

# Landscape genetic diversity of native and invasive Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*) in Alaska

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# Background

- Large-bodied, hyper-predator
- Generalist diet
- Preferred prey:  
soft-rayed fish  
(salmonids)
- Circumpolar distribution



Photo by Jim Lavakras, Anchorage Daily News

# Background

- Native populations
  - High levels of diversity
- Invasive populations
  - Lower diversity than native populations
    - Bottleneck
  - Propagule pressure?

## **The role of propagule pressure in explaining species invasions**

Julie L. Lockwood<sup>1</sup>, Phillip Cassey<sup>2</sup> and Tim Blackburn<sup>2</sup>

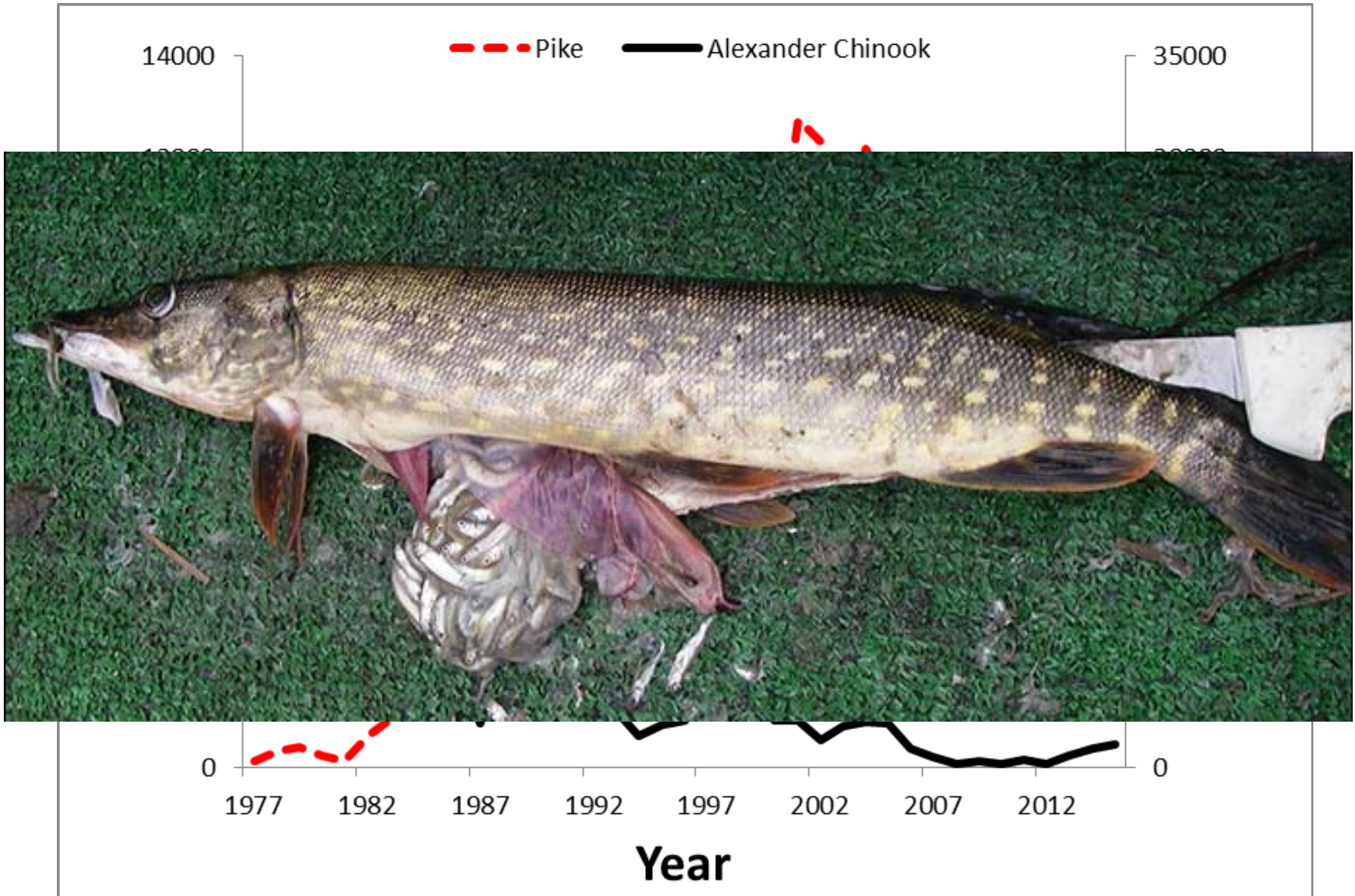
## Is There A Genetic Paradox of Biological Invasion?

Arnaud Estoup,<sup>1</sup> Virginie Ravigné,<sup>2</sup> Ruth Hufbauer,<sup>3</sup> Renaud Vitalis,<sup>1</sup> Mathieu Gautier,<sup>1</sup> and Benoit Facon<sup>1,2</sup>

## **Reduced genetic variation and the success of an invasive species**

Neil D. Tsutsui<sup>1</sup>, Andrew V. Suarez, David A. Holway, and Ted J. Case

# Northern Pike have impacted some Chinook populations



Data from Oslund & Ivey 2010; Munro & Volk 2016

# Objectives

Objective 1: Determine origin of invasive populations

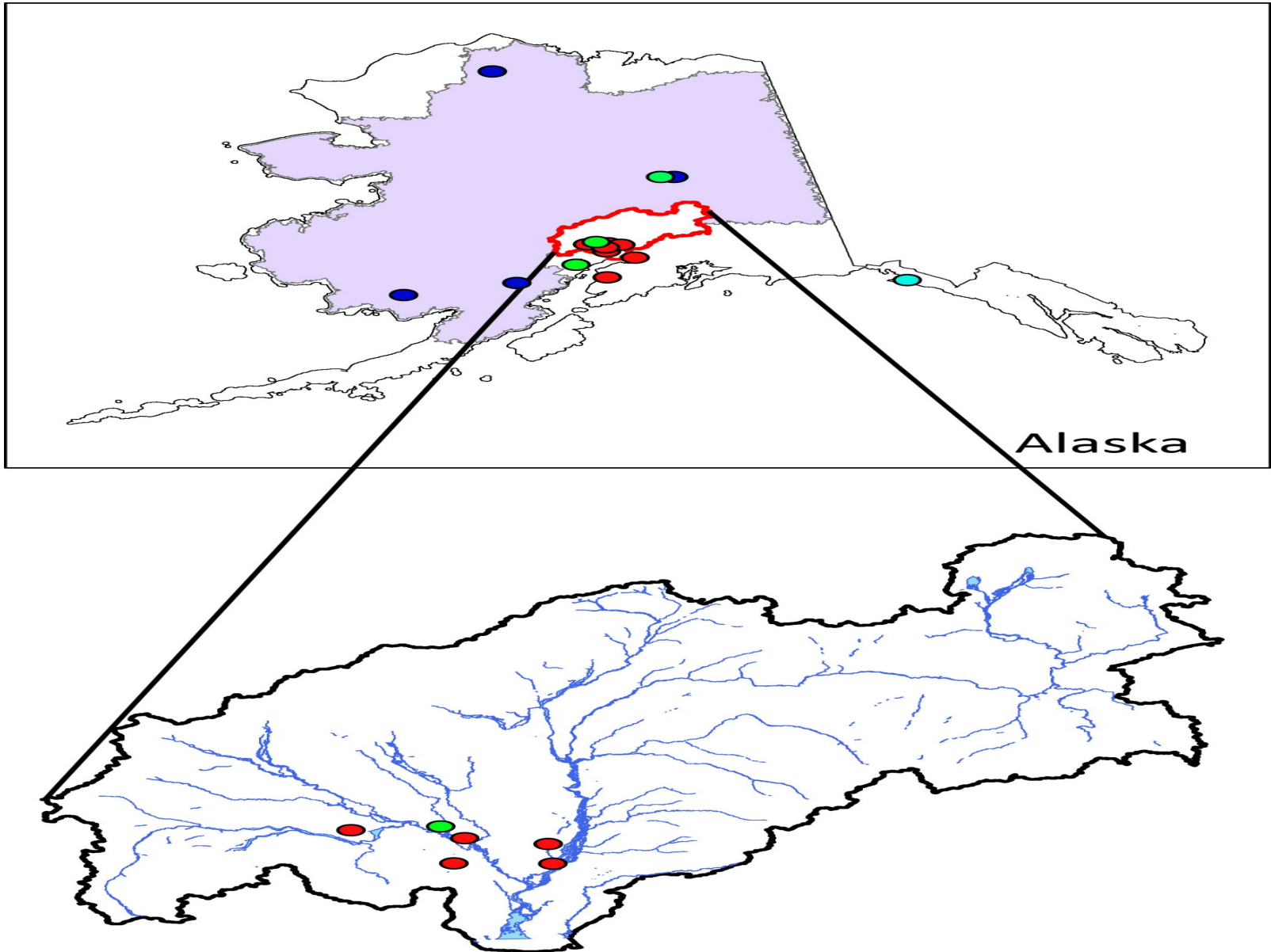
Objective 2: Characterize genetic variability of invasive and native populations

Objective 3: Infer founding population(s) size

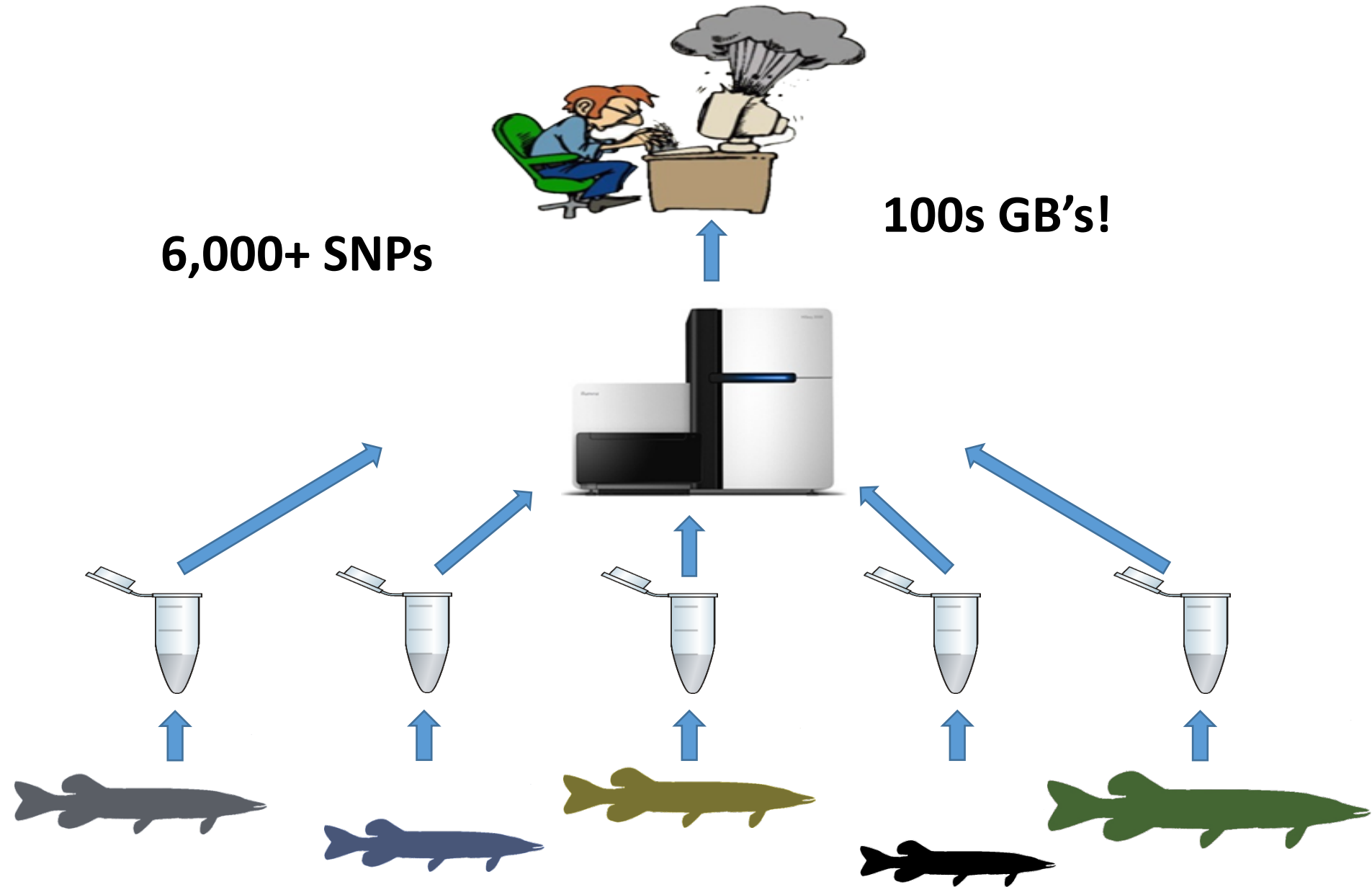
# Methods: Field



# Methods: Collection sites

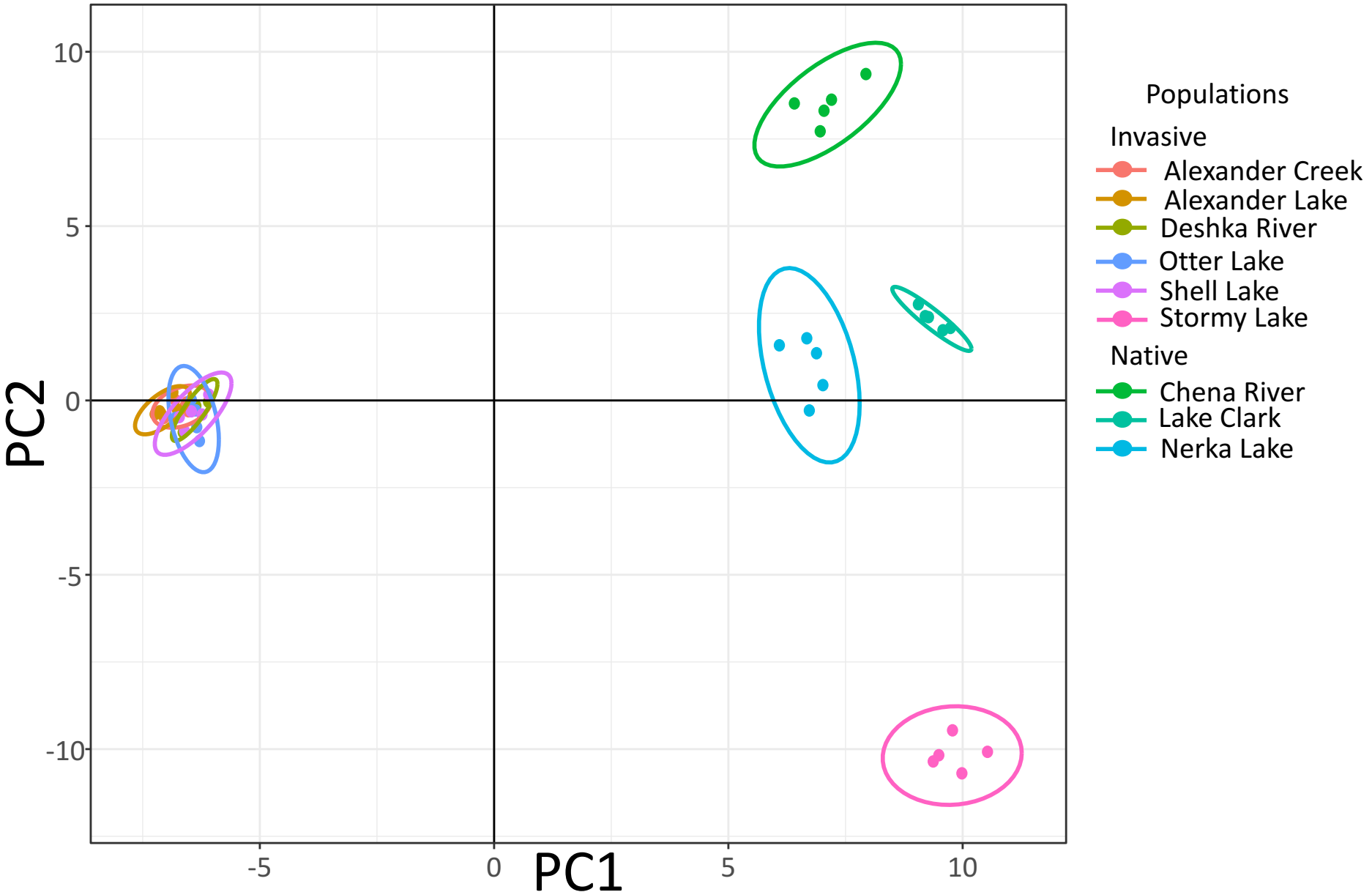


# Data analysis

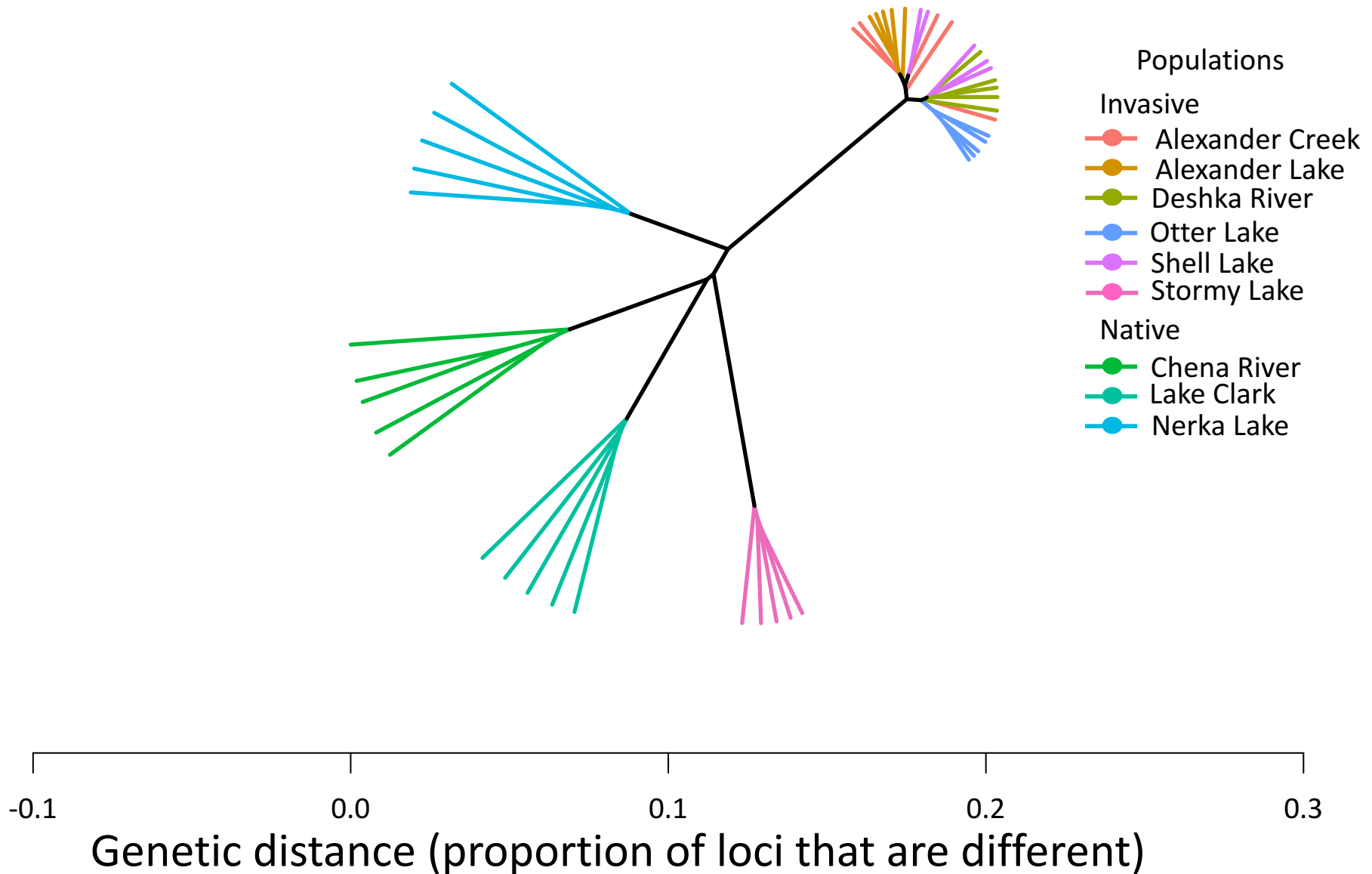




# Diversity of native and invasive pike



# Genetic distance



# Conclusions

- Native populations
  - Higher diversity than invasive populations
- Stormy Lake (Invasive)
  - Diversity similar to native populations
  - Different source
- Invasive populations
  - Show population structure



# Next steps: pike habitat suitability

## Attributes

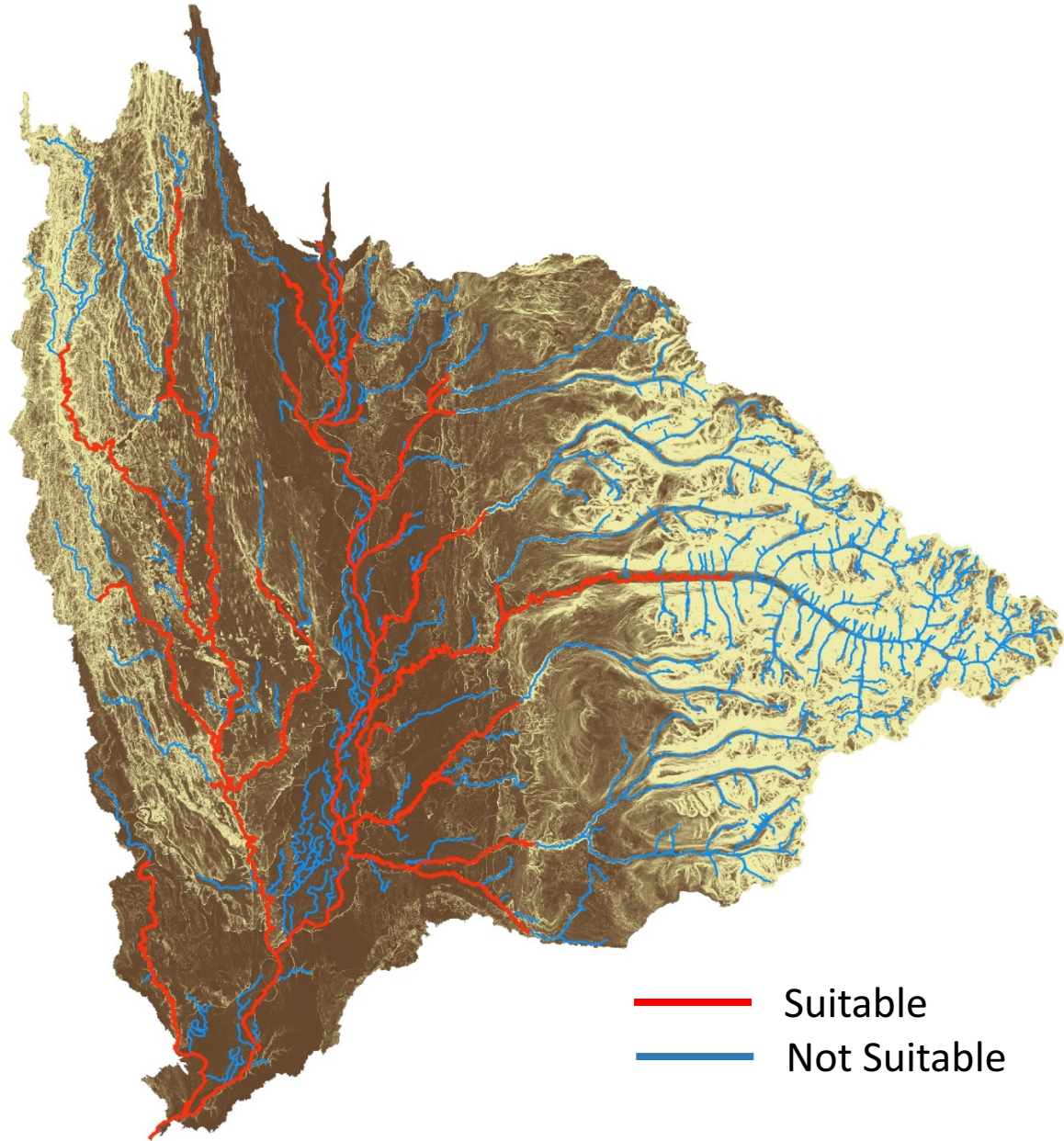
- Elevation
- Stream order
- Watershed lake area
- Floodplain presence

## References

Casselmann 1996

R. Shaftel, unpublished

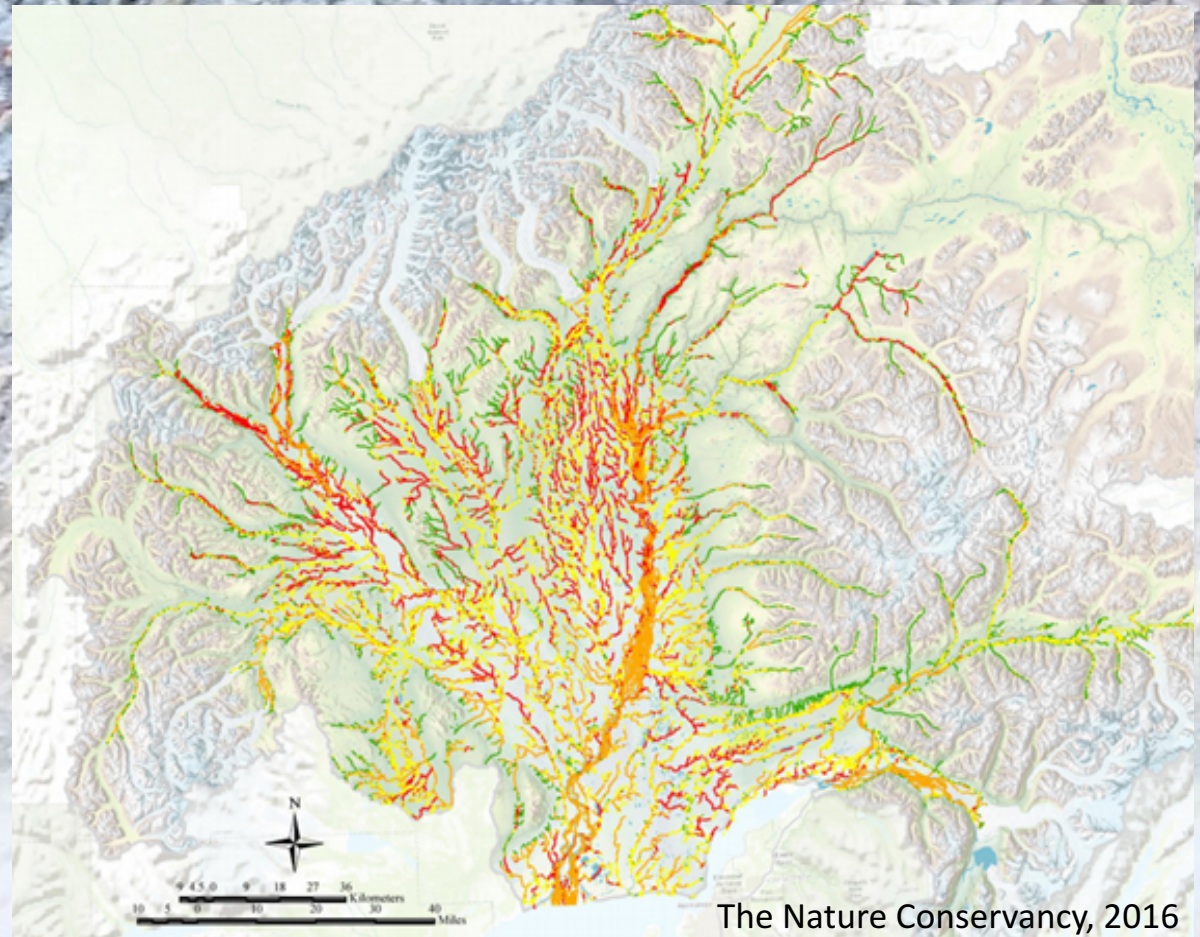
Spens et al. 2007



# Juvenile salmon vulnerability

## Coho rearing habitat potential

- Rearing habitat potential
- Overlap and connectivity
- Life - history



The Nature Conservancy, 2016



# Acknowledgements

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Questions?

