Fingerprinting of hatchery haplotypes by whole-mitogenome sequencing improves genetic studies of masu salmon *Oncorhynchus masou masou*

Short title: Fingerprinting of hatchery haplotypes by whole-mitogenome sequencing in *Oncorhynchus masou masou*

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Abstract

Stocking hatchery fish can lead to disturbance and extinction of the local indigenous population. Stocking similar lineages to the indigenous population makes it difficult to conduct genetic studies to determine conservation units. We considered that, due to the length of the mitogenome, whole-mitogenome analysis might overcome this problem by enabling identification of hatchery haplotypes. Here, to provide basic information for conservation of indigenous masu salmon *Oncorhynchus masou masou*, a commonly stocked fish in the Kase River system, Japan, we used whole-mitogenome analysis of fish to identify hatchery haplotypes in the river and in several hatcheries that might be used for stocking. Whole-mitogenome sequencing clearly identified hatchery haplotypes like fingerprints, identifying the tributaries contaminated with hatchery haplotypes. The results suggest that informal stocking of *O. m. masou* has been performed widely across the Kase River system. Non-hatchery haplotypes mainly belonged to clade I, which was not found in northern Hokkaido Island. Sites without hatchery haplotypes were estimated three, suggesting that these sites are suitable for conservation of the indigenous fish. This study demonstrated that the resolution of the

conventional partial analysis of the mitogenome is insufficient to distinguish between

hatchery haplotype and indigenous haplotype. The whole-mitogenome sequences

provided accurate information that was not available in the partial sequences, enabling

various inferences: e.g., estimation of the origin of stocked fish and circulation of the

reared strains. We conclude that whole-mitogenome analysis is useful for the genetic

study of this species. The whole-mitogenome data produced will contribute to the

conservation, resource management, and further study of *O. m. masou*.

Keywords: mitochondrial DNA; whole sequence; hatchery fish; indigenous;

Oncorhynchus masou masou

Introduction

Stocking of hatchery fish has been carried out throughout the world to mitigate declines

in natural production and enhance fishery production and recreational fishing [1].

However, it has become problematic because it can lead to disturbance and extinction of

the local indigenous population, and loss of genetic diversity [2,3]. Such effects are

observed among salmonid fishes (e.g., [4–7]). Determination of the conservation unit of

the indigenous population requires genetic information to identify the indigenous

individuals; however, stocking fish with a similar lineage to that of the indigenous fish

makes such studies difficult.

Masu salmon *Oncorhynchus masou masou* is endemic across Japan, with diverse

life histories [8]: there is a river-resident form and an anadromous form [8], with

spawning adults homing to their natal river at high rates, similar to other Pacific salmons

[9]. *Oncorhynchus masou masou* is one of commonly stocked fish for recreational fishing

in Japan. Especially on Kyushu Island, public resource management is not sufficient in

many rivers, and inappropriate and informal stocking is performed widely by individuals

and/or fishing clubs. Recent research has suggested that *O. m. masou* can be divided into

different populations in terms of behavior, morphology, and genetics in each river [10–

13]. Stocking hatchery *O. m. masou* might reduce indigenous characteristics and local

adaptations because of hybridization between the stocked and indigenous fish. This could

ultimately lead to a loss of indigenous populations, as observed in other salmonid species

(e.g., [4,14,15]). To conserve the indigenous *O. m. masou* resource in a river, their

genetic information is required. Genetic study of *O. m. masou* in Japan has focused

mainly on northern Hokkaido Island and some areas of Honshu Island and its

surrounding waters (e.g., [10,13,16,17]); studies of this species in Kyushu Island are

scarce [18].

The Kase River system is located in northwestern Kyushu Island (Fig 1).

Inappropriate *O. m. masou* stocking, with no consideration of the indigenous population,

has been conducted for a long time by fishing clubs and personal game fishers in this

river. The distribution of this informal stocking and its impacts on indigenous resources

are unknown, and genetic information is required.

 Fig 1. Sampling locations and hatchery *MT* haplotype distribution detected in the

Kase River system. The upper map shows Kyushu Island, and the lower map shows the

Kase River system. In the lower map, the main man-made dams (black bars with build

year) and waterfalls (blue bars) that may hinder the fish run are marked. Sites with prior

information about stocking history are show in bold letters. For details of the samples and

the results of whole-mitogenome sequencing, see Tables 1 and 4.

We considered that whole-mitogenome analysis might be helpful for genetic

studies to determine the conservation units of this indigenous fish. The mitogenome is

commonly used as a genetic marker for characterizing population structure and

identifying maternal lineages [19–21]. Recent reports suggest that whole-mitogenome

analysis can increase the resolution of matrilineal genetic structure patterns, especially in

low diversity species, and allow detailed and more accurate phylogenetic analysis (e.g.,

[22–25]). Thus, whole-mitogenome analysis might enable identification of hatchery

haplotype in populations of stocked hatchery fish that share similar lineages, and could

help estimate the indigenous genetic structure and lineage. Moreover, whole-mitogenome

sequencing will allow comparative phylogenetic analysis of any region of the

mitogenome.

Here, to provide basic information for conservation of the indigenous *O. m. masou*

in the Kase River system, we analyzed the whole-mitogenome in this species in this river

system and in several hatcheries that might be used for stocking. Through this analysis

we could identify hatchery haplotypes of fish in this river system and clarify their

distribution. The whole-mitogenome analysis provided important information that was

not available from conventional partial-mitogenome analysis.

Materials and methods

Ethics statement

This study was conducted with the permission of the Saga prefecture (permission number

3018). The fish were collected under appropriate fishing licenses that allowed the capture

and sacrifice of the fish. The ethical approval of the Kyushu University Animal

Experiment Committee was not required because approval is only necessary for fish

reared at Kyushu University (according to the Kyushu University Animal

Experimentation Regulations). However, this study was carried out according to the

guidelines of the Ichthyological Society of Japan

(http://www.fish-isj.jp/english/guidelines.html).

Study area and samples

Information about the *O. m. masou* samples (sample numbers, sampling year, and

stocking history) used in this study is listed in Table 1, and the locations of sampling sites

are shown in Fig 1. The samples from the Kase River system were collected at 18 sites

from 16 tributaries (St1–St8, St9-1 and St9-2, St10–St16, and StM1) (Fig 1, Table 1).

Samples from Shiiba Research Forest, Kyushu University (sSRF), an unstocked site in

the Hitotsuse River system, were used as the control group. Information on the stocking

history and hatcheries used for the Kase River system were obtained by interviewing the

local populace, fishing clubs, and local hatcheries, similar to the approach described in

Nakamura [26]. As a result of these interviews, one research center (Miyazaki Prefectural

Fisheries Research Institute, sKFR) and six hatcheries (sHT1–sHT6) were selected as

putative sources of *O. m. masou* in this river system (Fig 1, Table 1): sHT1, a hatchery in

the Kase River system, is used for the public projects of Saga prefecture, a local

fishermen's cooperative, and local residents and volunteers—fish in sHT1 originate from

sKFR-reared wild eggs from the Ishido stream of the Hitotsuse River system; sHT2 is

recently used by a fishing club; sHT3 has been commonly used by fishing clubs,

including the same group that used sHT2; sHT4 is being used with sHT1 by a local

fishermen's cooperative; embryos from sHT5 can be easily purchased by individuals on

the internet; and sHT6 is the original hatchery used by a different fishing club than that

using sHT2. Information about the river of origin and mating history of hatchery fishes is

shown in the columns "River / tributary" and "Additional information", respectively, in

Table 1.

Table 1. Sample information used in this study.

	Site ID	River / tributary[a]	Sampling year	Number of samples	Stocking history	Additional information
Kase River	St1	Kase / tributary 1	2016	16	unknown	

system	St2	Kase / tributary 2	2016	21	unknown	
	St3	Kase / tributary 3	2016	5	stocked	
	St4	Kase / tributary 4	2015, 2016	23	stocked	
	St5	Kase / tributary 5	2016	21	unknown	
	St6	Kase / tributary 6	2016	12	unknown	
	St7	Kase / tributary 7	2016	8	stocked	
	St8	Kase / tributary 8	2016	6	unknown	
	St9-1	Kase / tributary 9	2016	22	unknown	
	St9-2	Kase / tributary 9	2016	11	unknown	
	St10	Kase / tributary 10	2016	26	unknown	
	St11	Kase / tributary 11	2016	22	unknown	
	St12	Kase / tributary 12	2016	20	unknown	
	St13	Kase / tributary 13	2016	16	unknown	
	St14	Kase / tributary 14	2016	11	unknown	
	St15	Kase / tributary 15	2016	11	stocked	
	St16	Kase / tributary 16	2016	11	unknown	

	StM1	Kase / tributary 16	2016	24	stocked	
Control	sSRF	Hitotsuse	2016	20	unstocked	prohibited fishing area
Hatchery	sKFR	Hitotsuse / Ishido	2016	7	-	from native fish
etc.	sHT1	Hitotsuse / Ishido	2016	11	-	from sKFR
	sHT2	Kita	2016	15	-	from native fish
	sHT3	Gokase	2016	15	-	mated with native fish and others
	sHT4	-	2016	10	-	mated with many strain
	sHT5	Ooyodo / Okimizu	2016	10	-	from native fish
	sHT6	Gokase / Kawabashiri	2016	9	-	mated with native fish and others

[a]For each hatchery, the original river of the reared fish is given.

Sampling and DNA extraction

Wild fish were captured by electrofishing or normal fishing from 2015 to 2016. A small

piece of fin was taken from each specimen, and the captured fish were released at the

same point in the river. Tissues were immediately fixed in 99.5% ethanol or RNA*later*

solution (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and stored at −20 °C until use. Total genomic DNA

was extracted from preserved tissue using the QIAGEN Blood & Tissue DNeasy Kit

(QIAGEN).

DNA sequence and genetic analysis

Sequencing was performed in two steps: first, the NADH dehydrogenase subunit 5 gene

(*ND5*) sequences of all samples (383 individuals) were analyzed; next, some of the

samples (88 individuals) were selected to represent each site and each *ND5* haplotype,

and the whole-mitogenome sequences of these samples were analyzed.

The *ND5* region (1,597 bp) was amplified with the primer pair ND5-F1 and ND5-R

(Table 2). The PCR mixture was as follows: 10–50 ng genomic DNA, 1× Phusion HF

buffer (New England BioLabs), 0.2 mM of each dNTP, 0.5 µM of each primer, and 0.1

µL Phusion DNA polymerase (New England BioLabs) in a total volume of 10 µL. The

PCR program was as follows: one cycle at 98 °C for 30 s, followed by 40 cycles of 98 °C

for 10 s, 64 °C for 20 s, and 72 °C for 60 s, and a final extension at 72 °C for 2 min. Each

PCR product was sequenced with the primer ND5-F1 or ND5-F2 (Table 2). The *ND5*

sequences were assembled and multiple sequences were aligned using ATGC Ver. 4.3.5

software (GENETYX Co.). The identified 1,449 bp sequence variants (*ND5* haplotypes)

(*ND5* position, 358–1806; mitogenome position, 13299–14747 for reference sequence

NC_008747) were deposited in DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank as shown in S1 Table.

Table 2. List of primers used in this study.

Name	Sequence (5'–3')	Primer position[a]	
		mitogenome	*ND5*
ND5-F1[b]	TACCCCAATTGCCCTGTACG	13223–13242	282–301
ND5-F2	TCAGGCTCAATTATCCACAG	13986–14005	1045–1064
ND5-R[b]	ACTAACACGTGGGTTAGGTCGAG	14797–14819	(3' NCR)[c]
MT-F	AATTATCCACAGTTTAAATGACGAACAAG	13994–14022	1053–1081
MT-R	AAAAGTATAGCTTTAAAGAATGCGTGAGT	13950–13978	1009–1037

[a] The primer is positioned in the reference sequence (NC_008747). [b] Reference taken from

Kitanishi et al. [10]; however, ND5-R varied slightly from this reference. [c] 3' terminal

non-coding region of *ND5*

The whole-mitogenome fragment (16.6 kbp) was amplified with primer pair MT-F

and MT-R (Table 2). The PCR mixture was as follows: 20–100 ng genomic DNA, 1×

PrimeSTAR GXL Buffer (TaKaRa Bio Inc.), 0.2 mM each dNTP, 0.2 µM each primer,

and 0.3 µL of PrimeSTAR GXL DNA polymerase (TaKaRa Bio Inc.) in a total volume

of 15 µL. The PCR program was as follows: one cycle at 98 °C for 10 s, followed by 40

cycles of 98 °C for 10 s, 60 °C for 15 s, 68 °C for 14 min, and a final extension at 68 °C

for 5 min. Each PCR product was subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis, and the

mitogenome was extracted from the excised band by using the Wizard SV Gel and PCR

Clean-up System (Promega).

Mitogenome libraries for next-generation sequencing (NGS) were prepared using a

QIAseq FX DNA Library Kit (QIAGEN). For each library, the quality and fragment size

were checked using an Agilent BioAnalyzer and the concentration was quantified by

qPCR (Mx3000p, Agilent) using a KAPA LQ Kit (KAPA Biosystems). Pooled and

denatured library (8 pM) containing 5% volume of PhiX (control library; Illumina) was

sequenced using the Illumina MiSeq system with MiSeq Reagent Kit V3 (300-bp

paired-end reads) (Illumina).

The obtained NGS data of paired end reads were trimmed using Trimmomatic ver.

0.36 as follows: a cleanup adapter was applied and reads with low quality (Q score, <28)

and short-length (<50) were filtered out; then, the reads were mapped to the reference

mitogenome sequence (*O. m. masou* accession No: NC_008747) using Burrow–Wheeler

Aligner ver. 0.7.12, and the obtained SAM (Sequence Alignment Map) files being

converted to BAM (Binary Alignment Map) files using SAMtools ver. 1.4.1. The

resulting reads and the single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) sites for the reference

sequence were visualized with Integrative Genomics Viewer version 2.3.83. and

TASSEL ver. 5.0. The primer sites and those outside the region of interest (mitogenome

position: 13950–14022) were replaced with the predetermined *ND5* sequence. The

identified full-length mitogenome sequence variants (*MT* haplotypes) were deposited in

DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank as shown in S1 Table.

The relationships among haplotypes were estimated using the TCS program

implemented in PopART [27]. To determine the relationships between haplotypes in past

studies and the current study, we also analyzed the haplotype network including data of

Kitanishi et al. [10] and Yu et al. [16].

Results

DNA sequence and determination of haplotype

The sequencing analysis of the 1,449 bp fragment containing the ND5 gene detected a

total of 18 *ND5* haplotypes with 28 SNP sites from 383 individuals (Tables 3 and S2). Of

these, 10 *ND5* haplotypes (KS4, KS6, KS8–KS10, KS12, KS14, HT3, HT4A, and HT4B)

were detected in hatcheries, and seven of these, KS4, KS6, KS8–KS10, KS12, and KS14,

were detected in the Kase River system. KS4 was also detected in the unstocked area,

sSRF, in the Hitotsuse River system.

Table 3. Distribution of *ND5* haplotypes in each sampling site.

		KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4*	KS5	KS6*	KS7	KS8*	KS9*	KS10*	KS11	KS12*	KS13	KS14*	KS15	HT3*	HT4A*	HT4B*	Total (n)
Kase River system	**St1**	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				16
	St2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				21
	St3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0				5
	St4	5	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6				23
	St5	2	14	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				21
	St6	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0				12
	St7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0				8
	St8	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				6
	St9-1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				22
	St9-2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	0				11
	St10	0	0	7	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				26
	St11	0	0	8	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				22
	St12	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				20
	St13	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	7				16
	St14	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0				11
	St15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0				11
	St16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10				11
	StM1	0	0	2	0	1	0	8	2	2	0	0	0	1	8	0				24
	Total (n)	7	26	44	56	21	2	10	46	16	4	4	3	6	18	23				286
Control	**sSRF**	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Hatchery etc.	**sKFR**	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	sHT1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
	sHT2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
	sHT3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	4	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	15
	sHT4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	10
	sHT5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	10
	sHT6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	2	0	9
	Total (n)	0	0	0	13	0	4	0	6	14	20	0	3	0	5	0	5	3	4	77

Asterisked haplotypes indicate the hatchery haplotype in *ND5* haplotype.

Eighty-eight of the 383 individuals that underwent *ND5* sequencing were selected for whole-genome sequencing by NGS. The whole-mitogenome sequencing of all 88 individuals was successful with approximately >1500-fold depth of coverage. The

number of samples with each determined *MT* haplotype are shown for each sampling site

in Table 4. The majority of *ND5* haplotypes were associated with more than one *MT*

haplotype, with 32 haplotypes including 256 SNP sites being detected (Tables 4 and S2).

Sixteen haplotypes were detected in hatcheries (see asterisks, Table 4), and six of these,

mtKS4_1, mtKS8, mtKS9, mtKS10_1, mtKS12, and mtKS14_2, were detected in the

Kase River system. Hatchery haplotypes were distributed in 12 tributaries (13 sites)

including sites with unknown stocking history (Fig 1). Several hatchery haplotypes were

detected upstream of artificial barriers (e.g., dams) and/or natural barriers (e.g.,

waterfalls): mtKS4_1 at St11; mtKS8 at St2 and St9-1; mtKS9 at St15; and mtKS10_1 at

St13 (Fig 1). The whole-mitogenome sequences of KS6 in the Kase River system

(mtKS6_1) and KS4 in sSRF (mtKS4_2) did not match any hatchery *MT* haplotype in the

samples analyzed here (Table 4). Two *MT* haplotypes, mtKS4_1 and mtKS9, were

detected in hatchery sHT1, which was stocked with fish from sKFR; one of these *MT*

haplotypes, mtKS4_1, was the same as that detected in sKFR (Tables 1 and 4). Analyzed

MT haplotype in the ND5 haplotype KS4 samples in the Kase River system was

consistently mtKS4_1 except a sample at St8, mtKS4_2.

Table 4. Result of whole-mitogenome sequencing.

		KS1	KS2		KS3			KS4*			KS5	KS6*		KS7	KS8*	KS9*	KS10*			KS11	KS12*	KS13		KS14*				KS15	HT3*			HT4A*	HT4B*	Total (n)
		mtKS1	mtKS2_1	mtKS2_2	mtKS3_1	mtKS3_2	mtKS3_3	mtKS4_1*	mtKS4_2	mtKS4_HIT	mtKS5	mtKS6_1	mtKS6_HT3*	mtKS7	mtKS8*	mtKS9*	mtKS10_1*	mtKS10_HT2*	mtKS10_HT3*	mtKS11	mtKS12*	mtKS13_1	mtKS13_2	mtKS14_1	mtKS14_2*	mtKS14_HT3*	mtKS14_HT6*	mtKS15	mtHT3_1*	mtHT3_HT4*	mtHT3_HT6*	mtHT4A*	mtHT4B*	Total (n)
Kase River system	St1				4																													4
	St2					1									1																			2
	St3				1			1									1																	3
	St4	1	1																									1						3
	St5	1		3				1																										5
	St6							1							1	1					1													4
	St7							1									1																	2
	St8				1				1						1																			3
	St9-2							1														1	1											3
	St9-1				1							1				2																		4
	St10				1			2																										3
	St11						2	1																										3
	St12										4																							4
	St13						1								1		1								1									4
	St14													1						1														2
	St15														1																			1
	St16																								1			1						2
	StM1										1			1	1									1	1			1						6
Control	sSRF									1																								1
Hatchery	sKFR							1																										1
	sHT1							1								1																		2
	sHT2																				1													1
	sHT3												1		1	1			1		1					1				1				7
	sHT4												1		1		1														1	1	1	6
	sHT5															3			2															5
	sHT6														1			1									3		1			1		7
MT haplotype (n)		2	1	3	8	1	3	10	1	1	5	1	2	2	9	8	4	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	88
ND5 haplotype (n)		2	4		12			12			5	3		2	9	8	8			1	3	2		8				3	3			2	1	88

Number in each cell shows analyzed sample number. Asterisks indicate the hatchery haplotypes.

Some hatchery haplotypes were detected at multiple hatcheries (Table 4):

mtKS6_HT3 was detected at sHT3 and sHT4; mtKS8 was detected at sHT3, sHT4, and

sHT6; mtKS9 was detected at sHT1, sHT3, and sHT5; mtKS10_HT3 was detected at

sHT3 and sHT5; and mtHT4A was detected at sHT4 and sHT6. On the other hand, six

hatchery   haplotypes   (mtKS10_HT2,   mtKS14_HT3,   mtHT3_1,   mtHT3_HT4,

mtHT3_HT6, and mtHT4B) were not detected in any of the samples from the Kase River

system and other hatcheries.

Haplotype network analysis

We analyzed the relationships among haplotypes by using the TCS program (see

Materials and Methods). The results showed a network of *ND5* haplotypes

(*ND5*-haplotype network) comprising four clades (Fig 2A). Analysis of *MT* haplotype

relationships showed a detailed network (*MT*-haplotype network) (Fig 2B). Clades I–III

in the *ND5*-haplotype network were similar to those in the *MT*-haplotype network. Clade

IV of the *ND5*-haplotype network included other *O. masou* subspecies and formed a

star-like topology radiating from haplotype KS14, whereas clade IV of the *MT*-haplotype

network was divided into several sub-clades. In both the *ND5*- and *MT*-haplotype

networks, all haplotypes in clade III were hatchery haplotypes. In clade I of the

MT-haplotype network, mtKS4_1, which was detected at sKFR (original river: Ishido

tributary in the Hitotsuse River system), was in the same branch as mtKS4_HIT, which

was detected at sSRF (original river: other tributary in the Hitotsuse River system).

Fig 2. TCS network trees of *ND5* haplotypes and *MT* haplotypes obtained in this

study. TCS network trees of (A) *ND5* haplotypes and (B) *MT* haplotypes are shown.

Each dash represents one single nucleotide difference between two neighboring

haplotypes. Reference information (abbreviations and sequence accession numbers) are

as follows: OMM, *O. m. masou* (NC_008747); OMI, *O. m. ishikawae* (DQ_864464);

OMF, *O. m. formosanus* (DQ_858456); OMB, *O. m.* Biwa subsp. (Biwa salmon)

(EF_105342).

In the *ND5*-haplotypes network, the non-hatchery haplotypes were mostly in clade I

(70%), followed by clade IV (23%) and clade II (7%) (from the data in Table 3). We

compared the haplotypes and cladal relationships obtained in this study with those

obtained using sequencing data of a 561 bp region in *ND5* in the reports by Kitanishi et al.

[10] and Yu et al. [16] (S3 Table and S1 Fig). KS1, KS2, and KS13, were new haplotypes

in this region of *ND5* in the current study. Clades I, II, III, and IV in the current study

appear to correspond to clade 1-3, 1-6, 2-3, and 2-1, reported by Yu et al. [16],

respectively.

Discussion

Identification of hatchery haplotypes by whole-mitogenome analysis

The whole-mitogenome sequencing clearly identified hatchery haplotypes in *O. m. masou*, like fingerprints. Tributaries contaminated with fish with hatchery haplotypes were clarified, suggesting that informal stocking was widely done across the study area. In pre-information, five tributaries (five sites) had a stocking history (Table 1; bold letters, Fig 1), however, hatchery haplotypes were detected in 12 tributaries (13 sites) (Fig 1). Hatchery haplotypes were also detected upstream of waterfalls and artificial barriers that were built before stocking become popular in the Kase River system in the early 1970s (Fig 1; local residents pers. comm.). *Oncorhynchus masou masou* has a high homing tendency for the natal stream, and the dispersal of anadromous females and river-resident individuals is low [28–30]. Hence, we consider that hatchery haplotypes in each tributary were derived from artificially stocked fish rather than natural dispersal.

This study suggests that the resolution of partial mitogenome sequences is

insufficient to distinguish between hatchery haplotypes and indigenous haplotypes in

similar lineages. For example, the *ND5* haplotype detected in the prohibited fishing area

sSRF was identical to that detected at the hatcheries sHT1 and sKFR (KS4; Table 3),

however, the *MT* haplotype detected at sSRF (i.e., mtKS4_HIT) and that detected at the

above hatcheries (i.e., mtKS4_1) differed by four nucleotides (Tables 4 and S2). Without

whole-mitogenome analysis, we could not get the accurate understanding of the result

indicating that the samples in the prohibited fishing area showed a hatchery *ND5*

haplotype.

Our results suggest that the *MT* haplotype mtKS4_HIT might be an indigenous

haplotype in sSRF for the following reasons. As mentioned above, the mtKS4_HIT

haplotype detected in sSRF differed by only four nucleotides from the mtKS4_1

haplotype found in the sHT1 hatchery and sKFR, and they diverged from the same node

in the *MT*-haplotype network (Fig 2B). Fish in the sHT1 hatchery are known to originate

from sKFR, which in turn sourced fish from the Ishido tributary of the Hitotsuse River

system. The site sSRF is in another tributary of the same Hitotsuse River system (Table

1). Therefore it is possible that fish with these two haplotypes diverged from a common

ancestor in the Hitotsuse River system and accumulated genetic mutations at each site

due to their homing ability and/or being landlocked [30,31]. These results also indicate

that the whole-mitogenome analysis can detect a subtle divergence of the mitogenome

among tributaries.

Other findings provided by whole-mitogenome analysis

The whole-mitogenome analysis provided accurate information that was not available by

conventional partial analysis of the mitogenome, enabling various inferences to be made.

For instance, it allowed estimation of the origin of stocked fish. Partial analysis showed

that the *ND5* haplotype KS4 was detected widely and frequently across the Kase River

system (Table 3). However, with whole-mitogenome analysis, fish with this haplotype

could be divided into three *MT* haplotypes, mtKS4_1, mtKS4_2, and mtKS4_HIT, and

these *MT* haplotype of analyzed samples in the Kase River system were all mtKS4_1

except a sample at St8, mtKS4_2 (Table 4). Hence, we could infer that the haplotype

mtKS4_1 in the Kase River system was derived from sKFR and was spread from the

hatchery sHT1 on the Kase River system, because this *MT* haplotype was detected at both

sHT1 and its original sKFR, consistent with our pre-information (Fig 1, Table 1).

The current study clarified that a reared strain is shared by multiple hatcheries and

is stocked at multiple sites: e.g., hatchery *MT* haplotype mtKS8 was detected at three

hatcheries (sHT3, sHT4, and sHT6) and four tributaries (five sites: St2, St6, St8, St9-1,

and StM1) (Fig 1, Table 4). Hatcheries sHT2–sHT6 are used by fishing clubs and/or

many personal people and are likely used to stock various rivers (fishing clubs and game

fishers pers. comm.). It is of concern that stocking of these rivers could cause loss of the

unique gene sequences of the indigenous fish, and lead to loss of genetic diversity in this

species in the river and/or tributaries [2,14,32].

Non-hatchery haplotypes habitats are estimated to three sites. Urgent conservation

might be required. Indigenous fish might be remained in the tributaries in which we did

not detect a hatchery haplotype, and no hatchery haplotypes were detected four tributaries

(4 sites) in the Kase River system (sites St1, St4, St12 and St14; Fig 1 and Table 4).

However, the mtKS15 haplotype detected at St4 could be a stocked hatchery haplotype

that could not be detected in this study, because (a) St4 has a stocking record (Table 1),

(b) mtKS15 was also detected from the sites, St13 and St16, which are geographically

distant from St4, as observed with other hatchery MT haplotypes. (Fig 1, Table 4).

Indigenous fish in the Kase River system may be revealed in further studies by

microsatellite analysis of the nucleic genome [21,33]. Addition, this suspicious haplotype

might be resolved by accumulating whole-mitogenome sequence data of hatcheries and

field samples from several other areas in Japan in future studies.

Future applications of whole-mitogenome analysis

The SNP data obtained here for *O. m. masou* (S2 Table) may be used for resource

management such as monitoring of hatchery fishes and/or putative indigenous fish by

testing environmental DNA [34,35].

The whole-mitogenome analysis will help estimate the indigenous haplotype,

because the indigenous haplotypes must be among the non-hatchery haplotypes.

Estimation of the indigenous haplotype might lead to research into the geographical and

phylogenetic evolution of this species. In this study, the proportion of non-hatchery

haplotypes was highest in clade I (70%), possibly suggesting that clade I is the main

population of indigenous *O. m. masou* in the Kase River system. As shown in S1 Fig, we

obtained three new haplotypes, KS1, KS2, and KS13, in the *ND5* 561 bp region in this

study. KS1 and KS2 are not hatchery haplotypes and belong to clade I (Fig 2). The only

haplotype corresponding to clade I in previous studies is H22 (S3 Table and S1 Fig) [16],

however this haplotype was not detected in northern Hokkaido Island and was detected at

a low rate in Honshu Island and in Korea [10,16]. These results may suggest that the

clade composition differs between the Kase River system on Kyushu Island and northern

Japan. A recent study using a cytochrome-*b* gene (1141 bp) in *O. masou* in the

northwestern Pacific including southern Kyushu Island suggested the possible existence

of a specific clade comprised of only *O. m. masou* in Kyushu Island (Group D in [18]).

Further study might be necessary to assess whether our clade I haplotypes are related to

Group D haplotypes in that report. Accumulating the whole-mitogenome data for this

species throughout its area of distribution will might allow for a detailed phylogeographic

analysis and may reveal the history of geographic evolution in this species.

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Methodology: YK.

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Supervision: YK.

Writing – original draft: YK.

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Supporting information captions

S1 Table. List of GenBank accession numbers deposited in this study.

S2 Table. List of *MT* haplotype SNP sequences for the reference sequence (*O. m.*

***masou* NC_008747).**

S3 Table. Collation of haplotypes determined in past studies and this study.

S1 Fig. TCS network trees showing the relationship between data from past studies

and the present study. Double circled haplotypes are new haplotypes obtained by this

study. Colors show the clades corresponded to this study in Fig 2. For details showing the

collation of haplotypes of past studies and this study see S3 Table.

Figure

Figure