


## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

WILEY **MOLECULAR ECOLOGY**

# Genomic signatures of fine-scale local selection in Atlantic salmon suggest involvement of sexual maturation, energy homeostasis and immune defence-related genes

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## Abstract

Elucidating the genetic basis of adaptation to the local environment can improve our understanding of how the diversity of life has evolved. In this study, we used a dense SNP array to identify candidate loci potentially underlying fine-scale local adaptation within a large Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) population. By combining outlier, gene–environment association and haplotype homozygosity analyses, we identified multiple regions of the genome with strong evidence for diversifying selection. Several of these candidate regions had previously been identified in other studies, demonstrating that the same loci could be adaptively important in Atlantic salmon at subdrainage, regional and continental scales. Notably, we identified signals consistent with local selection around genes associated with variation in sexual maturation, energy homeostasis and immune defence. These included the large-effect age-at-maturity gene *vgll3*, the known obesity gene *mc4r*, and major histocompatibility complex II. Most strikingly, we confirmed a genomic region on Ssa09 that was extremely differentiated among subpopulations and that is also a candidate for local selection over the global range of Atlantic salmon. This region colocalized with a haplotype strongly associated with spawning ecotype in sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), with circumstantial evidence that the same gene (*six6*) may be the selective target in both cases. The phenotypic effect of this region in Atlantic salmon remains cryptic, although allelic variation is related to upstream catchment area and covaries with timing of the return spawning migration. Our results further inform management of Atlantic salmon and open multiple avenues for future research.

## KEYWORDS

Atlantic salmon, ecotype, local selection, microgeographic adaptation, sockeye salmon

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

Understanding how the diversity of life on earth has evolved is one of the central questions in biology. Fundamental to this is elucidating how change at the genomic level underlies phenotypic change as populations adapt to their local environment, and how this change

ultimately contributes to evolutionary radiations. Central questions include the relative roles of polygenic variation vs. genes of large effect (Yeaman & Whitlock, 2011), the importance of protein coding vs. gene expression variation (Fraser, 2013), the contribution of chromosome rearrangements (Kirkpatrick & Barton, 2006) and whether parallel, independently evolved, adaptations have the same

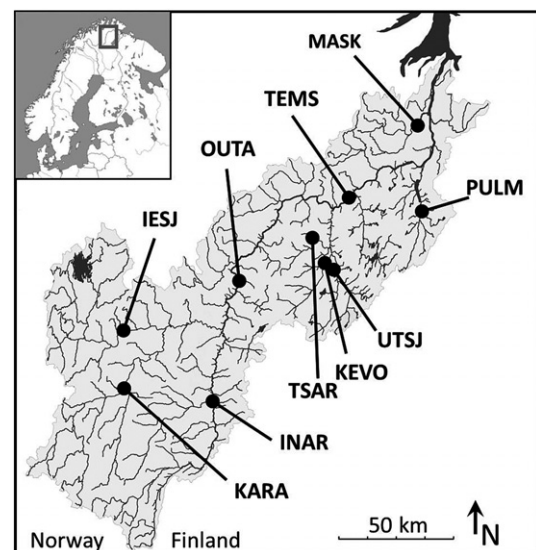
genetic basis across populations (Conte, Arnegard, Peichel, & Schluter, 2012). One limitation until recently has been the lack of dense marker panels and annotated genomes for nonmodel species, which impedes identification of the loci driving statistical signals of selection (Vilas, Pérez-Figueroa, & Caballero, 2012).

Salmonid fishes, which include charr, salmon, trout and whitefish, are splendid models for the study of local adaptation and diversification. Strong philopatry in breeding location and/or separation into different water bodies means that fine-scale genetic differentiation is a characteristic of salmonid populations (Fraser, Weir, Bernatchez, Hansen, & Taylor, 2011). Both allopatric and sympatric populations can express a wide range of phenotypic diversity, including variation in age at maturity, migratory strategy, breeding time and location, and exploitation of different ecological niches (Bernatchez et al., 2010; Dodson, Aubin-Horth, Thériault, & Páez, 2013; Jonsson & Jonsson, 2001; Quinn, McGinnity, Reed, & Bradford, 2016). Evolutionary diversification may have been facilitated by the whole-genome duplication that occurred at the base of the salmonid radiation (Lien et al., 2016). Much of this diversity is heritable (Carlson & Seamons, 2008), and multiple studies have found reduced fitness of salmonids in nonlocal environments (Fraser et al., 2011; O'Toole et al., 2015). While many fitness-associated traits in salmonids have been well characterized at the quantitative genetic level, most of the underlying loci are yet to be identified (Fraser et al., 2011; Garcia de Leaniz et al., 2007).

New genomic tools are helping us to unpick the molecular genetic basis of local adaptation in salmonids (Elmer, 2016). This can both improve our understanding of evolutionary diversification in general and help guide management of these ecologically and culturally important taxa (e.g., Prince et al., 2017). Recent studies have identified suites of loci potentially involved with adaptation to the natal or migratory environment (e.g., Micheletti, Matala, Matala, & Narum, 2018; Moore et al., 2017), associated with ecotypic differentiation (e.g., Veale & Russello, 2017a), or responding to directional selection (e.g., Liu et al., 2017). One finding of such studies is that life-history diversification, in particular, can be underlain by single genomic regions of large effect. For example, Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) vary in their age at maturity, with some individuals returning to freshwater to spawn after one-year feeding at sea ("one-seawinter fish"), and others spending longer in the ocean and returning at a much larger size ("multi-seawinter fish"). Barson et al. (2015) showed that a single locus containing the gene *vgll3* explained nearly 40% of this variation in age at maturity across three evolutionary lineages in Europe (see also Ayllon et al., 2015). This locus appears also to be associated with sea age at maturity in North American Atlantic salmon (Kusche et al., 2017) and is additionally located within a QTL underlying early ("precocious") freshwater maturation (Lepais, Manicki, Glise, Buoro, & Bardonnnet, 2017). The choice between residency and anadromy in many populations of rainbow trout/steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is associated with a large nonrecombining region on chromosome Omy05 (Hecht, Campbell, Holecek, & Narum, 2013; Hecht, Thrower, Hale, Miller, & Nichols, 2012; Martínez, Garza, & Pearse, 2011; Nichols, Edo,

Wheeler, & Thorgaard, 2008; Pearse, Miller, Abadía-Cardoso, & Garza, 2014). Sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*) exhibit ecotypic variation in spawning site, with both anadromous and resident forms spawning in streams(/rivers) or lake shores (/benthos): different spawning ecotypes can co-occur within the same populations (Larson et al., 2017; Nichols, Kozfkay, & Narum, 2016; Veale & Russello, 2017b). Veale and Russello (2017a) showed that this ecotypic differentiation is associated with two strongly diverged haplotypes encompassing the *lrrc9* gene. This relationship held throughout the species' range: in some populations, it was almost entirely Mendelian, with one homozygote determining shore spawning. Finally, in one case, independently arising mutational variation at the same locus underlies an ecologically important life-history trait in two species: variation in the *greb1l* gene is associated with premature spawning migration in both steelhead and Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*; Hess, Zandt, Matala, & Narum, 2016; Prince et al., 2017).

One of the world's largest surviving wild Atlantic salmon stocks reproduces in the Teno River (Norwegian: Tana; Sámi: Deatnu, Figure 1) of subarctic Finland and Norway. The Teno drains a catchment of 16,386 km<sup>2</sup> and includes more than 30 different-sized tributaries accessible to adult salmon: up to 100,000 individuals return to spawn each year. Previous studies have demonstrated significant, temporally stable, population genetic substructure within the Teno stock corresponding to different spawning locations (Vähä, Erkinaro, Falkegård, Orell, & Niemelä, 2017; Vähä, Erkinaro, Niemelä, & Primmer, 2008; global  $F_{st}$  from microsatellites  $\approx 0.065$ ). This genetic structure is higher than that observed across multiple rivers in other parts of the Atlantic salmon range (Vähä et al., 2017). Thus, there is strong potential for differential selection and local adaptation within the system. Teno salmon subpopulations vary in the timing of their re-entry to freshwater to spawn ("run timing"; June–August; Vähä et al., 2011) and the proportion of multi-seawinter adults among spawners (Vähä, Erkinaro, Niemelä, & Primmer, 2007).



**FIGURE 1** Location of juvenile sampling sites. See Table 1 for details

Recently, Aykanat et al. (2015) demonstrated that adult salmon captured in the Teno mainstem belong to two genetically distinct subpopulations that differ in their freshwater and marine growth rate. Otherwise, no detailed studies of phenotypic differentiation among subpopulations have been performed.

In this study, we used a dense marker panel (198,829 SNPs) to examine genomic variation among Teno Atlantic salmon subpopulations and search for regions of the genome which exhibit signatures of differential selection and therefore potentially underlie fine-scale local adaptation. We compared our results to previous studies of Atlantic salmon throughout their global range. We also examined our candidate regions for genes strongly implicated in life-history diversification or local adaptation in other salmonid species. The aims of this study were first, to assess whether differential local selection was acting among Teno River subpopulations; second, to examine whether candidate regions were also locally selected at broader geographic scales; and third, to identify focal genomic regions that could be the focus of future work validating their potential role in local adaptation.

## 2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 | Sample collection, preparation and genotyping

To ensure that samples represented the local breeding subpopulation, we genotyped juvenile salmon collected before their ocean migration (age 0 and age 1). Sample collection and DNA extraction are described in Vähä et al. (2017). To minimize sampling of siblings, electrofishing sites were separated by 50–100 m and only a single individual of each age was collected at each site. We selected 10 locations in the Teno (Finland and Norway) that are known to harbour genetically distinct subpopulations (Aykanat et al., 2015; Vähä et al., 2008, 2017) and which represent a range of environmental variation (Vähä et al., 2007): Teno mainstem: Garnjarga (TEMS,  $n = 24$ ), Teno mainstem: Outakoski (OUTA,  $n = 24$ ), Inarijoki (INAR,  $n = 21$ ), lower Iešjohka (IESJ,  $n = 21$ ), Maskejohka (MASK,  $n = 20$ ), Kárášjohka (KARA,  $n = 22$ ), Tsarsjoki/Carsejohka (TSAR,  $n = 21$ ),

Utsjoki/Ohcejohka (UTSJ,  $n = 21$ ), Kevojoki/Geavvuohka (KEVO,  $n = 21$ ), Yla Pulmankijarvi/Buolbmátjohka (PULM,  $n = 20$ ; Figure 1, Table 1). We assessed concentration and degradation of the previously extracted DNA using a Nanodrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) and by agarose gel visualization. DNA of sufficient quality was standardized to a Nanodrop-estimated concentration of 15 ng/μl and sent to the Center for Integrative Genetics (CIGENE), Ås, Norway, for genotyping.

Samples were genotyped for 220,000 SNPs using a custom Affymetrix Axiom SNP array on a GeneTitan genotyping platform, as in Barson et al. (2015). SNPs on this 220K array have known locations on the NCBI RefSeq Atlantic salmon genome (Lien et al., 2016, [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/annotation\\_euk/Salmo\\_salar/100/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/annotation_euk/Salmo_salar/100/)). To ensure correct identification of genotype clusters, we applied the Affymetrix Best Practices Protocol for SNP calling simultaneously to our samples and ≈1,800 individuals genotyped in previous studies (Barson et al., 2015; Pritchard et al., 2016).

For quality control and analyses, we also used two pre-existing 220K SNP data sets: a data set of known aquaculture escapees ( $n = 192$ , Pritchard et al., 2016), and a data set of adults collected from the Teno mainstem ( $n = 463$ ) and the neighbouring river Borselva ( $n = 17$ ; Barson et al., 2015). The adult Teno mainstem sample included the individuals genotyped with a 7K SNP array by Johnston et al. (2014) and Aykanat et al. (2015).

### 2.2 | Genotyping quality control

Two hundred and two of 215 samples passed Affymetrix quality thresholds. Subsequent quality control was performed using PLINK v.1.90 (Chang et al., 2015; Purcell et al., 2007). First, we removed 1,112 SNPs not mapped to an assembled *S. salar* chromosome and 35 SNPs with known off-target variants. We then used the data set of adults collected from the Teno mainstem to identify SNPs that deviated from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium at  $p < 0.001$  in either of the two subpopulations of Aykanat et al. (2015; Pop1:  $n = 303$ ; Pop2:  $n = 121$ ). We found 2,750 such SNPs; we considered these to have technical genotyping problems and removed them. To identify full-sibs

**TABLE 1** Sample site environmental and phenotypic variables

SITE	Latitude	Longitude	Catchment (km <sup>2</sup> )	Distance (km)	Elevation (m)	% MSW females	Median run time (day)
IESJ	69°24'23.49"	24°40'50.93"	1,900	259	230	95	185
INAR	69°8'13.67"	25°44'33.39"	1,257	245	159	45	185
KARA	69°10'28.08"	24°41'39.30"	1,235	285	244	90	184
KEVO	69°42'11.52"	26°57'27.49"	494	127	94	10	178
MASK	70°12'43.50"	27°56'36.71"	463	41	56	60	187.5
OUTA	69°38'0.45"	25°57'41.63"	8,387	175	115	45	185
PULM	69°53'36.56"	28°1'29.77"	598	76	22	20	172
TEMS	69°55'54.79"	27°8'58.64"	11,035	93	60	75	190
TSAR	69°46'58.03"	26°54'25.39"	236	125	170	20	173
UTSJ	69°39'51.21"	27°4'16.28"	441	131	107	85	184.5

MSW, multi-seawinter.

within our juvenile samples, we split them by subpopulation, excluded SNPs with >2% missing data or minor allele frequency (MAF) <0.05 within each subpopulation, performed a linkage disequilibrium (LD) pruning step (PLINK command: `-indep 50 5 1.4`), used the `-genome` function to estimate genomewide identity-by-descent between each pair of individuals, and graphically explored the results using GGPLOT2 in R 3.1.2 (R Core Team, 2015; Wickham, 2009). To identify juveniles with possible domestic parentage, we added the data set of aquaculture escapees, performed SNP filtering and LD pruning as described above, applied a two-dimensional multidimensional scaling analysis (MDS) to the genomewide identity-by-state (IBS) matrix in PLINK and graphically visualized the results. We removed 13 putative sibs and one individual with possible escapee ancestry. Finally, we excluded SNPs with a MAF < 0.05 or >10% missing genotypes, leaving a final juvenile data set that comprised 198,829 SNPs and 188 individuals (TEMS,  $n = 24$ ; OUTA,  $n = 22$ ; PULM,  $n = 13$ ; IESJ  $n = 21$ ; INAR  $n = 20$ ; KARA  $n = 19$ ; TSAR  $n = 21$ ; UTSJ  $n = 21$ ; KEVO  $n = 19$ ; MASK  $n = 8$ ). Proportion of missing genotypes per individual ranged from 0.07% to 3.24% (median 0.20%).

### 2.3 | Population genomic characteristics

We calculated subpopulation expected heterozygosity ( $H_e$ ) from genomewide minor allele frequencies returned by PLINK. We also used PLINK to estimate unbiased pairwise  $F_{st}$  (Weir & Cockerham, 1984). We explored subpopulation structure among the juveniles by performing an MDS analysis on the LD-pruned final data set, as described above. We investigated how juvenile samples related to the adult samples from the Teno mainstem by combining the two data sets and performing the same analysis. We assigned adults to the two mainstem subpopulations of Aykanat et al. (2015) using the Structure results from that study (available: <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.7t4n0>), with a cut-off of  $q = 0.9$  for subpopulation membership.

### 2.4 | Environmental and phenotypic variation

We investigated three broad-scale environmental characteristics previously shown to influence population structure in the Teno (Vähä et al., 2007; Table 1). We estimated waterway distance of the sampling site from the Teno mouth (freshwater migration distance) using the package “riverdist” in R (<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/riverdist/index.html>). We obtained altitude using Google maps. We estimated upstream catchment area for each site (a surrogate for flow volume) by summing sub-basin catchment areas obtained from the Finnish Center for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment. We tested for correlations among these three environmental variables using a Kendall rank correlation test in R.

To explore the relationship between these environmental variables and known phenotypic variation among the subpopulations, we extracted values for the median run time of one-seawinter fish and the proportion of females that are multi-seawinter fish (rounded to the nearest 5%) from Vähä et al. (2011) (Table 1). We applied Kendall rank correlation tests as above.

## 2.5 | Identification of candidate genome regions responding to local selection

Best practice requires a combination of approaches to identify candidate genome regions responding to local selection (De Villemereuil, Frichot, Bazin, François, & Gaggiotti, 2014). We therefore (a) identified markers unusually highly differentiated among subpopulations, based on  $F_{st}$  or equivalent statistics; (b) examined association of allele frequencies with environmental parameters; and (c) examined patterns of haplotype homozygosity within subpopulations, indicative of selective sweeps on particular alleles. We used PLINK or PGD SPIDER (Lischer & Excoffier, 2012) to convert among input files. We used BEAGLE 4.1 (Browning & Browning, 2007) with the complete juvenile data set to impute missing genotypes or infer phasing where necessary. To assess whether several candidate SNPs could be labelling a single selected locus, we identified sets of neighbouring SNPs in high LD (“haploblocks”) using `-blocks` in PLINK. Because default parameters in PLINK often returned multiple small haploblocks that appeared to break up a single selective sweep, we used relaxed parameters (`-no-small-max-span -blocks-inform-frac 0.8 -blocks-max-kb 5000 -blocks-strong-lowci 0.55 -blocks-strong-highci 0.85 -blocks-recomb-highci 0.8`). We defined haploblock bounds as the positions halfway between the outermost haploblock SNPs and their closest nonhaploblock SNPs. We condensed any abutting haploblocks containing candidate SNPs and within 10 kb of each other into a single block.

### 2.5.1 | Outlier approaches

We used three approaches to identify markers with high among-population allelic variation. First, we estimated among-population  $F_{st}$  for each marker using OUTFLANK (Whitlock & Lotterhos, 2015). Second, we used BAYESCAN2.1 (Foll & Gaggiotti, 2008), which assumes an island model of migration with  $N_e$  and migration rate allowed to vary among subpopulations; diversifying selection is indicated by positive values of alpha, the locus-specific component of  $F_{st}$ . We specified `-pr-odds 100`, kept other parameters default, and checked convergence over three replicate runs. Third, we used BAYENV2 (Coop, Witonsky, Di Rienzo, & Pritchard, 2010; Gunther & Coop, 2013), which accounts for population structure and unequal sampling by estimating a variance–covariance matrix of allele frequencies across populations, and returns the  $X^T X$  statistic, which is a measure of the deviation of each locus from the underlying matrix and hence the likelihood that the locus is under diversifying selection. We estimated the population covariance matrix from an LD pruned subset of 33,133 SNPs (PLINK `-indep 50 5 1.4`), using 200,000 iterations. We supplied this matrix in three replicate runs of BAYENV2 for each SNP (100,000 iterations) and took the median of the three  $X^T X$  scores.

### 2.5.2 | Association with environmental variables

We used two approaches to identify markers associated with standard-normalized environmental variables. BAYENV2 investigates allele frequency–environment associations accounting for population

structure and sampling variance as described above. We used the previous subpopulation variance–covariance matrix, performed 200,000 iterations, and ran the analysis five times. As we observed little concordance between Bayes factor rankings of SNPs among replicate runs, but much better concordance between rankings based on Spearman's  $P$ , we used the latter as our informative measure. Such Bayes factor discordance among replicate runs has been noted elsewhere and may not be solved by further increasing run length (Blair, Granka, & Feldman, 2014). We used the median of the absolute values of  $P$  over the five runs as our test statistic. Latent factor mixed models (LFMM\_CL\_V1.4, Frichot, Schoville, Bouchard, & François, 2013) investigate allele frequency–environment associations using models in which latent variables account for population structure. For the LFMM analyses, we imputed missing genotypes, specified 10 latent factors, performed 10,000 iterations with 5,000 burn-in, ran the analysis five times and took the median  $z$ -score. We confirmed that 10 was a suitable number of factors using PCA with a Tracy–Widom test in the R package LEA (Frichot, Mathieu, Trouillon, Bouchard, & François, 2014).

### 2.5.3 | Haplotype homozygosity

We used two approaches to examine subpopulations for elevated haplotype homozygosity, reflecting a selective sweep on an allele within that haplotype. The cross-population extended haplotype homozygosity (EHH) test (XP-EHH, Sabeti et al., 2007) compares EHH at the same site between two populations and thus can be used to identify selective sweeps that have occurred in one population but not in the other (indicated by extreme negative or positive scores). We used SELSCAN-1.1.0b (Szpiech & Hernandez, 2014;  $-max-gap$  2 Mb, all other parameters default) to estimate XP-EHH for each SNP for each of the 45 pairwise population comparisons. We standard-normalized XP-EHH across all chromosomes within each comparison (SELSCAN function  $-norm$ ) and took the maximum absolute normalized score over all comparisons as our test statistic for each SNP.

HAPFLK-1.3.0 (Fariello, Boitard, Naya, SanCristobal, & Servin, 2013) organizes markers into haplotype clusters using a multipoint linkage disequilibrium model and then measures haplotype frequency differentiation between populations, accounting for population structure using a population tree. For the HapFLK analysis, we included Borselva as the outgroup and inferred the population tree from the same 33,133 SNPs used to estimate the variance–covariance matrix for BAYENV2. We ran HapFLK for each chromosome separately, specifying 10 clusters ( $K$ ) and 10 EM runs ( $nfit$ ). We confirmed that 10 was a sufficient number of haplotype clusters by performing a cross-validation procedure using fastPhase 1.4 with an R wrapper script (Khvorykh, 2017; Scheet & Stephens, 2006), and applying 10, 15 or 20 clusters.

### 2.5.4 | Significance testing and combined evidence

The significance of observed outliers or environmental associations in genome scans is frequently assessed by comparing

observed scores to the expected distribution of scores in the absence of selection. However, modelling this neutral distribution requires assumptions about the demographic history of the populations under study that are rarely met. Correspondingly, simulation studies have demonstrated varying levels of type I error and type II error depending on the true underlying scenario and the sampling scheme (De Villemereuil et al., 2014; Lotterhos & Whitlock, 2014; Narum & Hess, 2011). In a similar vein, the statistical properties of test scores used to investigate haplotype homozygosity are not well characterized (Vatsiou, Bazin, & Gaggiotti, 2015). We did not have a way to a priori identify a set of selectively neutral SNPs (Lotterhos & Whitlock, 2014) from which we could obtain an expected distribution of scores. Further, neutral or nonlocally adaptive population genetic processes such as allele surfing and purifying selection can generate high test scores, meaning that any candidate loci identified in genome scans still require validation by further studies (Charlesworth, Nordborg, & Charlesworth, 1997; Edmonds, Lillie, & Cavalli-Sforza, 2004). Given these considerations, we selected our loci of interest based on the empirical distribution of test scores. For each test, we ranked SNPs by test score and retained the top-ranked 0.5% (equivalent to empirical  $p < 0.005$  considering all SNPs). We then combined evidence over these nine sets of SNPs to identify “candidate SNPs” as follows:

1. SNPs in the top 0.5% set in both the LFMM and BAYENV2 analyses were considered environmentally associated SNPs.
2. SNPs in the top set in either the LFMM or the BAYENV2 analysis, and also in the top set in at least two of three outlier analyses were also considered environmentally associated SNPs.
3. SNPs in the top set in at least two of the three outlier analyses, but not in the top set of either environmental analysis, were considered outlier SNPs.
4. SNPs in the top set in both the XP-EHH and HapFLK analysis, but not in other analyses, were termed “EHH” SNPs.
5. We identified a subset of haploblocks that were particularly strong candidates to contain loci under diversifying selection by combining results from the outlier/environmental analyses with results from the XP-EHH and HapFLK analyses. “Candidate haploblocks” contained at least one environmentally associated or outlier SNP, and at least one SNP in the top 0.5% set of either the XP-EHH or HapFLK analysis.

For reference, results from significance tests packaged with BAYESCAN, OUTFLANK, LFMM and HapFLK are provided in archived data files and summarized for candidate SNPs in Supporting information: Tables S2 and S3.

### 2.5.5 | Additional analyses

Based on our results, we performed an additional, exploratory, LFMM analysis using median run time as the dependent variable, following the method described above.

## 2.6 | Annotation of candidate regions

We found genes associated with candidate SNPs and haploblocks using information from NCBI *Salmo salar* Annotation Release 100 provided in the R package Ssa.RefSeq.db (Grammes, 2016). We excluded noncoding RNAs and pseudogenes from the annotation, and converted gene, SNP and haploblock positions into bed format. To annotate candidate SNPs, we first used the BEDTOOLS 2.26.0 function *intersect* to find overlapping genes (Quinlan & Hall, 2010). For SNPs in intergenic regions, we then used the function *closest* to find the nearest downstream gene, assuming that a selected variant could be in a 5' regulatory region. Where a single gene was labelled with both environmentally associated SNPs and outlier and/or "EHH" SNPs, we considered that gene to be environmentally associated.

## 2.7 | Comparison of outliers to previous results

Several previous studies have used a 7K SNP array to identify regions of the genome putatively under differential selection among *S. salar* populations (Bourret, Dionne, Kent, Lien, & Bernatchez, 2013; Bourret, Kent et al., 2013; Gutierrez, Yáñez, & Davidson, 2016; Jeffery et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2017; Mäkinen, Vasemägi, McGinnity, Cross, & Primmer, 2015; Moore et al., 2014; Perrier, Bourret, Kent, & Bernatchez, 2013); discriminating populations (Karlsson, Moen, Lien, Glover, & Hindar, 2011) or associated with phenotypic traits (Gutierrez, Yáñez, Fukui, Swift, & Davidson, 2015; Johnston et al., 2014). To compare our results with the location of SNPs of interest identified in these studies, we obtained flanking sequences for the 7K SNPs from NCBI dbSNP ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/)) and aligned them with the *S. salar* genome using bwa-mem with default parameters (Li, 2013; Li & Durbin, 2009). We only retained unambiguously mapped sequences with  $MQ \geq 50$ . We considered a 7K SNP to map to one of our candidate regions if it was within the haploblock boundary.

To further explore one strong candidate region for local selection, we aligned *O. nerka* RAD-tag sequences from the study of Veale and Russello (2017b) to the annotated *S. salar* and *O. mykiss* genomes (Omyk\_1.0 available: [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCF\\_002163495.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCF_002163495.1)). We again used bwa-mem with default parameters and retained unambiguously mapped sequences with  $MQ \geq 25$ .

## 3 | RESULTS

### 3.1 | Environmental variation, phenotypic variation and population structure

Freshwater migration distance was strongly correlated with elevation ( $\tau = 0.78$ ,  $p = 0.0009$ ), but neither were correlated with upstream catchment area ( $\tau = 0.20$ ,  $p = 0.4843$ ;  $\tau = -0.02$ ,  $p = 1.000$ ; Supporting information: Figure S1). We therefore retained "distance" and "catchment" as the environmental parameters in our analysis. Median run time was not correlated with migration distance

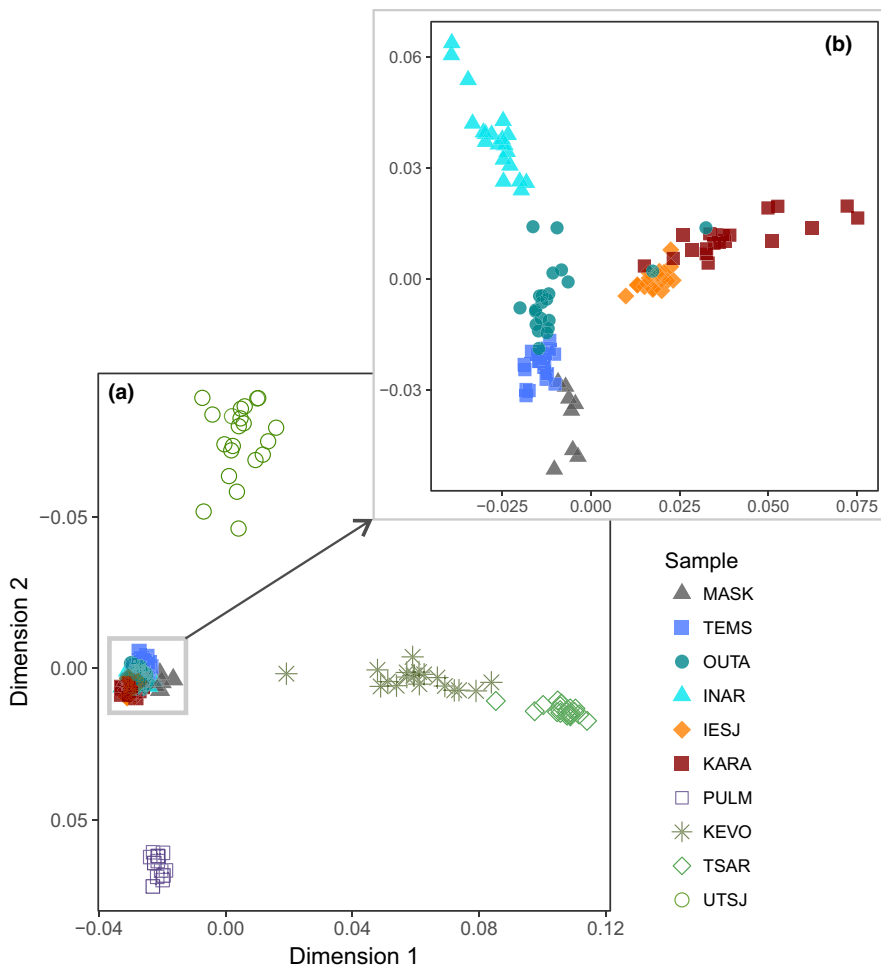
( $\tau = 0.09$ ,  $p = 0.7165$ ; Supporting information: Figure S1) and was positively but not significantly correlated with upstream catchment area ( $\tau = 0.46$ ,  $p = 0.0694$ ; Supporting information: Figure S1). Proportion of multi-seawinter females was not correlated with either environmental variable (Supporting information: Figure S1).

Pairwise  $F_{st}$  between samples is shown in Supporting information: Table S1; global  $F_{st}$  was 0.067, similar to previous microsatellite-based analyses (Vähä et al., 2017). We observed slightly lower genomewide heterozygosity in the tributary subpopulations ( $H_e$ , KEVO: 0.338; MASK: 0.349; PULM: 0.320; TSAR: 0.294; UTSJ: 0.343) than in the mainstem and headwater subpopulations (IESJ: 0.370; INAR: 0.362; KARA: 0.363; OUTA: 0.372; TEMS: 0.373). Correspondingly, MDS visualization of population structure revealed differentiation at two hierarchical levels. Analysis of the entire data set showed the tributary subpopulations KEVO, TSAR, UTSJ and PULM to be strongly differentiated from one another and the mainstem, headwater and MASK subpopulations (Figure 2). Excluding these tributary subpopulations and repeating the analysis also confirmed genomic divergence among the remaining six subpopulations (Figure 2), although at least two individuals from OUTA were possible migrants from other sites (Figure 2).

Comparing Teno mainstem and headwater juveniles to adults caught in the mainstem revealed, clearly, that the two genetically differentiated subpopulations described in Aykanat et al. (2015) derived from different spawning locations (Supporting information: Figure S2). "Subpopulation 1" overlapped with juveniles caught in the Garnjarga area of the Teno mainstem (TEMS), while "Subpopulation 2" overlapped juveniles caught 150-km upstream in Inarijoki (INAR). Adults not assigned to either subpopulation cluster overlapped juveniles collected from other Teno locations, including the OUTA site midway between INAR and TEMS. Thus, the subpopulation structuring observed in the Teno mainstem by Aykanat et al. (2015) was generated by the sampling of migratory adults originating from two subpopulations with geographically distinct spawning and/or juvenile rearing sites.

### 3.2 | Regions of the genome potentially responding to local selection

Distributions of test scores for the top-ranked 10,000 SNPs, and the top 0.5% that were retained, are shown in Supporting information: Figure S3. By combining results from the outlier and environmental association tests, we identified 1,534 SNPs that, under our criteria, were candidates to be linked to variants under local selection (0.77% of total SNPs examined; 604 outlier SNPs, 437 SNPs associated with distance, 394 SNPs associated with catchment area, 99 "EHH" SNPs; Supporting information: Table S2). These "candidate SNPs" occurred within 675 different haploblocks and were associated with 531 overlapping and 286 downstream genes (Supporting information: Table S3; 1.9% of all genes annotated on the *S. salar* chromosomes; outlier: 231 overlapping/135 downstream; distance: 163 overlapping/90 downstream; catchment: 129 overlapping/58 downstream; "EHH": nine overlapping/two downstream; Supporting information:



**FIGURE 2** Two-dimensional MDS plot based on genomewide IBS. (a) All juvenile samples; (b) all samples except KEVO, PULM, TSAR and UTSJ [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

Tables S2 and S3). Thirty one haploblocks (4.6%) contained SNPs on the 7K array that were identified as candidates for divergent selection or associated with traits of interest in previous Atlantic salmon studies (Supporting information: Table S2).

Forty-three haploblocks had evidence for local selection both from outlier and/or environmental association analyses and from haplotype frequency/homozygosity analyses (Supporting information: Table S4, Figure S4; 26 supported by HapFLK, 11 supported by XP-EHH; six supported by both). These “candidate haploblocks” were distributed over 18 of the 29 *S. salar* chromosomes. Two of the candidate haploblocks on Ssa04 (Supporting information: Figure S4.2), three (Supporting information: Figure S4.5) and another three (Supporting information: Figure S4.6) on Ssa09, six on Ssa12 (Supporting information: Figure S4.10\_11) and two on Ssa27 (Supporting information: Figure S4.31) were located closely together on the chromosome and supported by a HapFLK or XP-EHH signal that could be driven by a single selected locus; thus, we considered there to be 32 independent candidate regions (Supporting information: Table S4). Haploblock size ranged from 1.8 kb to 2.4 Mb.

Nine of these candidate regions included loci of interest from previous salmonid studies (Table 2). A single haploblock with particularly strong evidence for divergent selection was located on Ssa09 and contained the *Irrc9* locus shown by Veale and Russello (2017a)

to be associated with spawning ecotype in *O. nerka*. Ecotype-associated RAD-tag 66810 of Veale and Russello (2017b, corresponding to RAD-tag 57884 of Nichols et al., 2016) mapped to *Irrc9* within this haploblock. RAD-tag 24343, also found to be associated with spawning ecotype by Veale and Russello (2017b), Nichols et al. (2016, RAD-tag 64477), and Larson et al. (2017, RAD-tag 41305) did not align with the *S. salar* genome, but mapped unambiguously on the *O. mykiss* genome  $\approx 36$  kb from 66810 between the genes *Irr9* and *dhrs7* (Figure 3). No other (ecotype associated or neutral) RAD-tag from Veale and Russello (2017b) mapped within this haploblock or adjacent candidate haploblocks on Ssa09.

## 4 | DISCUSSION

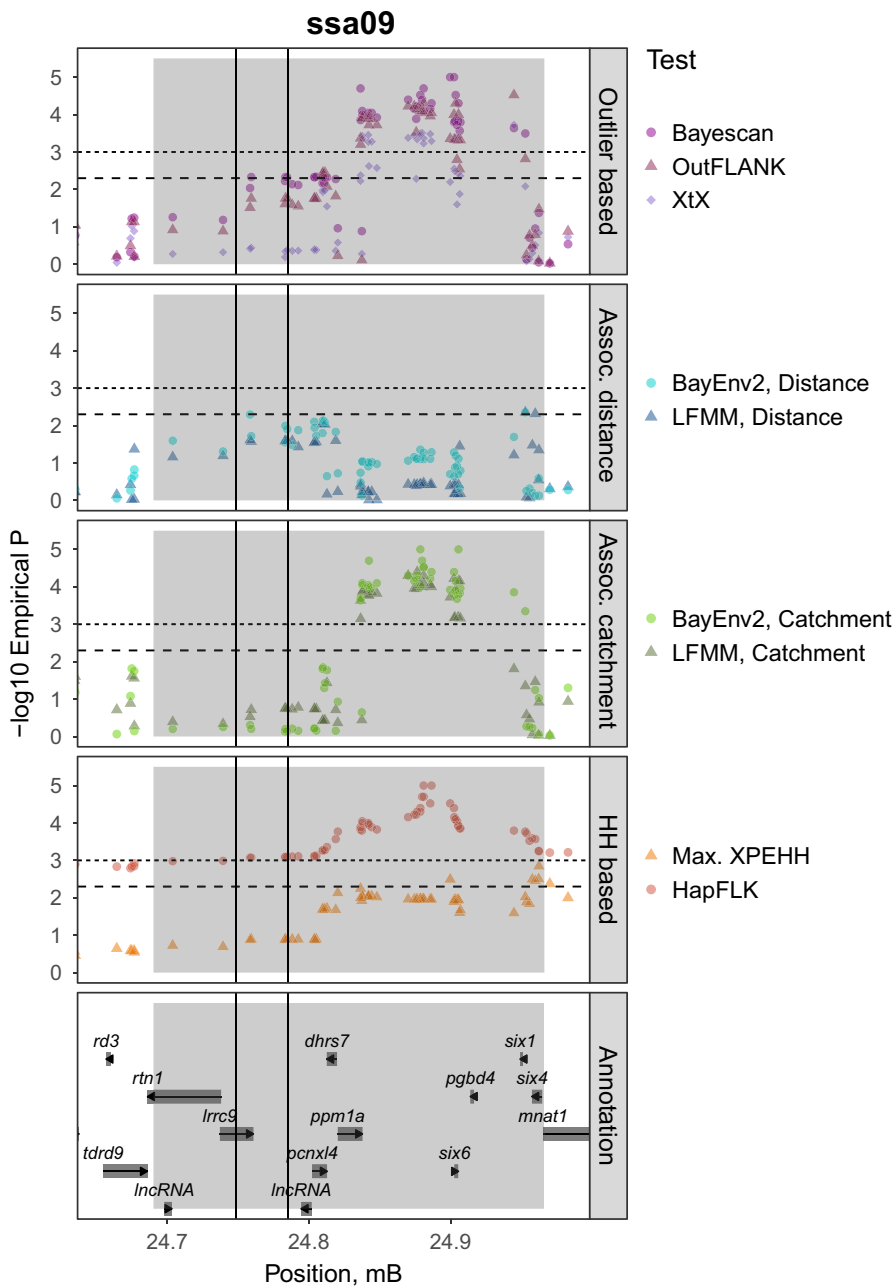
In this study, we used a “bottom-up” approach—examining patterns of variation across the genome—to identify loci that may be involved in fine-scale local adaptation of Atlantic salmon in a large river system. By combining results from outlier and environmental association analyses, we identified 1,534 candidate SNPs, annotated with 817 protein-coding loci. While the relatively relaxed empirical  $p$  threshold ( $p < 0.005$  based on the observed distribution of test statistics) means that these candidate genes may include numerous

**TABLE 2** Candidate haploblocks which include candidate genes or outliers identified in other salmonid studies

Region#	Chr	Start	End	Haplo	Type	Annotated genes	Notes
2	ssa04	49548061	49670244	HapFLK, XPEHH	Outlier	protein <i>btg3</i> -like; coxsackievirus and adenovirus receptor homolog ( <i>cxadr</i> )	Outlier among N. American <i>S. salar</i> populations <sup>1</sup>
5	ssa09	24690259	24966282	HapFLK, XPEHH	Catchment	reticulon 1 ( <i>rtn1</i> ); leucine-rich repeat-containing protein 9-like ( <i>lrrc9</i> ); pecanex-like 4 ( <i>pcnx4</i> ); dehydrogenase/reductase (SDR family) member 7 ( <i>dhrs7</i> ); protein phosphatase 1A-like ( <i>ppm1a</i> ); SIX homeobox 6 ( <i>six6</i> ); piggyBac transposable element-derived protein 4-like ( <i>pgbd4</i> ); SIX homeobox 1 ( <i>six1</i> ); SIX homeobox 4 ( <i>six4</i> )	Associated with age at maturity and run timing in <i>S. salar</i> <sup>2,3</sup> Outlier among N. American <i>S. salar</i> populations <sup>1,4</sup> Associated with spawning location in <i>O. nerka</i> <sup>5</sup>
11	ssa12	61343872	61703592	HapFLK	Distance	ras-related protein <i>rab-40c</i> -like; myoD family inhibitor-like ( <i>mdfi</i> ); transmembrane protein 183A-like ( <i>tmem183a</i> ); transcription factor EB-like ( <i>tfeb</i> ); MHC class II alpha chain ( <i>daa</i> ) & beta chain ( <i>dab</i> ).	Associated with age at maturity in <i>S. salar</i> in the Teno River <sup>6</sup>
13	ssa13	82012742	82114498	HapFLK, XPEHH	Distance	neuronal PAS domain-containing protein 2-like ( <i>npas2</i> ); vacuolar ATPase assembly integral membrane protein <i>vma21</i> -like; LOC106567768; non-POU domain-containing octamer-binding proteinlike ( <i>nono</i> ); apoptosis-inducing factor, mitochondrion-associated ( <i>aifm1</i> ); glycine receptor subunit alpha-4-like ( <i>glra4</i> , downstream)	<i>Npas2</i> -linked variation discriminates <i>O. tshawytscha</i> populations with different migratory timing <sup>7</sup>
16	ssa17	6846387	6862460	XPEHH	Catchment	aryl hydrocarbon receptor 2 gamma ( <i>ahr2g</i> , downstream)	Outlier between Baltic anadromous and landlocked <i>S. salar</i> <sup>8</sup> Ahr2 regulatory variation is associated with craniofacial differentiation between <i>S. alpinus</i> ecotypes <sup>9</sup>
23	ssa19	21194663	23553773	HapFLK	Distance	cadherin-12-like ( <i>cdh12</i> ); protein tweety homolog 2-like ( <i>ttyh2</i> ); BTB/POZ domain-containing protein 3-like ( <i>btbd3</i> ); coagulation factor XIII A chainlike ( <i>f13a</i> ); LOC106578580; cadherin-10-like ( <i>cdh10</i> ); cadherin-6-like ( <i>cdh6</i> ); melanocortin 4 receptor-like ( <i>mc4r</i> , downstream)	Outlier between wild and domesticated <i>S. salar</i> , N. America and Norway <sup>10,11,12</sup> Associated with migration difficulty in <i>S. alpinus</i> <sup>13</sup>
27	ssa24	1264159	1272401	HapFLK	Outlier	metal transporter <i>cnnm4</i> -like; interleukin-1 beta ( <i>il1b</i> , downstream)	<i>Cnnm4</i> is a strong candidate gene for local selection in <i>O. mykiss</i> <sup>14</sup>
29	ssa25	28639461	28832410	HapFLK	Catchment	transcription cofactor vestigial-like protein 3 ( <i>vgll3</i> ); A kinase (PRKA) anchor protein 11 ( <i>akap11</i> ); tumour necrosis factor (ligand) superfamily, member 11 ( <i>tnfsf11</i> ); epithelial-stromal interaction 1 ( <i>epsti1</i> ); DnaJ (Hsp40) homolog, subfamily C, member 15 ( <i>dnajc15</i> ).	<i>Vgll3</i> and <i>akap11</i> are candidates for the large-effect age - at- maturity gene in <i>S. salar</i> <sup>2,15</sup>
32	ssa28	6256290	6284228	XPEHH	Catchment	myoferlin ( <i>myof</i> ); centrosomal protein 55 ( <i>cep55</i> ); retinol binding protein 4 ( <i>rbp4</i> ); cone cGMP-specific 3',5'-cyclic phosphodiesterase subunit alpha-like ( <i>pde6c</i> , downstream)	Outlier between wild and domesticated Norwegian <i>S. salar</i> <sup>16</sup>

"Region#" indexes the 32 genomic regions inferred to be under diversifying selection, which may include >1 haploblock. "Test" indicates whether the selective signal was supported by XP-EHH, HapFLK or both. "Type" indicates whether a haploblock is an outlier or environmentally associated, based on the consensus SNP signal; "Annotated Genes": NCBI annotated gene products. See Supporting information: Table S4 for details of all candidate haploblocks

1. Moore et al., 2014; 2. Barson et al., 2015; 3. Cauwelier et al., 2017; 4. Bourret, Dionne, Kent, Lien, & Bernatchez, 2013; 5. Veale & Russello, 2017a; 6. Johnston et al., 2014; ; 7. O'Malley et al., 2013; 8. Bourret, Kent, et al., 2013; 9. Ahi et al., 2014; 10. Karlsson et al., 2011; 11. Mäkinen et al., 2015; 12. Liu et al., 2017; 13. Moore et al., 2017; 14. Micheletti et al., 2018; 15. Ayllon et al., 2015; 16. Gutierrez et al., 2016.



**FIGURE 3** Signatures of local selection on the *Ssa09* region containing the *Six6* gene. Dashed and dotted lines indicate empirical  $p < 0.005$  and  $p < 0.001$ , respectively (where empirical  $p = \text{SNP rank} / \text{total number of tests}$ ). The grey rectangle shows the boundaries of the associated haplotype block. Black vertical lines indicate the mapping position *O. nerka* ecotype-associated RAD-tags 68810 (left) and 24343 (right; Veale & Russello, 2017b) [Colour figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

false positives, this threshold also increases our power to detect genes underlying polygenic adaptive traits (De Villemereuil et al., 2014). By adding evidence from patterns of haplotype homozygosity, we found 32 regions of the genome that are particularly likely to contain loci under differential selection (Supporting information: Table S4, Supporting information: Figure S4). Nine of these regions have been documented as potential selective targets among other salmonid populations and/or contain candidate genes known to underlie ecologically relevant phenotypic variation (Table 2). This observation both increases our confidence that the other regions identified using the same criteria also harbour genes under divergent selection, and also suggests that certain loci are under repeated selection among Atlantic salmon at local, regional and continental scales. Of particular note, we found a single genomic region that

was highly differentiated among Teno River subpopulations, a candidate selective target throughout the range of Atlantic salmon, and which colocalized with an ecologically important haplotype within a different salmonid genus.

#### 4.1 | A large-effect gene underlying age at maturity appears under differential selection among populations

A candidate haplotype block for diversifying selection on *Ssa25* contains the known large-effect locus underlying variation in age at maturity in Atlantic salmon (Ayllon et al., 2015; Barson et al., 2015; candidate genes *vgl3* and *akap11*; Table 2; Supporting information: Figure S4.26). Our results lend further support to the evidence in

Barson et al. (2015) that variants at this locus may be differentially selected among rivers. This genomic region is strongly associated with upstream catchment area, an association that suggests different trade-offs between size at maturity and reproductive success in different size rivers. At the simplest level, mechanical constraints could limit the access of larger, later-maturing fish to smaller tributaries, while only larger females may be able to successfully construct redds in higher flow locations with coarser substrate (Kondolf & Wolman, 1993).

#### 4.2 | A strong signature of divergent selection among Atlantic salmon populations colocalizes with a locus associated with spawning site selection in sockeye salmon

We observe an extremely strong signal of diversifying selection  $\approx 2.5$  Mb along Atlantic salmon chromosome Ssa09 (Figure 3, Table 2; Supporting information: Figure S4.5). SNPs in this region are among the most extreme outliers in all three outlier analyses, are robustly associated with upstream catchment area in both environmental association analyses and are clearly indicated as colocating with a selective sweep by XP-EHH and HapFLK results. The selective signal centres on a cluster of closely linked SNPs spanning  $\approx 7$  kb between the genes *protein phosphatase 1a* (*ppm1a*) and *SIX homeobox 6* (*six6*). The TEMS sample, from the large Teno mainstem, is almost fixed for one allelic variant across these SNPs, and XP-EHH results indicate a positive selective sweep on this allele. Conversely, the samples from the smaller tributaries KEVO, TSAR and PULM are almost fixed for the alternate allele (Supporting information: Table S2). The strong relationship of allele frequencies at this location with catchment area infers that this outlying locus is also associated with subpopulation run time, a relationship that we confirmed by performing a supplementary LFMM analysis with median run time as the dependent variable (Supporting information: Table S5).

Differentiation of this Ssa09 region among Atlantic salmon populations was previously shown by Barson et al. (2015), where the candidate SNPs were  $F_{ST}$  outliers and strongly associated with variation in age at maturity in genomewide association studies before correction for population stratification. This pattern was observed both in the Teno and throughout Norway. Barson et al. (2015) also found a small but significant effect of genotype at this locus on length of returning adults. Recently, Cauwelier, Gilbey, Sampayo, Stradmeyer, and Middlemas (2017) found that the locus was associated with intrapopulation variation in run timing of Atlantic salmon in Scotland. Further, Bourret, Dionne, et al. (2013) and Moore et al. (2014), using a 7K SNP chip, found evidence that this region of Ssa09 was under diversifying selection among Atlantic salmon populations in North America. This suggests that the same variant could be involved in adaptive divergence throughout the range of the species. Intriguingly, this strongly outlying region is close to the locus associated with spawning site selection in *O. nerka* (Veale & Russello, 2017a). The relevant RAD-tags map within our candidate haploblock but

$\approx 75$ –100 kb away from our strongest candidate markers (Figure 3). Given the much lower density of the Veale and Russello (2017b), Nichols et al. (2016), and Larson et al. (2017) RAD-tags compared to our SNPs, the same causal locus may be implicated in both cases. Supporting this, SNPs on the 7K array found to be associated with age at maturity in Teno salmon by Johnston et al. (2014) map  $\approx 700$  kb distant (Supporting information: Table S3) but are clearly labelling our candidate locus. Further, Veale and Russello (2017a), sequencing through *lrrc9*, found that haplotype divergence increased towards our candidate region.

One gene flanking this region, *ppm1a*, is a broad-specificity enzyme whose potential selective importance is unclear. In contrast, *six6* is an evolutionarily conserved transcriptional coregulator with well-characterized roles in development of the eye and establishment of the pituitary–hypothalamic axis in multiple vertebrates (Jean, Bernier, & Gruss, 1999; Seo, Drivenes, Ellingsen, & Fjose, 1998; Toy, Yang, Leppert, & Sundin, 1998). It is an orthologue of the invertebrate gene *optix*, which underlies locally adaptive variation in wing pigmentation across multiple butterfly genera (Zhang, Mazo-Vargas, & Reed, 2017). In the developing vertebrate eye, *six6* interacts with other genes to mediate both early initiation of the eye field and later establishment of the mature retina (Conte et al., 2010; Seo et al., 1998). Through its role in hypothalamic development, it is required for proper development of the suprachiasmatic nucleus, which is the central regulator of circadian timing in mammals (Clark et al., 2013), and may have a similar role in fish (Watanabe et al., 2012). *Six6* is also an important regulator of fertility in mammals of both sexes, via its effect on gonadotropin-releasing hormone production by the hypothalamus (Larder, Clark, Miller, & Mellon, 2011). Correspondingly, like *vgll3*, it is implicated in human pubertal timing (Hou et al., 2017). Barson et al. (2015) did not find any nonsynonymous mutations in the *six6* coding region, and results indicate that the selective target could be a regulatory element for this gene. Many putative *six6* enhancer elements are located within our candidate region in other species. Several have directly been shown to regulate *six6* expression in different tissues and at different developmental stages, while others remain poorly characterized (Conte et al., 2010; Ledford et al., 2017; Lee, Rizzoti et al., 2012).

How this region interacts with the Ssa25 (*vgll3*) locus to influence age at maturity—whether through a direct functional relationship, and/or indirectly by reducing gene flow and altering the selective landscape for the Ssa25 locus among populations—remains unknown. Given the observation that the same genomic region underlies spawning site differentiation in *O. nerka*, we hypothesize that *six6* could mediate spawning site selection in both species by modulating aspects of the sensory and/or reproductive system, including reproductive timing. Notably, both Atlantic salmon in larger rivers and sockeye salmon on lake shores tend to be spawning at increased depths (with consequent altered light regimens) and on coarser substrates (Frazer & Russello, 2013; Louhi, Mäki-Petäys, & Erkinaro, 2008). Further, *O. nerka* spawning ecotypes also differ in their reproductive timing (Frazer & Russello, 2013). As with its invertebrate orthologue (Zhang et al., 2017), *six6* may have pleiotropic

effects on multiple aspects of the phenotype by acting as “master switch” across different regulatory networks during development.

In addition to *vgll3* and *six6*, several other genes implicated in human pubertal timing (Hou et al., 2017) are annotated to candidate SNPs associated with upstream catchment area: *neuronal growth regulator 1* (*negr1*, Ssa10), linked to both obesity and sexual maturation in several taxa (Lee, Hengstler et al., 2012); *trmt11* (Ssa05); *ptprf* (Ssa10); *nrk2* (Ssa10); and *h6st1* (Ssa29; Supporting information: Table S3). These genes merit further investigation as potential inter-actors involved in the relationship between *six6*, *vgll3* and life-history variation among different Atlantic salmon populations.

#### 4.3 | Possible selection on genes involved in circadian timing

After the Ssa09 locus, the genomic region most clearly associated with upstream catchment area (and run timing) from the combined LFMM and BAYENV results is located  $\approx 19$  Mb along Ssa11 (Supporting information: Table S2, Table S3, Table S5). While this region is not supported as a “candidate haploblock” given our current thresholds, it contains SNPs within the top 2% of XP-EHH scores. This region is also highly differentiated between northern and southern populations of *S. salar* in Norway (Kjærner-Semb et al., 2016). One of two candidate genes at this locus is zinc finger homeobox 3 (*zfhx3*), a transcription factor expressed in the suprachiasmatic nucleus with a role in mammalian circadian rhythms, including sleep (Balzani et al., 2016). This might therefore be considered a candidate locus for coselection with *six6*.

A candidate haploblock at on Ssa13, associated with freshwater migration distance, overlaps *neuronal PAS domain protein 2* (*npas2*; Table 2; Supporting information: Figure S4.10). *Npas2* is a paralogue of *clock*, which is well known for regulating circadian rhythms and reproductive cycles in diverse taxa. In mammals, the two genes have similar roles in the suprachiasmatic nucleus, and *npas2* can compensate if *clock* is silenced (DeBruyne, Weaver, & Reppert, 2007). *Clock* polymorphisms are associated with the timing of reproduction in rainbow trout and Chinook salmon, and show a latitudinal cline consistent with local selection in the latter (Leder, Danzmann, & Ferguson, 2006; O'Malley & Banks, 2008; O'Malley, Camara, & Banks, 2007). Few salmonid studies have examined *npas2*, but O'Malley, Jacobson, Kurth, Dill, and Banks (2013) found that *npas2*-linked variation discriminated *O. tshawytscha* populations with different migratory timing. In our analysis, however, this candidate haploblock is not associated with run timing.

#### 4.4 | Evidence for local selection on genes mediating energy homeostasis

We found a large (2.3 Mb) candidate haploblock on Ssa19 that was associated with freshwater migration distance (Table 2; Supporting information: Figure S5.20). This haploblock overlaps a region of the genome responding to domestication selection in North America *S. salar* (Liu et al., 2017; Mäkinen et al., 2015) and also contains a SNP

differentiating wild and domestic Norwegian *S. salar* (Karlsson et al., 2011). A homologous region was recently found to be associated with migratory difficulty (a function of distance and altitude gain) in Arctic char (Moore et al., 2017). Following Liu et al. (2017), we hypothesize that the target of selection is a regulatory element for downstream *melanocortin 4 receptor* (*mc4r*). This gene, well known for its association with human obesity, is a controller of energy homeostasis and somatic growth in fish and other vertebrates via its influence on food intake and energy expenditure (Krashes, Lowell, & Garfield, 2016; Metz, Peters, & Flik, 2006). Given its function, it is expected to be differentially selected in the wild vs. domestic environment, and by varying energy requirements during the upstream spawning migration (when Atlantic salmon do not feed). Several other obesity-associated genes are candidate selective targets, including *negr1*; four copies of *neurexin 3* (*nrnx3*) on a large candidate haploblock on Ssa09 (Table 2; Supporting information: Figure S4.7); *lingo2* (Ssa05 and Ssa09); and *arid5b* (Ssa01; Clausnitzer et al., 2015; Castillo, Hazlett, Orlando, & Garver, 2017; Heard-Costa et al., 2009; Supporting information: Table S3). The observation of these genes as selective candidates conforms to a model in which different Teno Atlantic salmon subpopulations are adapted to different energy-balance optima. Further, as threshold levels of fat reserves at specific times of the year are thought influence sexual maturity in salmon (Thorpe, Mangel, Metcalfe, & Huntingford, 1998), such obesity-associated genes may further interact with *vgll3* and *six6* to influence variation in life-history dynamics among Atlantic salmon populations.

#### 4.5 | A signature of directional selection on *MhcII*

A clear signal consistent with directional selection occurs around the single Atlantic salmon copy of the classical major histocompatibility complex (MHC) II (*dab/daa*, Ssa12, Table 2; Supporting information: Figure S4.11; Gómez, Conejeros, Marshall, & Consuegra, 2010). Allelic variation within this haploblock correlates with freshwater migration distance. *MhcII* initiates the adaptive immune response to pathogens by binding foreign peptides and presenting them to T cells (Piertney & Oliver, 2006). Elevated *Mhc* diversity confers broader pathogen resistance: thus, over evolutionary time, *Mhc* alleles are maintained by balancing selection (Piertney & Oliver, 2006). However, pathogen pressure within a population can generate directional selection over shorter timescales. In salmonids, specific *MhcII* alleles have been associated with resistance to the bacterial diseases piscirickettsiosis (Gómez, Conejeros, Consuegra, & Marshall, 2011), furunculosis (Kjøglum, Larsen, Bakke, & Grimholt, 2008; Langefors, Lohm, Grahn, Andersen, & von Schantz, 2001) and infectious salmon anaemia (Kjøglum, Larsen, Bakke, & Grimholt, 2006), and the parasite *Myxobolus cerebralis* (Dionne, Miller, Dodson, & Bernatchez, 2009). The signal of differential selection around *MhcII* supports a model of different pathogen pressures among our sampled subpopulations, despite their co-occurrence in the same drainage basin. Similar evidence for localized directional selection on *MhcII* variants has been observed in sockeye salmon at both broad and fine spatial scales

(Gomez-Uchida et al., 2011; Larson, Seeb, Dann, Schindler, & Seeb, 2014; McClelland et al., 2013).

#### 4.6 | Management implications

Our results strongly indicate that Teno River Atlantic salmon subpopulations identified on the basis of microsatellite variation are also differentiated at the functional genetic level, and so are unlikely to be ecologically interchangeable. This underscores the recommendations of Vähä et al. (2007, 2017) that the stock is managed at the subpopulation level. On a broader scale, our results support the hypothesis that local adaptation may be common among Atlantic salmon populations, even those in geographic proximity. This should be taken into account in stocking and restoration programs.

#### 4.7 | Summary and prospects

Here, we have identified numerous regions of the genome which exhibit signatures of differential selection among Teno River Atlantic salmon subpopulations, suggesting that these regions harbour genes involved in local adaptation at a microgeographic scale. Our results open up multiple avenues for future research, with the ultimate aim of validating candidate genes as adaptively important by linking genotype, phenotype and fitness (Barrett & Hoekstra, 2011). Initially, this could include work to further characterize these regions at the molecular genetic level, including replicate studies on different populations, identification of putative binding sites for regulatory molecules, examination of how variants influence gene transcription and generation of comparative sequence data for other taxa. Importantly, it should also include field and common-garden studies to identify the phenotypic effects of candidate regions—in particular those associated with the candidate genes *six6* and *mc4r*—within Atlantic salmon.

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#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

C.R.P., H.M. & V.L.P. designed the study. J.E., J.-P.V. & P.O. collected tissue samples. H.M. & J.-P.V. performed laboratory work. V.L.P. analysed the data and wrote the manuscript, with input from C.R.P., H.M., J.E. & P.O. All authors approved the manuscript.

#### DATA ACCESSIBILITY

SNP genotypes, analysis results, code and other relevant files have been deposited in the Dryad Digital Repository: <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.463n4v7>.

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.

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