Genomic diversity of wild and cultured Yesso scallop *Mizuhopecten yessoensis*

from Japan and Canada

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Abstract

The Yesso scallop *Mizuhopecten yessoensis* is an important aquaculture species that was introduced to Western Canada from Japan to establish an economically viable scallop farming industry. This highly fecund species has been propagated in Canadian aquaculture hatcheries for the past 40 years, raising questions about genetic diversity and genetic differences among hatchery stocks. In this study, we compare cultured Canadian and wild Japanese populations of Yesso scallop using double-digest restriction site-associated DNA (ddRAD)-sequencing to genotype 21,048 variants in 71 wild-caught scallops from Japan, 65 scallops from the Vancouver Island University breeding population, and 37 scallops obtained from a commercial farm off Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The wild scallops are largely comprised of equally unrelated individuals, whereas cultured scallops are comprised of multiple families of related individuals. The polymorphism rate estimated in wild scallops was 1.7%, whereas in the cultured strains it varied between 1.35% and 1.07%. Interestingly, heterozygosity rates were highest in the cultured populations, which is likely due to shellfish hatchery practices of crossing divergent strains to gain benefits of heterosis and to avoid inbreeding. Evidence of founder effects and drift were observed in the cultured strains, including high genetic differentiation between cultured populations and between cultured populations and the wild population. Cultured populations had effective population sizes ranging from 9-26 individuals whereas the wild population was estimated at 25-50K individuals. Further, a depletion of low frequency variants was observed in the cultured populations. These results indicate significant genetic diversity losses in cultured scallops in Canadian breeding programs.

Keywords: aquaculture; bivalve; genetic diversity; *Mizuhopecten*; RAD-sequencing; scallop

Introduction

Marine bivalves (Class Bivalvia) have high genetic diversity (Plough 2016) both in terms of polymorphism
rate (Hedgecock *et al.* 2005) and observed heterozygosity (Solé-Cava & Thorpe 1991). Although this may
be in part due to large population sizes and wide planktonic dispersal, it is likely also related to high
mutation rates that occur due to the number of meiotic events required to produce millions of eggs per
individual (i.e., the Elm-Oyster model; Williams 1975; Plough 2016). There may also be an involvement
of transposable element activity related to the elevated polymorphism rate (Zhang *et al.* 2012). Mutations
are not effectively purged from the population even if mildly deleterious due to their introduction into the
population at high frequency and the low effective population size relative to census size from sweepstakes
reproductive success (SRS; Hedgecock 1994; Hedgecock & Pudovkin 2011; Plough 2016). This genetic
load explains the severe consequences of inbreeding depression in cultured bivalves, as well as the striking
heterosis observed when counteracting it through outbreeding (Hedgecock *et al.* 1995; Hedgecock & Davis
2007).

The Yesso scallop *Mizuhopecten yessoensis* is an economically important aquaculture species and
a valuable commercial protein source. Native to Japan, it has been grown in culture in British Columbia
(BC; Canada) and China since the 1980s (Bourne 2000; Li *et al.* 2007). In China it is currently produced at
over 100,000 tonnes per year, but BC has not reached its production potential, despite favourable
environmental conditions (Holden *et al.* 2019). BC production of Yesso scallop averaged 89 tonnes per
annum in 2017-2020, but decreased to 52 tonnes in 2021 (DFO 2023). Shellfish aquaculture, including
scallop production, has realized benefit and strong potential benefit to remote coastal communities
economically in terms of jobs and commercial value, although expansion will require local logistical
considerations as well as diverse stakeholder engagement (Holden *et al.* 2019). Yesso scallops take two to
three years to reach market size in BC (Bower *et al.* 1999), and high mortality rates challenge the industry,
limiting investment, and thus negatively impacting large and small growers, including First Nations-led
companies. High mortality occurs in the hatchery, but also at later grow-out stages, impacting larger
scallops that have already received significant production effort. On the farm, mortality may be caused by
predation by the flatworm *Pseudostylochus orientalis*, and infection with the bacteria *Francisella*
halioticida or the protozoan *Perkinsus qugwadi* (Bower *et al.* 1999; Bourne 2000; Meyer *et al.* 2017). The
industry is therefore now looking towards selective breeding as well as ensuring fitness of broodstock lines
to reduce mortalities and improve yields.

Loss of genetic diversity in cultured lineages may occur by founder effects, drift, and selective
breeding. Relatively rapid reductions in genetic diversity are commonly observed in bivalve hatchery
lineages (Hedgecock & Sly 1990; Evans *et al.* 2004; Gurney-Smith *et al.* 2017). For example, hatchery
lineages of Asian Suminoe oyster *C. ariakensis* were all found to be significantly lower in diversity than

wild populations (Xiao *et al.* 2011); decreases were most pronounced in established lineages (60% decrease

in allelic richness compared to wild) relative to more recently established lineages (17-30% decrease). This

is also an issue for the cultured eastern oyster *Crassostrea virginica* (Carlsson *et al.* 2006; Varney & Wilbur

2020). In the aforementioned cultured populations of Yesso scallop in China, reduced polymorphism rate

and heterozygosity has occurred, which is a major concern for the industry (Li *et al.* 2007). This is

particularly problematic when hatchery populations are not able to be replenished with naturalized or wild

populations, such as is the case when growing outside of native ranges (e.g., Canada, China). It is an

important goal for the industry to retain adaptive potential, and monitor selected strains for diversity loss

(Carlsson *et al.* 2006).

Inbreeding depression may result due to a loss of genetic diversity of the cultured lineages, and in

bivalves this has been associated with declines in survival and growth rates and increases in deformities.

Inbreeding depression reduces survival in the Japanese pearl oyster *Pinctada fucata martensii* (Wada &

Komaru 1994), Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas* (Evans *et al.* 2004), and Pacific abalone *Haliotis discus*

hannai (Kobayashi & Kijima 2010). In Yesso scallop, efforts have been undertaken to explore the genetic

mechanisms underlying inbreeding depression through analyzing transcriptome profiles in inbred animals

(Zhao *et al.* 2019). Therefore, although selective breeding shows strong potential in Yesso scallop due to

ease of controlling the biological cycle in culture, sexual dimorphism, high fecundity, and high standing

genetic variation, and has been demonstrated for shell colouration (Zhao *et al.* 2017), efforts must also be

put towards avoiding inbreeding depression that can occur through the selective breeding process. The

genome is relatively large and complex in the scallop (Family Pectinidae), due to tandem gene duplication

and gene family expansions (Kenny *et al.* 2020). However, a high-quality chromosome-level assembly has

been constructed for the Yesso scallop (Wang *et al.* 2017), enabling many genetic and genomic tools and

approaches to support selective breeding and broodstock monitoring.

To support the Yesso scallop industry in BC, it is first necessary to determine the existing amount

of genetic variation contained within cultured lineages. Following the introduction in the 1980s (Bourne

2000), the extent of drift along with the reduced diversity from founder effects for cultured populations will

be informative to understand the diversity currently present and therefore the potential for long-term

sustainability of the broodstock lineages and adaptive potential during selective breeding. Little or no

formal broodstock management plans for the industry have been implemented on a broad scale in BC, and

assessing the current state of diversity available will help lead towards such a goal. Here we use double-

digest restriction site-associated DNA (ddRAD)-sequencing to characterize scallops from the Vancouver

Island University (VIU) breeding program, as well as those commercially obtained from a BC farm, and

compare these to wild Yesso scallops obtained from Japan through commercial harvest or research surveys.

Comparisons between these populations will indicate the current state of the cultured lineages in BC.

Furthermore, these results will identify highly heterozygous markers in both BC and Japan that can then be

developed into rapid and low-cost genotyping platforms for parentage and other purposes to support

broodstock management and selective breeding in the Yesso scallop.

2 | Methods

2.1 | Sample collections

Mizuhopecten yessoensis samples were obtained from four different sources (Table 1). Wild scallops from

Japan were obtained from marine surveys in Southern Hokkaido in late 2017 through early 2021 (see

Additional File S1), and from a commercial source as harvested wild scallops from Northern Hokkaido in

2021. BC farmed scallops were also obtained from a commercial provider that were grown near central

Vancouver Island, BC. Samples from the Vancouver Island University (VIU) Centre for Shellfish Research

breeding program were obtained from animals in late 2022.

2.2 | DNA extraction, quantification, and quality control

Marine survey samples were obtained as pelleted DNA in 100% ethanol and were stored at -80°C. Samples

were purified by centrifugation (13,000 x g for 30 min at 4°C), followed by two washes with 0.5 ml ice cold

75% ethanol, followed by resuspending the dried DNA pellet in molecular grade water. Commercial and

breeding program samples were extracted from frozen tissue using the Monarch Genomic DNA Purification

Kit (NEB), as per manufacturer's instructions using the enzymatic cleanup protocol with both proteinase K

and RNase A, and eluting into 50 µl molecular grade water.

All samples were quantified by Qubit dsDNA-BR measured by BioSpectrometer (Eppendorf) with

a reusable µCuvette (G.1.0; Eppendorf). Any sample under 20 ng/µl was concentrated using the Genomic

DNA Concentrator Columns (Zymo Research), eluted in 12 µl water, and quantified by Qubit. Quality was

inspected in representative samples from each collection by 1% agarose gel electrophoresis. Samples were

normalized to 20 ng/µl in a 10 µl volume, randomized in 96-well microtitre plates and submitted to the

Institute de Biologie Intégrative et des Systèmes (IBIS) at Université Laval for library preparation. Each

plate contained a negative control well. Five samples with concentrations between 17.7 – 20 ng/µl were

also included in a 10 µl volume (i.e., JPN samples 018, 031, 039, 051, and 082).

2.3 | Double-digest RAD-sequencing library preparation

Selection of restriction enzymes and estimation of required sequencing depth was conducted using

SimRAD (Lepais & Weir 2014) using the Yesso scallop reference genome (GCA_002113885.2; Wang *et*

al. 2017). The estimated haploid genome size for this species is 1.65 Gbp (Anisimova 2007; Gregory 2022),

but the total sequence length of the assembly is 0.99 Gbp, suggesting that the assembly represents 59.8%

of the expected genome size. This value was used as an expansion factor for the true expected number of

fragments estimated by SimRAD. Enzyme options tested were *Pst*I and *Msp*I, or *Nsi*I and *Msp*I, size-

selected to retain fragments from 100-250 bp. Digestions with *Nsi*I and *Msp*I were predicted *in silico* to

generate 118,850 fragments in the 1.65 Gbp genome, whereas *Pst*I and *Msp*I were predicted to have 50,836

fragments; *Pst*I and *Msp*I were selected for digestion.

Samples were multiplexed to 32 individuals per chip, with six sequencing chips used. Library

preparation was conducted using the semiconductor platform-adapted ddRAD-seq approach (Mascher *et*

al. 2013) with the additional barcodes and size selection step (Abed *et al.* 2019), as previously described

(Sutherland *et al.* 2020), but with alternate enzymes. Multiplexed and size-selected libraries were then

sequenced on an Ion Torrent Proton at IBIS using the Ion PI Chip Kit v3 chip (Thermo Fisher), as per

manufacturer's instructions. Base calling was conducted with the Torrent Suite software (Thermo Fisher),

and multiplexed fastq output files were exported using the *FileExporter* plugin.

2.4 | Sequence data preprocessing, alignment, and genotyping

Sequence data processing and genotyping largely followed the *stacks_workflow* repository (E.

Normandeau), and all instructions for the analysis is provided (*ms_scallop_popgen*; see *Data Availability*).

Sample barcodes and populations were designated in the metadata file (see *Data Availability*). Raw

sequence data was quality checked using FastQC (v.0.11.4; Andrews 2010) and MultiQC (v.1.14; Ewels *et*

al. 2016). Sequences were trimmed using cutadapt (v.1.9.1; Martin 2011) to remove too short reads and

adapters, and inspected again with FastQC and MultiQC. The metadata file was used to demultiplex using

the *process_radtags* module of Stacks v2 with flags pstI and mspI, and truncating all reads to 80 bp (v.2.62;

Rochette *et al.* 2019) in parallel (Tange 2022).

Demultiplexed samples were aligned against the reference genome (ASM211388v2; Wang *et al.*

2017) using bwa mem (Li 2013) then converted to bam format and sorted using samtools (Danecek *et al.*

2021). Read and alignment counts per individual were tallied using custom code (*ms_scallop_popgen*; see

Data Availability). Samples with fewer than 500,000 reads were removed including the three negative

control samples that had between 338-2,101 reads each. The gstacks module of Stacks was then used with

the reference genome to genotype the samples using default settings (marukilow, var_alpha: 0.01, gt_alpha:

0.05). Following genotyping, the populations module of Stacks was used to filter, retaining loci genotyped

in ≥70% of the individuals per population in all three populations (flags: -r 0.7, -p 3). A global minor allele

frequency (MAF) filter retained loci with MAF ≥ 0.01 (flag: --min_maf 0.01). To determine the impact of

unequal sample size on the mean nucleotide diversity estimated per population, gstacks and populations

were run as above but with a rarefied dataset using 37 samples per population for all three populations.

Using the full dataset, the per-individual inbreeding coefficient was calculated using vcftools (--het)

(Danecek *et al.* 2011), and any outlier individuals with excessive heterozygosity indicating potential

genotyping issues were removed. Once outliers were removed, genotyping and filtering was redone with

only the retained individuals, as described above.

Multi-locus genotypes were exported in VCF and plink formats, where only one of the variants per

RAD-tag was retained using the *--write-single-snp* flag of the populations module to produce the single-

SNP per locus dataset. Furthermore, microhaplotype genotypes were exported in RADpainter and genepop

formats. Plink data was converted from .ped and .map format to .raw format using plink (flags: --recode A

--allow-extra-chr; v.1.90b6.26; Purcell *et al.* 2007; Purcell 2022). The plink output was then used as input

for population genetic analysis in R (R Core Team 2023).

199   2.5 | Population genetic analysis

Single-SNP per locus genotypes were read into R using the *read.PLINK* function of adegenet (Jombart &

Ahmed 2011) and MAF densities calculated by *glMean*. Data were formatted and converted to genind

format using the *df2genind* function of adegenet. Functions applied were used from the *simple_pop_stats*

repository (see *Data Availability*). Genotyping rate was calculated per sample using the

percent_missing_by_ind function of *simple_pop_stats*, and individuals were retained if they had less than

30% missing data. Per locus F_{ST} was calculated using pegas (Paradis 2010). Observed heterozygosity (H_{OBS})

was calculated using adegenet, and a test of Hardy-Weinberg (HW) equilibrium was conducted per locus

using pegas. Loci showing significant deviation from HW proportions ($p \leq 0.01$) in any one of three

populations were identified and removed from the dataset. Loci with global $H_{OBS} \geq 0.5$ were also removed.

The filtered dataset was used as an input to a principal components analysis (PCA) using the *glPca*

function of adegenet. Mean population-level F_{ST} was calculated using 1000 bootstraps to generate 95%

confidence limits using the boot.ppfst function of hierfstat (Goudet & Jombart 2022). Private alleles were

calculated by private_alleles function of poppr (Kamvar *et al.* 2014) using the full, filtered dataset, or the

dataset rarefied to retain an equal number of samples for each population using the minimum sample size

for the study. Region-specific private alleles were identified by combining all Canadian samples and

comparing to the Japan samples. Per locus H_{OBS} was also calculated for each population specifically to

identify loci with high heterozygosity in JPN and VIU populations. Effective population size (N_e) was

calculated using NeEstimator v.2.0 (Do *et al.* 2014) using both single-SNP per locus data and

microhaplotype data. Inter-individual relatedness was calculated using single-SNP per locus data using

related (Pew *et al.* 2015), retaining only comparisons within a population. Relatedness was also calculated

using microhaplotype data using fineRADstructure (Malinsky *et al.* 2018).

3 | Results

3.1. Sequencing, genotyping, and filtering

In total, 558,098,638 single-end reads were generated from 189 Yesso scallops sequenced on six Ion Torrent chips. Each chip produced on average ($\pm$ s.d.) 93.0 $\pm$ 1.4 M reads. After quality trimming, 547,450,718 reads (i.e., 98.1%) were retained, and the mean read duplication rate per sample was 86.6%. The mean GC content per sample was 43%, which is higher than the reference genome (i.e., 36.5%; GCF_002113885.1). After demultiplexing by sample, 503.5 M reads were retained (i.e., 92.1% of trimmed reads), where the per-sample average ($\pm$ s.d.) number of reads was 2.7 $\pm$ 1.2 M (Table 1). Samples with the fewest reads were from the Japan (JPN) marine surveys with an average number of reads per sample of 1.7 M ($\pm$ 0.6 M), and those with the most were from the British Columbia (BC) farm samples with an average number of reads per sample of 3.5 M ($\pm$ 0.9 M). One JPN marine survey scallop (JPN_075) was removed due to low coverage, and one VIU sample (VIU_002) was removed due to being an extreme H_{OBS} outlier during an initial run of Stacks (F = -0.1938).

Aligning samples against the reference genome resulted in per-sample average alignment rates ranging from 80.6 – 81.6% (Additional File S2). Genotyping used 408.9 M alignments, of which 367.9 M (90%) were primary alignments and were retained. Low quality (6%) or excessively soft clipped alignments (4%) were removed. Genotyping identified 383,371 unfiltered loci with an average of 80.7 sites per locus and an average per-sample effective coverage of 91.5 $\pm$ 28.7x (range: 2.9-176.6x). Filtering to remove loci with excess missing data (see *Methods*) or low global minor allele frequency (i.e., MAF < 0.01) resulted in the removal of 370,235 loci (96.6%). Within the retained 13,136 filtered loci, comprising 1.14 M genomic sites, 21,048 variants were identified within 9,377 polymorphic RAD-tags.

When retaining multiple variants per RAD-tag, there was an average of 2.24 variants within each tag, and a single, two, or three variants were observed in 3,721 (39.7%), 2,585 (27.6%), and 1,541 (16.4%) tags, respectively (Additional File S3). Four to nine variants were observed in 1,518 tags (16.1%), and 10-13 variants per tag were observed in 12 tags. Counts of two, three, or four alleles per tag were observed in 74% of the tags (i.e., 4,073, 2,609, 1,431 RAD-tags, respectively; Additional File S3). Five to nine alleles per tag were observed in 1,215 tags (23.8%), 45 tags had between 10-16 alleles, and four had over 20 alleles each. Notably, these tallies include variants not yet filtered for deviations from Hardy-Weinberg (HW) proportions.

Per individual missing data was on average 8.1 $\pm$ 12.2%. Samples with more than 30% missing data were dropped from the analysis, which removed one sample from VIU and 13 samples from JPN (see Table 1 for sample size post filters). After filtering on missing data, 173 individuals remained, with an average per sample missing data of 5.0 $\pm$ 4.3%. Of the 9,375 variants in the single variant per RAD-tag

dataset, 2,578 (27.5%) did not conform to expected HW proportions ($p < 0.01$) in at least one population

and were removed. For the BC farm, JPN, and VIU collections this included 703, 1,773, and 1,015 non-

conforming markers, respectively. Of the remaining 6,797 variants, 74 had excess heterozygosity (i.e., H_{OBS}

> 0.5) and were removed, leaving 6,723 variants remaining. As samples had been removed, a second MAF

filter was applied, and this resulted in the removal of an additional 176 variants with MAF < 0.01. After all

filters, the single variant per RAD-tag dataset had 6,547 variants remaining for downstream analyses.

3.2. Global genetic differentiation

In an unsupervised PCA using the single-SNP per locus data (n = 6,547 variants), samples separated by

country (i.e., Canada or Japan) across PC1, explaining 6.5% of the overall variation (Figure 1A). The BC

farm and VIU samples separated across PC2 (5.2% of the variance explained). PC3 and PC4 each explained

3.3% and 3.0% of the variation, respectively, and these axes separated samples within each of the BC farm

and VIU populations (Figure 1B). After PC4, individual PCs were less informative (Figure 1A inset).

Genetic differentiation analysis using F_{ST} (Weir & Cockerham 1984) indicates significant global genetic

differences between all of the populations (Table 2). Similar genetic differentiation was observed between

the VIU hatchery and the JPN wild population (95% CI $F_{ST} = 0.067$-0.074) as between the two cultured

populations ($F_{ST} = 0.076$-0.085). The highest differentiation was between the BC farm and the JPN wild

population, with $F_{ST} = 0.093$-0.101.

3.3. Genetic diversity, low frequency variants, and private alleles

Considering all 21,048 variants (i.e., multiple SNPs per RAD-tag) prior to HW filters, the JPN collection

had the highest polymorphism rate at 1.7%, with 19,411 variants (Table 3). By comparison, there were

15,471 variants in the VIU collection (i.e., 1.35% polymorphism rate), and 12,286 variants in the BC farm

collection (i.e., 1.07% polymorphism rate). However, observed heterozygosity (H_{OBS}) was higher in the BC

farm and VIU populations than JPN with mean H_{OBS} estimated at 0.00278, 0.00276, and 0.00266,

respectively (S.E. for all: ± 0.00003). Using the rarefied dataset (n = 37 samples per population), these

relative trends in polymorphism rate and H_{OBS} remained consistent (Table 3). Therefore, the highest

polymorphism rate but lowest mean H_{OBS} is observed in the wild samples (JPN) relative to the cultured

samples, and the BC farm collection has the lowest polymorphism rate.

Using the filtered, single-SNP per RAD-tag dataset, 4,401 of the total 6,547 variants (67.2%) had

MAF ranging 0.01-0.10. Once the data were separated by individual population, and any monomorphic or

low MAF variants were removed (i.e., population MAF < 0.01), the JPN, VIU, and BC farm datasets

retained 5,423 (82.8%), 4,531 (69.2%), and 3,722 (56.9%) variants, respectively (Figure 2). In addition to

having the most variants retained, JPN also had the highest proportion of retained lower frequency variants

(i.e., MAF between 0.01-0.10) with 61.8% of the variants in this range, followed by VIU (49.7%), and

lastly the BC farm (39.8%).

Private alleles within the single-SNP per locus filtered dataset were also most numerous in JPN

with 1,401 private alleles, followed by VIU (n = 270), and BC farm (n = 58). Regionally, when VIU and

BC farm were merged into a Canadian population then compared to JPN, there were 1,401 private alleles

in JPN and 690 in Canada. Although less numerous than JPN, the Canadian private alleles were higher

overall in MAF (median MAF = 0.032) than the private alleles in JPN (median MAF = 0.018; Figure 3).

Effective population size (N_e) was estimated for each population using either the microhaplotype

multiple-SNP per RAD-tag dataset (n = 21,048 variants, 9,377 RAD-tags) or the single-SNP per RAD-tag

dataset (n = 9,375 variants). The linkage disequilibrium (LD) method estimated 95% CI of N_e for JPN as

25,048 – 56,291 (n = 9,004 polymorphic tags), for VIU as 26.4 – 26.4 (n = 7,926 tags), and for BC farm as

9.3 – 9.3 (n = 6,839 tags) when using a P_{CRIT} value of 0.01 (Table 3). The heterozygosity excess method

was unable to estimate the 95% CI for variants with MAF > 0.01, and the molecular coancestry method

estimates were very low for all populations (estimated N_{eb} 2.6 – 6.5; see Additional File S4). Using the

single-SNP per RAD-tag data, the 95% CI estimates of N_e with the LD method was not calculable using

the data for JPN (lower and upper values were both infinite) but was estimated at similar levels for VIU

and BC farm as the microhaplotype data (i.e., 26.2 – 26.2 for VIU and 9.2 – 9.3 for BC farm). Using the

rarefied dataset (n = 37 individuals per population), 95% CI of N_e for VIU and BC farm were again

estimated to be 9.5 and 22.9-23.0, respectively, but the JPN population N_e was not estimable with the

existing data (Additional File S4).

3.4. Inter-individual relatedness

Using the microhaplotype data in fineRADstructure (Malinsky *et al.* 2018), clusters of related individuals

were observed in the VIU and BC farm collections, whereas the JPN collection was comprised of

approximately equally dissimilar samples (Additional File S5). The BC farm has three main clusters

containing 20, 12, and four individuals each; these were the same groupings as clusters observed across

PC3 and PC4 (Figure 1B; Additional File S6). The VIU collection has many small clusters of related

individuals, and some of these individual clusters are estimated to be more different from each other than

are the clusters in the BC farm, based on shared microhaplotypes. Within the JPN collection, slight

clustering is observed in a grouping of seven individuals, and a grouping of 11 individuals. The cause of

these slight groupings is not clear given that it encompasses both marine survey and commercial harvest

samples. When considering relatedness using the single-SNP per locus dataset, the JPN collection is

observed to have a relatively tight distribution of relatedness compared to the VIU or BC farm collections

(Figure 4). Many highly related outliers are observed in the VIU collection, as expected given the groups

of related individuals in the microhaplotype analysis for this collection. One JPN sample (JPN_110) showed
high relatedness to BC_029, and the cause of this is unknown, given that each sample also show high
similarity to other members of their own collections.

3.5. Per locus heterozygosity and highly variable tags

Filtered single-SNP per RAD-tag markers were inspected for per-locus H_{OBS} within individual populations
of JPN or VIU, then values were compared to identify variants that are expected to have high heterozygosity
in both collections (Figure 5; Additional File S7 for per-locus values). Additionally, given the observation
of RAD-tags with high numbers of variants per tag, the marker names, the number of variants per tag, and
whether the tag is within HW proportions is shown in Additional File S7. The single-SNP per locus and
microhaplotype dataset VCF files are provided, which gives the location of the markers in the reference
genome (see *Data Availability*).

Discussion

The present study was conducted to evaluate the degree to which cultured Yesso scallop populations in
British Columbia have lost genetic diversity since their founding in the 1980s. This benchmark analysis
provides a starting point for continued monitoring and preservation of existing genetic diversity on an
ongoing basis. Although the standard hatchery practice of crossing divergent lines to avoid inbreeding and
to gain heterosis benefits is observed in the present data as elevated heterozygosity in cultured stocks, low
effective population sizes and significant genetic diversity decreases indicate that it is important to continue
efforts to maintain, monitor, and optimally use the existing diversity present in the cultured populations.

Genomic diversity in wild Yesso scallop from northern Japan
Wild scallops from northern Japan (n = 71) were estimated to have a 1.7% polymorphism rate when
including all SNPs with MAF > 0.01 that were present in at least 70% of the samples from each of three
populations and was calculated prior to removing variants that did not conform to Hardy-Weinberg
proportions. This rate was estimated based on 0.08% (or 1.14 Mbp) of the expected 1.43 Gbp genome
(Wang *et al.* 2017). Although shellfish polymorphism rates are expected to be high (Plough 2016), this rate
is higher than that calculated for the wild, hermaphrodite parent individual used for the reference genome
assembly, which was estimated at 1.04% (Wang *et al.* 2017). The estimated rate in the present study was
also higher than that observed in the Pacific oyster genome, which was evaluated at 1.30% (Zhang *et al.*
2012). The king scallop *Pecten maximus* was estimated to have a 1.7% heterozygosity rate for the sequenced
individual, which was higher than that estimated in the Pacific oyster assembly, for which the authors

ascribe to the breeding program source of the sequenced oyster (Kenny *et al.* 2020). Sutherland and co-
workers (2020) in an analysis of a variety of wild, naturalized, and farmed Pacific oysters identified a mean
polymorphism rate of 1.43%, and lower rates in farmed populations (e.g., 0.94%-1.13%). The high
polymorphism rate in Pacific oyster, also estimated at 1 SNP per 40 bp (2.5%), was given as one of the
reasons for pursuing the reference genome, as well as a challenge to overcome in order to do so (Hedgecock
et al. 2005). Combining the high polymorphism rate with sweepstakes reproductive success (SRS) effects
on annual variation in allele frequencies leads to the question of what the longevity is of many of the variants
identified here in the lower frequency range (i.e., 62% of variants with MAF between 0.01 and 0.10).

The high polymorphism rate resulted in some RAD-tags having a numerous variants within the
same 80 bp fragment, where 16% of tags had more than four variants. These highly variable regions may
need to be treated with caution, for example if used for marker design, since the genome assembly may
contain collapsed segments, given the differences between the expected and the assembled genome size
(Wang *et al.* 2017). High repeat content resulting in missing genomic segments was also an issue for the
Pacific oyster (Zhang *et al.* 2012), which is thought to be comprised of 35% repetitive elements (Hedgecock
et al. 2005).

The effective population size (N_e) of the wild Japan collection characterized here was estimated to
be between 25-56K breeding individuals. The census size of the population around Hokkaido is not known,
but approximately 145-375K individuals are expected to have been harvested annually in the bay from
which samples were collected (Uchiura Bay, N. Itoh *pers. comm.*).

Cultured strains and genomic impacts of breeding programs
The BC cultured scallop populations characterized here have significantly lower polymorphism rates than
the source population. The genotyped VIU collection, which likely represents the full complement of
genetic backgrounds in the VIU breeding program (T. Green, *pers. obs.*), was estimated to have a
polymorphism rate of 1.35%, which is 21% lower than the source wild population. The BC farm is likely
only a subset of the full genetic variation in the cultured lineages from the seed provider for the farm since
this collection was obtained as farmed adults from a single sampling event. This collection had a 1.07%
polymorphism rate, which is 59% lower than the source population. Both cultured collections were also
typified by a depletion of alleles in the lower MAF range, where a MAF range of 0.01 to 0.10 comprised
62% of the variants in JPN, but only 50% and 40% in VIU and BC farm, respectively).

Genetic changes from source populations are also observed as skewed allele frequencies genome-
wide, which can occur through founder effects and drift. For example, Suminoe oyster hatchery strains
were differentiated both against the source population and between each strain (F_{ST} = 0.05-0.24) (Xiao *et*
al. 2011). These impacts are likely due to few parents being included in the original founding population

(i.e., founder effects) and drift occurring due to a low effective population size, but potentially also from

any artificial selection that has occurred (Li *et al.* 2007; Xiao *et al.* 2011). Hatchery strains of the common

blue mussel *Mytilus edulis* were found to be significantly different from each other (F_{ST}: 0.03-0.08) as well

as from the source wild population (F_{ST} = 0.07-0.08), which accompanies reduced N_e and allelic diversity

(Gurney-Smith *et al.* 2017). Eastern oyster hatchery strains also show significant differentiation (F_{ST} =

0.076) between hatchery and wild populations (Carlsson *et al.* 2006), and eastern oyster strains increase in

their differentiation within and between hatchery strains over time (Varney & Wilbur 2020). Pacific oyster

hatchery strains showed significant differentiation from source populations, dwarfing the differentiation

observed between natural populations in different countries along the same translocation lineage

(Sutherland *et al.* 2020). In Yesso scallop, here we observed high differentiation between hatchery lineages

as well as between both hatchery lineages with the source population (F_{ST}: 0.07-0.10). As a notable contrast,

five different farms characterized in China showed generally low differentiation between farms (F_{ST} = 0.02-

0.03), but high differentiation between the farms and the source populations (F_{ST} = 0.09-0.15) (Li *et al.*

2007). It is possible that this similarity between the farms in China may indicate a common seed scallop

provider for the different farms. In general, the cultured lineages here show the expected level of

differentiation from the wild population relative to these other shellfish species, many of which were

referenced as a concern in the original studies and needing to be monitored for continued diversity losses.

The N_e of the cultured lineages here were significantly reduced relative to the wild population,

indicating founder effects and drift. The N_e estimated for the VIU population was 26, conforming to the

expectations based on the known number and diversity of the source parents used to initiate this breeding

population (T. Green, *pers. obs.*). The BC farm population, which may not fully represent the entire

broodstock, as described above, was estimated at N_e = 9. These values are remarkably lower than that

observed for the wild population (i.e., N_e = 25-56K), which required all data to estimate, and was only

estimable using microhaplotype information. Similarly, cultured stocks of Yesso scallop analyzed by Li

and co-workers (2007) had N_e calculated between 27-70, even though hundreds of males and females are

used to propagate the hatchery strains. These levels were a concern regarding the long term sustainability

of the stock (Li *et al.* 2007). Similarly, Gurney-Smith and co-workers (2017) estimated N_e values under 50

for the three hatchery strains of common blue mussel analyzed, and the wild population was too large to

estimate with the available data. Considering the genome-wide scope of the allele frequency changes, and

the significant decreases in N_e, it is likely that founder effects and drift are sufficient to explain the allele

frequency shifts observed in the present study.

An additional indicator of founder effects and drift is that private alleles in the cultured lineages

were of relatively high frequency (MAF = 0.01-0.28) relative to the wild population. Although these private

alleles are likely to be in the Japan wild population, they were not represented in the sampling here, and

therefore not expected at the same high frequency as those in culture. By contrast, wild private alleles,

although more numerous, were lower in frequency (MAF: 0.01-0.15).

Seemingly paradoxical to known inbreeding expectations, with an initial decrease in polymorphism

and a subsequent loss of heterozygosity expected (Hedgecock & Sly 1990), here the cultured Yesso scallops

had elevated H_{OBS} relative to the wild population. This is likely due to the shellfish breeding practice of

outcrossing, or crossing inbred lines, to produce heterosis in the offspring (Hedgecock *et al.* 1995;

Hedgecock & Davis 2007). Heterosis is particularly valuable in shellfish due to the high genetic load in the

taxon, as discussed above. Notably, high observed heterozygosity and therefore low inbreeding coefficient

was observed alongside the lowest polymorphism rate in a farmed population of Pacific oyster, likely to be

explained by the same breeding approaches for heterosis as observed here (Sutherland *et al.* 2020). Selected

strains of eastern oyster also showed elevated H_{OBS} in the hatchery strains (Carlsson *et al.* 2006; Varney &

Wilbur 2020), which the authors attribute to artificial selection and increased frequency of the remaining

alleles replacing low frequency alleles lost due to drift and founder effects (Hedgecock & Sly 1990; Varney

& Wilbur 2020). Whether H_{OBS} will be elevated or reduced in hatchery strains relative to the wild

populations will depend on hatchery practices; reduced H_{OBS} relative to wild populations (11% lower) was

observed in the longer established Suminoe oyster (Xiao *et al.* 2011). Given these varying trends in H_{OBS}

in the above cases, all of which have a consistent decreasing trend in genetic diversity by other metrics, and

given that decreases in H_{OBS} can be counteracted relatively quickly through crossing of divergent lines

(Hedrick 2005), as well as the fact that allelic diversity will be the first to decrease (Xiao *et al.* 2011), loss

of alleles is likely a better metric for monitoring diversity loss in cultured bivalve populations than

heterozygosity or inbreeding coefficients (Yu & Guo 2004; Varney & Wilbur 2020).

Breeding programs in general are challenged by losses of genetic variation over successive

generations of breeding with or without selection, which in shellfish is further compounded by high

fecundity and large differences in reproductive success, resulting in significant drift (Boudry *et al.* 2002;

Varney & Wilbur 2020). This problem becomes even more challenging if the source population is not

available for replenishing the broodstock through introgression, as is the case when the cultured stock is

grown outside of its native range (Li *et al.* 2007; Gurney-Smith *et al.* 2017). This is unfortunately the

situation for Yesso scallop in British Columbia, where no naturalized populations exist outside of hatchery

breeding programs. This increases the need for effective management of shellfish hatcheries including

genetic diversity monitoring (Gurney-Smith *et al.* 2017), good record keeping, and the availability of

genetic tools to confirm pedigrees, low relatedness of parents in target crosses, and confirmed identity of

lineage for the individuals chosen as broodstock for crosses (Hedgecock & Davis 2007).

Conclusions

The wild Yesso scallop characterized from Japan has a high polymorphism rate similar to other shellfish species, and therefore likely will be significantly impacted by both inbreeding depression and heterosis. Cultured populations characterized from the industry in BC indicate strong founder effects and drift, with effective population sizes around 9-26 individuals relative to that calculated from the wild population at 25-56K individuals, a general depletion of low frequency variants in cultured populations and high frequency private alleles, and high F_{ST} values between cultured and the wild population. The polymorphism rate was reduced in the cultured populations, but observed heterozygosity was elevated, likely due to the practice of outcrossing to induce heterosis, indicating that polymorphism rate is a better estimator for genetic diversity loss than observed heterozygosity in this species. Although significant diversity loss is observed relative to wild populations, existing cultured populations still have relatively high polymorphism rates, and efforts to monitor preserve the standing genetic variation will be important to continue to ensure the long-term viability of the broodstock program and the adaptability of the cultured animals to environmental challenges and selective breeding efforts.

Data Availability

Code and README required for the analysis: https://github.com/bensutherland/ms_scallop_popgen

Analysis pipeline applied: https://github.com/enormandeau/stacks_workflow

Raw sequencing data has been uploaded to SRA under BioProject PRJNA947158, BioSamples SAMN33843243-SAMN33843431.

Additional material is included on figshare, including the Stacks sample information file required for *stacks_workflow*, and various file formats for single-SNP per locus or microhaplotype data required for the analysis: doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.22670626

Additional Files

Additional File S1. Sample metadata including sources and dates of collections.

Additional File S2. Per sample number of reads, alignments, and alignment rate.

Additional File S3. Number of variants and alleles per RAD-tag, including summary tables.

Additional File S4. Effective population size (N_e) results using microhaplotypes or single variant per tag.

Additional File S5. Inter-individual relatedness as calculated by microhaplotypes in fineRADstructure.

Additional File S6. Per sample principal component (PC) scores for PC1-4.

Additional File S7. Per locus stats including F_{ST}, H_{OBS} (global) for each locus in the filtered, single-SNP per locus dataset, H_{OBS} in each population, and Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium test outputs for single SNPs or microhaplotypes per population.

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Figures

Figure 1. Principal components analysis (PCA) separates the three collections. (A) Farmed or breeding
program scallops in British Columbia (BC), Canada are separated from wild scallops in Japan across PC1
(6.5% variance explained). PC2 separates the two BC collections (5.2% variance explained). (B) PC3 and
PC4 separate variation within BC collections. After the first four PCs, the percent variation explained
reduces as shown in the scree plot (see inset, panel A).
632

636 **Figure 2.** Per locus minor allele frequency (MAF) distribution for the Japan wild population, the VIU
637 breeding population, and the BC farm population following all filters, including population-specific low
638 MAF filters.

641 **(A)**   **(B)**   **(C)**

642
643 **Figure 3.** MAF distributions for (A) loci found in all populations; (B) private alleles in Japan; and (c)
644 private alleles in Canada (VIU and BC farm).

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647 **Figure 4.** Relatedness within each population as evaluated by the Ritland statistic, using a single SNP per
648 locus.
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Figure 5. JPN and VIU population-specific H_{OBS} comparison using the filtered, single-SNP per locus
dataset.

Tables

Table 1. Overview of genotyped samples including sources, sample size per population (n), total filtered
and demultiplexed reads (M), average ± s.d. reads and alignments per population, and samples passing all
filters.
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Collection	Source	n	Total reads (M)	Reads/ sample (M)	Alignments/ sample (M)	Alignment rate (%)	n (post filters)
BC	BC farm source near Vancouver Island	37	127.5	3.45 ± 0.93	2.79 ± 0.77	80.9 ± 1.5	37
JPN (1)	Wild, survey	59	100.5	1.7 ± 0.60	1.40 ± 0.51	80.5 ± 2.6	45
JPN (2)	Wild, commercial, North Hokkaido	26	91.0	3.5 ± 1.20	2.82 ± 0.98	80.5 ± 1.4	26
VIU	Cultured, breeding program	67	184.5	2.80 ± 1.07	2.29 ± 0.92	80.5 ± 9.3	65
Total/ All	-	**189**	**503.5**	**2.69 ± 1.17**	**2.19 ± 0.97**	**80.6 ± 5.8**	**173**

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662 **Table 2.** Population genetic differentiation (F_{ST}) comparison expressed as 95% confidence intervals with
663 the upper limit on the upper right and lower limit in the lower left. Calculations used the single-SNP per
664 locus data after filters.
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	BC	JPN	VIU
BC	-	0.101	0.085
JPN	0.093	-	0.074
VIU	0.076	0.067	-

Table 3. Summary statistics from genotyping with the full dataset or the rarefied dataset. Both datasets
allow multiple variants per RAD-tag, and the full dataset has 21,048 variants in 1,143,426 sites, the rarefied
had 20,269 variants in 1,746,980 genomic sites. Number of polymorphic sites and polymorphism rate (%)
are shown. Observed heterozygosity (H_{OBS}) is calculated based on all positions (variant and fixed). Effective
population size (N_e) was calculated based on microhaplotypes (9,377 loci). Filtered loci shows the number
of polymorphic loci per population in single-SNP per locus data (n = 9,375 variants before filters, n = 6,547
variants) retained after all filters, including Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium.

Dataset	Pop	Samples / locus	Poly. sites	Poly. rate (%)	H_{OBS}	N_e (95% CI)	Filtered loci	Private alleles
Full	BC	35.9	12,286	1.07	0.00278	9.3 – 9.3	3,722	58
	JPN	74.7	19,411	1.70	0.00266	25,048 – 56,291	5,857	1,401
	VIU	63.7	15,471	1.35	0.00276	26.4 – 26.4	4,856	270
Rarefied	BC	34.2	12,685	0.73	0.00186	9.5 – 9.5	-	-
	JPN	35.7	17,490	1.00	0.00177	∞	-	-
	VIU	35.4	14,765	0.85	0.00184	22.9 – 23.0	-	-