.972	0.951	0.986	0.590	0.310	0.957	0	-0.0007	-0.0001	0.0003	<b>0.0073*</b>	<b>0.0113*</b>	<b>0.0093*</b>	<b>0.0101*</b>
8	0.138	0.811	0.720	0.024	0.038	0.912	0.972	0	-0.0001	0.0008	<b>0.0067*</b>	<b>0.0120*</b>	<b>0.0090*</b>	<b>0.0092*</b>
9	0.097	0.766	0.549	0.122	0.018	0.332	0.497	0.014	0	-0.0001	<b>0.0074*</b>	<b>0.0127*</b>	<b>0.0121*</b>	<b>0.0122*</b>
10	0.112	0.783	0.989	0.001	0.006	0.359	0.155	0.416	0.083	0	<b>0.0075*</b>	<b>0.0119*</b>	<b>0.0115*</b>	<b>0.0107*</b>
11	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	<b>0.0182*</b>	<b>0.0079*</b>	<b>0.0069*</b>
12	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	<b>0.0160*</b>	<b>0.0169*</b>
13	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	<b>0.0022</b>
14	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004	0

Emboldened values differ significantly from zero (Fisher's exact test,  $p < 0.05$ ).

\* Values remaining significant after Bonferroni correction ( $\alpha = 0.05/91 = 0.0005$ ).

**Supplementary Table S7: Genetic differentiation among samples.** Pairwise  $F_{ST}$  (above diagonal) and p-values (below diagonal) among 14 samples of Atlantic herring *C. harengus* based on allelic frequencies at Cpa111. See Table 1 for sample codes.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	0	-0.0066	0.0013	-0.0020	-0.0021	-0.0038	-0.0004	0.0011	-0.0048	0.0023	0.0300	0.0054	0.1196	0.0965
2	0.791	0	-0.0087	-0.0070	-0.0067	-0.0077	0.0018	0.0018	-0.0102	-0.0067	0.0282	0.0060	0.1234	0.1000
3	0.636	0.891	0	-0.0048	-0.0024	0.0004	0.0137	0.0155	-0.0052	-0.0050	0.0266	0.0162	0.1367	0.1053
4	0.616	0.313	0.445	0	-0.0049	-0.0022	0.0091	0.0109	-0.0042	-0.0002	0.0308	0.0135	0.1389	0.1078
5	0.744	0.871	0.586	0.652	0	-0.0020	0.0091	0.0137	-0.0024	0.0035	0.0288	0.0177	0.1325	0.1041
6	0.691	0.587	0.162	0.111	0.405	0	0.0044	0.0021	-0.0050	-0.0006	0.0427	0.0086	0.1435	0.1176
7	0.756	0.566	0.408	0.136	0.164	0.083	0	-0.0035	0.0010	0.0134	0.0263	-0.0003	0.0836	0.0715
8	0.424	0.483	0.217	0.124	0.110	0.261	0.517	0	-0.0014	0.0084	0.0468	-0.0038	0.1112	0.1002
9	0.750	0.893	0.923	0.492	0.646	0.342	0.465	0.698	0	-0.0048	0.0301	0.0031	0.1233	0.0998
10	0.097	0.480	0.770	0.066	0.051	0.118	<b>0.018</b>	0.270	0.884	0	0.0440	0.0122	0.1620	0.1277
11	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	0	0.0371	0.0580	0.0334
12	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.015</b>	<b>0.052</b>	<b>0.004</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.027</b>	<b>0.019</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	0	0.1042	0.0890
13	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	0	-0.0004
14	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	<b>0.000*</b>	0.320	0

Emboldened values differ significantly from zero (Fisher's exact test,  $p < 0.05$ ).

\* Values remaining significant after Bonferroni correction ( $\alpha = 0.05/91 = 0.0005$ ).

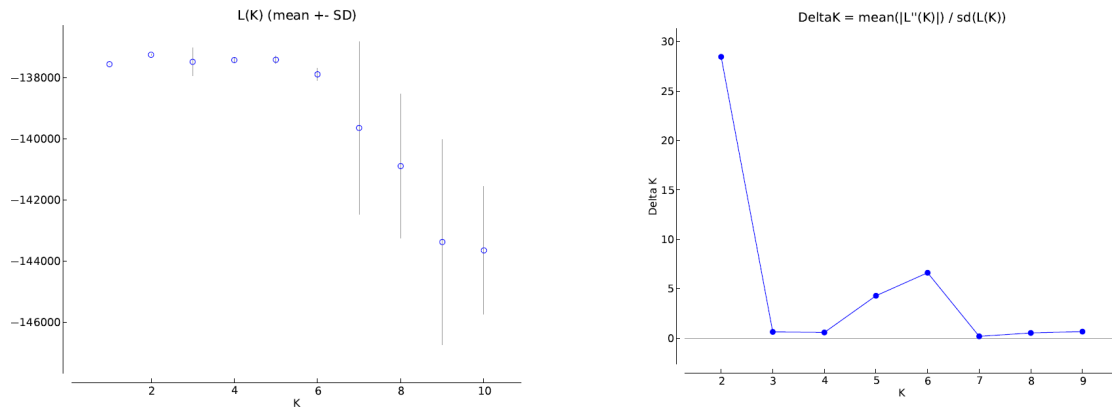
**Supplementary Table S8: Results from the hierarchical Bayesian cluster analysis (STRUCTURE) based on all 24 microsatellite loci and all samples.** STRUCTURE was run using 350,000 burn-in and 500,000 iterations for 10 independent runs for  $K = 1$  to 10 for the North Atlantic samples and from  $K = 1$  to 4 for the local Norwegian fjords (samples 11, 12, 13 and 14). An admixture model with correlated allele frequencies without prior information on sample location was implemented. Bold values indicate the most likely number of clusters.

	$K$	Mean LnP(K)	StDev LnP(K)
North Atlantic	<b>1</b>	<b>-87102</b>	<b>0.2898</b>
	2	-87261	12.7600
	3	-87740	91.5819
	4	-88410	95.0116
	5	-89562	271.3621
	6	-91281	799.5722
	7	-93083	1390.0332
	8	-95410	1819.3528
	9	-95538	2152.4678
	10	-95920	1641.7548
Local fjords (all)	1	-49481	2.0991
	<b>2</b>	<b>-48829</b>	<b>5.9326</b>
	3	-49195	180.2179
	4	-49718	1186.7621
Local fjords (samples 11, 13 and 14)	<b>1</b>	<b>-33530</b>	<b>1.0390</b>
	2	-33627	23.2868
	3	-34463	254.8380

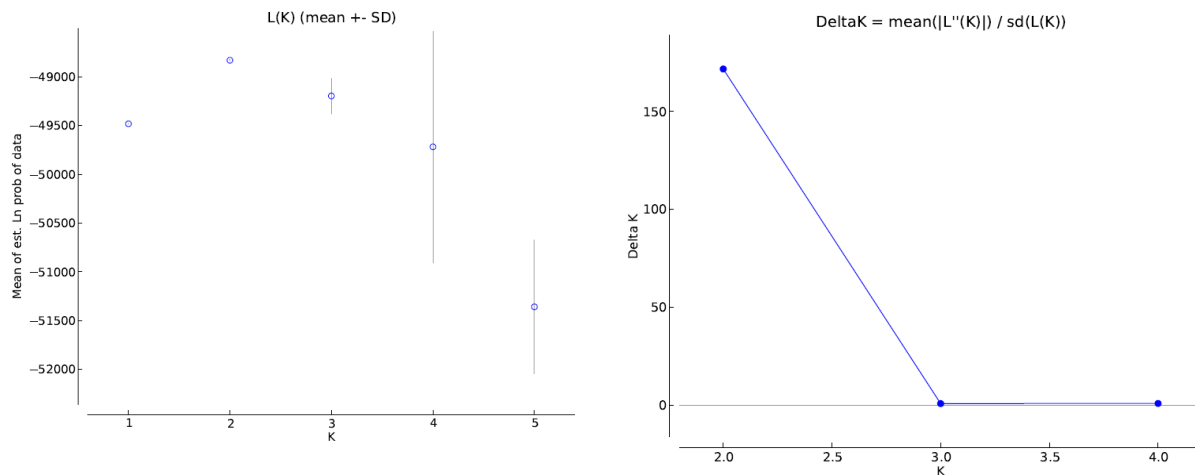


**Supplementary Table S9: Results from the hierarchical Bayesian cluster analysis (STRUCTURE) based only on neutral microsatellite loci and all samples.** STRUCTURE was run using 350,000 burn-in and 500,000 iterations for 10 independent runs for  $K = 1$  to 10 for the North Atlantic samples and from  $K = 1$  to 3 for the local Norwegian fjords (samples 11, 13 and 14). An admixture model with correlated allele frequencies without prior information on sample location was implemented. Bold values indicate the most likely number of clusters.

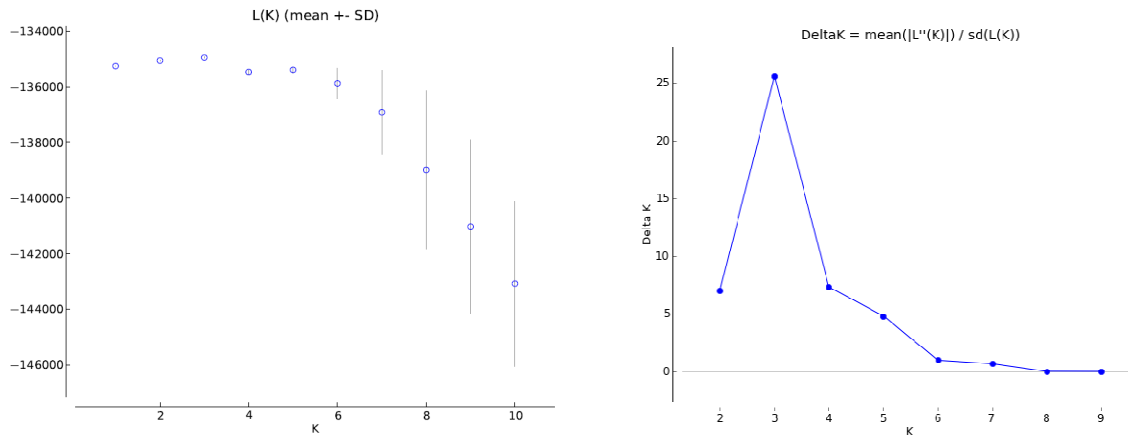
	$K$	Mean LnP(K)	StDev LnP(K)
North Atlantic	<b>1</b>	<b>-85817</b>	<b>0.1871</b>
	2	-85981	25.6621
	3	-86425	74.1802
	4	-87096	124.9924
	5	-88564	489.7930
	6	-90622	1073.9283
	7	-92667	2955.3703
	8	-94162	2935.9272
	9	-96560	3065.5698
	10	-97251	3204.5460
Local fjords	<b>1</b>	<b>-32919</b>	<b>0.6579</b>
	2	-32999	21.2130
	3	-33709	251.2843



**Supplementary Fig. S1: Results of the Bayesian cluster analysis performed in Structure for all microsatellite loci and all samples.** Two clusters were detected both at the  $\text{LnP}(K)$  (left figure) and  $\Delta K$  levels (Right figure). STRUCTURE was run using 350,000 burn-in and 500,000 iterations for 10 independent runs for  $K = 1$  to 10 using an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies. No prior information on sample location was implemented.



**Supplementary Fig. S2: Results of the Bayesian cluster analysis performed in Structure for all microsatellite loci and the fjord samples.** Two clusters were detected both at the  $\text{LnP}(K)$  (left figure) and  $\Delta K$  levels (Right figure). STRUCTURE was run using 350,000 burn-in and 500,000 iterations for 10 independent runs for  $K = 1$  to 5 using an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies. No prior information on sample location was implemented.



**Supplementary Fig. S3: Results of the Bayesian cluster analysis performed in Structure for neutral microsatellite loci only and all samples.** Three clusters were detected both at the  $\text{LnP}(K)$  (left figure) and  $\Delta K$  levels (Right figure). STRUCTURE was run using 350,000 burn-in and 500,000 iterations for 10 independent runs for  $K = 1$  to 10 using an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies. No prior information on sample location was implemented. No additional clusters were detected.