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## Characterization of a Y-specific duplication/insertion of the anti-Mullerian hormone type II receptor gene based on a chromosome-scale genome assembly of yellow perch, *Perca flavescens*

Romain Feron, Margot Zahm, Cédric Cabau, Christophe C. Klopp, Céline Roques, Olivier Bouchez, Camille Eché, Sophie Valière, Cécile Donnadiou, Pierrick Haffray, et al.

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1 **Characterization of a Y-specific duplication/insertion of the anti-Mullerian**  
2 **hormone type II receptor gene based on a chromosome-scale genome**  
3 **assembly of yellow perch, *Perca flavescens*.**

4  
5 Romain Feron<sup>1,2</sup>, Margot Zahm<sup>3</sup>, Cédric Cabau<sup>4</sup>, Christophe Klopp<sup>3,4</sup>, Céline Roques<sup>5</sup>, Olivier  
6 Bouchez<sup>5</sup>, Camille Eché<sup>5</sup>, Sophie Valière<sup>5</sup>, Cécile Donnadiou<sup>5</sup>, Pierrick Haffray<sup>6</sup>, Anastasia  
7 Bestin<sup>6</sup>, Romain Morvezen<sup>6</sup>, Hervé Acloque<sup>7</sup>, Peter T. Euclide<sup>8</sup>, Ming Wen<sup>1</sup>, Elodie Jouano<sup>1</sup>,  
8 Manfred Schartl<sup>9</sup>, John H. Postlethwait<sup>10</sup>, Claire Schraidt<sup>11</sup>, Mark R. Christie<sup>11,12</sup>, Wes  
9 Larson<sup>8</sup>, Amaury Herpin<sup>1</sup>, Yann Guiguen<sup>1\*</sup>.

10  
11 **AFFILIATIONS**

12  
13 <sup>1</sup> INRA, UR 1037 Fish Physiology and Genomics, F-35000 Rennes, France. <sup>2</sup> Department of  
14 Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne, and Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, 1015  
15 Lausanne, Switzerland. <sup>3</sup> Plate-forme bio-informatique Genotoul, Mathématiques et  
16 Informatique Appliquées de Toulouse, INRA, Castanet Tolosan, France. <sup>4</sup> SIGENAE,  
17 GenPhySE, Université de Toulouse, INRA, ENVT, Castanet Tolosan, France. <sup>5</sup> INRA, US  
18 1426, GeT-PlaGe, Genotoul, Castanet-Tolosan, France. <sup>6</sup> SYSAAF, French poultry and  
19 aquaculture breeders, 35042, Rennes Cedex, France. <sup>7</sup> GenPhySE, Université de Toulouse,  
20 INRA, INPT, ENVT, Castanet-Tolosan, France. <sup>8</sup> U. S. Geological Survey, Wisconsin  
21 Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 800 Reserve St.,  
22 Stevens Point, WI 54481, USA. <sup>9</sup> Developmental Biochemistry, Biozentrum, University of  
23 Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany and The *Xiphophorus* Genetic Stock Center, Department of  
24 Chemistry and Biochemistry, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, USA. <sup>10</sup> Institute of  
25 Neuroscience, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, USA. <sup>11</sup> Department of Forestry and  
26 Natural Resources, Purdue University; 715 W. State St., West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2054  
27 USA. <sup>12</sup> Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University; 915 W. State St., West  
28 Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2054 USA.

29  
30 \*corresponding author (yann.guiguen@inra.fr)

31  
32

33 **ABSTRACT**

34

35 **Background:** Yellow perch, *Perca flavescens*, is an ecologically and commercially important  
36 species native to a large portion of the northern United States and southern Canada. It is also a  
37 promising candidate species for aquaculture. No yellow perch reference genome, however, has  
38 been available to facilitate improvements in both fisheries and aquaculture management  
39 practices.

40 **Findings:** By combining Oxford Nanopore Technologies long-reads, 10X genomics Illumina  
41 short linked reads and a chromosome contact map produced with Hi-C, we generated a high-  
42 continuity chromosome scale yellow perch genome assembly of 877.4 Mb. It contains, in  
43 agreement with the known diploid chromosome yellow perch count, 24 chromosome-size  
44 scaffolds covering 98.8% of the complete assembly (N50 = 37.4 Mb, L50 = 11). Genome  
45 annotation identified 41.7% (366 Mb) of repeated elements and 24,486 genes including 16,579  
46 genes (76.3%) significantly matching with proteins in public databases. We also provide a first  
47 characterization of the yellow perch sex determination locus that contains a male-specific  
48 duplicate of the anti-Mullerian hormone type II receptor gene (*amhr2by*) inserted at the  
49 proximal end of the Y chromosome (chromosome 9). Using this sex-specific information, we  
50 developed a simple PCR genotyping test which accurately differentiates XY genetic males  
51 (*amhr2by*<sup>+</sup>) from XX genetic females (*amhr2by*<sup>-</sup>).

52 **Conclusions:** Our high-quality genome assembly is an important genomic resource for future  
53 studies on yellow perch ecology, toxicology, fisheries, and aquaculture research. In addition,  
54 the characterization of the *amhr2by* gene as a candidate sex determining gene in yellow perch  
55 provides a new example of the recurrent implication of the transforming growth factor beta  
56 pathway in fish sex determination, and highlights gene duplication as an important genomic  
57 mechanism for the emergence of new master sex determination genes.

58

59 **KEYWORDS:** Yellow perch, evolution, whole genome sequencing, long-reads, sex-  
60 determination, transforming growth factor beta, *amhr2*

61

62

## 63 DATA DESCRIPTION

64

### 65 Introduction and background

66

67

68 Yellow perch, *Perca flavescens* (Figure 1), is an ecologically and economically important  
69 species native to a large portion of the northern United States and southern Canada. Yellow  
70 perch supports recreational and commercial fisheries and is a major component of the food web  
71 in many inland lakes, where they are often the most abundant prey for larger species such as  
72 walleye (*Sander vitreus*), northern pike (*Esox lucius*), muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*), and  
73 lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) [1]. In the Laurentian Great Lakes, yellow perch are an  
74 important native species that has been heavily impacted by fishing pressure and environmental  
75 changes over the last century [2,3]. Yellow perch is consistently among the most valuable  
76 commercially harvested fish species in the Great Lakes (\$2.64/lb. dockside value in 2000 [4]),  
77 with fillets selling as high as \$12/lb). However, many yellow perch fisheries have been forced  
78 to close due to substantial population declines [5]. The mechanisms underlying these declines  
79 are not fully understood but could be investigated using a combination of ecological and genetic  
80 studies if adequate genomic information were available.

81 From an aquaculture perspective, yellow perch has many desirable attributes. For example,  
82 yellow perch can tolerate high stocking densities, are relatively disease resistant, and can be  
83 raised successfully under a variety of temperature and water conditions [6,7]. Furthermore,  
84 yellow perch can be reared from hatching to marketable size in a relatively short period of time  
85 (~1 year vs. 2+ years for most salmonids). Because yellow perch eat a diverse array of prey  
86 items [8], their feed can be obtained from ecologically sustainable sources while remaining cost  
87 effective (in contrast salmon are often fed a diet consisting primarily of other wild-caught  
88 fishes, known as fish meal). Lastly, yellow perch fillets have a firm texture and a mild flavor  
89 yielding a high market value.

90 The challenges faced by the yellow perch aquaculture include: increasing the spawning window  
91 for broodstock, reducing early life stage mortality, and developing large-bodied strains with  
92 faster growth rates [6]. Yellow perch spawn seasonally (typically in late spring to early summer)  
93 during a relatively narrow period of time (1-2 weeks). From an aquaculture perspective, it can  
94 be challenging to find males and females that are ready to spawn at the same time and, if the  
95 fish are not monitored daily, the peak spawning period can be missed entirely [9]. Compared to

96 other aquaculture species, yellow perch also have a protracted free-swimming larval stage (~30  
97 days), during which the fish require precise food and water conditions for optimal survival.  
98 Developing broodstock that produce offspring with a shorter larval stage or that produce larger,  
99 more robust offspring would allow perch to be successfully reared in a broader array of  
100 facilities. Lastly, while yellow perch can already be grown to marketable size relatively quickly,  
101 the relative lack of selective breeding means that there is considerable room for developing  
102 yellow perch strains with faster growth rates and larger body sizes [6].

103 These challenges, which currently limit the wide-scale adoption of yellow perch as an  
104 aquaculture species, can be addressed using cutting edge genomic resources, such as the  
105 genome assembly described here. For example, one straightforward step towards obtaining fish  
106 with faster growth rates and larger body size would be to produce genetically all-female  
107 populations, as females grow considerably faster and larger than males [10–12]. More  
108 generally, sequencing and characterizing the yellow perch genome will facilitate improvements  
109 in both aquaculture and fisheries management practices.

110

## 111 **Results and Discussion**

112

### 113 **Genome characteristics**

114

115 By a combination of three approaches -- Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT) long-reads,  
116 10X genomics Illumina short linked reads (PE150 chemistry), and a chromosome contact map  
117 (Hi-C) -- we generated a high-continuity, chromosome length *de novo* genome assembly of the  
118 yellow perch. Before the Hi-C integration step, the assembly yielded a genome size of 877 Mb  
119 with 879 contigs, a N50 contig size of 4.3 Mb, and a L50 contig number of 60 (i.e. half of the  
120 assembled genome is included in the 60 longest contigs). After Hi-C integration, the genome  
121 assembled into 269 fragments with a total length of 877.4 Mb, including 24 chromosome-length  
122 scaffolds representing 98.78 % of the complete genome sequence (N50 = 37.4 Mb, L50 = 11)  
123 (see Table 1). Genome sizes are both very close to the 873 Mbp GenomeScope [13] estimation  
124 based on short-read analysis with a repeat length of 266 Mbp (30.5%) and slightly lower than  
125 the estimation of *P. flavescens* genome sizes based on C-values (900 Mbp and 1200 Mbp  
126 records in the Animal Genome Size Database [14]). The 24 chromosome-length scaffolds  
127 obtained after Hi-C integration are consistent with the diploid chromosome (Chr) number of  
128 yellow perch ( $2n = 48$ ) [15]. The genome completeness of these assemblies was estimated using

129 Benchmarking Universal Single-Copy Orthologs (BUSCO) v3.0 [16] based on the  
130 Actinopterygii database. BUSCO scores (see Table 1) of the pre-Hi-C and post-Hi-C assemblies  
131 were roughly similar (Complete BUSCOs between 97.6% and 97.8%) and with small values  
132 for both fragmented (< 1%) and missing (< 1.5%) BUSCO genes.

133 Repeated elements accounted for 41.71% (366 Mbp) of our chromosomal assembly and these  
134 regions were soft masked before gene annotation. Using protein, transcript, and *de novo* gene  
135 prediction evidence we annotated 24,486 genes, including 16,579 (76.3%) that significantly  
136 matched with a protein hit in the non-redundant NCBI database (Table 2). Our yellow perch  
137 genome was also annotated with the NCBI Eukaryotic Genome Annotation Pipeline (NCBI  
138 *Perca flavescens* Annotation Release 100 [17]), leading to a higher gene count (28,144) with  
139 possibly multiple transcripts per gene (Table 2).

140

#### 141 **Yellow perch sex-determination**

142

143 Yellow perch has a male monofactorial heterogametic sex determination system (XX/XY) [18]  
144 with undifferentiated sex chromosomes [19]. Using a male-versus-female pooled gDNA whole  
145 genome sequencing strategy [20], we identified a relatively small region of 100 kb localized at  
146 the proximal end of chromosome 9 (Chr09:0-100,000 bp) with a complete absence of female  
147 reads, excluding repeated elements (Fig. 2.A-B). This coverage bias strongly supports the  
148 hypothesis that Chr09 is the yellow perch sex chromosome and contains a small Y-specific  
149 region in phenotypic males that is completely absent from phenotypic females. Genome  
150 annotation shows that this Y-specific insertion on Chr09 contains a duplicate copy (*amhr2by*)  
151 of the autosomal anti-Mullerian hormone receptor gene located on Chr04 (*amhr2a*). The *amhr2*  
152 gene has previously been characterized as a master sex-determining gene in some pufferfishes  
153 [21,22] and the *hotei* mutation in the medaka *amhr2* gene induces a male-to-female sex-reversal  
154 of genetically XY fish [23]. However, in contrast to pufferfishes, in which the differentiation  
155 of X and Y chromosomes is extremely limited and originated from an allelic diversification  
156 process, the yellow perch *amhr2by* sequence is quite divergent from its *amhr2a* autosomal  
157 counterpart. Specifically, the *amhr2by* gene shows only 88.3 % identity with *amhr2a* in the  
158 aligned coding sequence and 89.1 % in the aligned parts of the introns, but with many long gaps  
159 and indels in the introns (Fig. 2C-D). This nucleotide sequence divergence impacts the protein  
160 sequence of the yellow perch *amhr2by* gene (Fig. 2D-2E), but due to a complete absence of  
161 exons 1 & 2 (Fig. 2C-2E) compared to its autosomal counterpart, the yellow perch Amhr2by

162 protein translates as a N-terminal-truncated type II receptor that lack most of the cysteine-rich  
163 extracellular part of the receptor, which is crucially involved in ligand binding specificity [24].

164

165 To validate the male specificity of this potential Y-specific insertion, we designed primers  
166 specific for both *amhr2by* and *amhr2a* and genotyped 25 male and 25 female yellow perch  
167 collected from a Southeastern Lake Michigan population, which is geographically isolated from  
168 the Plum Lake (Wisconsin) population of the 30 males and 30 females used for initial analysis  
169 with pool-sequencing. The presence/absence of the *amhr2by* PCR product was perfectly  
170 correlated with the determined phenotypic sex, with the amplification of an *amhr2by* fragment  
171 only in the 25 males and no amplification in the 25 females (see Fig. 2F for 18 of the 50  
172 individuals tested). The simultaneous amplification of the *amhr2a* fragment in both males and  
173 in females provided an internal control preventing single-locus dropout in such a multiplexed  
174 PCR reaction.

175

176 This complete sex-linkage result makes the yellow perch *amhr2by* an obvious candidate as a  
177 sex determining gene. Interestingly, anti-Mullerian hormone (Amh) has been also characterized  
178 as a male-promoting gene in zebrafish [25] and as a master sex determining gene both in  
179 Patagonian pejerrey [26], Nile tilapia [27] and Northern pike [28]. The role of transforming  
180 growth factor beta (TGF- $\beta$ ) members in sex determination is not limited to the Amh pathway;  
181 additional TGF- $\beta$  family genes have also been characterized as master sex determining genes,  
182 including growth differentiation factor 6 (*gdf6*) in the turquoise killifish [29] and gonadal soma  
183 derived factor (*gsdf*) in the Luzon medaka and the sablefish [30,31]. Additional evidence,  
184 including loss of *amhr2by* function experiments in XY males and gain of *amhr2by* function  
185 experiments in XX females, is necessary to critically test the hypothesis that this male-specific  
186 *amhr2by* duplication really functions as a master sex determining gene in yellow perch.  
187 However, given the known importance of the Amh pathway in fish sex determination, and that  
188 no other gene in that small sex locus is known to play a role in sex differentiation, *amhr2by* is  
189 a prime candidate for the yellow perch master sex determining gene. This finding provides  
190 another example of the recurrent utilization of the TGF- $\beta$  pathway in fish sex determination,  
191 and thus supports the ‘limited option’ hypothesis [32], which states that some genes are more  
192 likely than others to be selected as master sex determining genes. How this N terminal truncated  
193 Amhr2 could trigger its function as a master sex determining gene is as yet unknown, but one  
194 hypothesis is that this truncation constitutively activates the Amh receptor causing it to signal  
195 in the absence of Amh ligand.

196

197 However, regardless of the precise role of the structural variation of *amhr2* in sex determination,  
198 we have developed a simple molecular protocol for genotypically sexing perch of any life stage  
199 and produced a fully annotated, chromosome-scale genome assembly that will undoubtedly aid  
200 in the conservation and management of this species.

201

## 202 **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

203

### 204 **Sampling and genomic DNA extraction**

205

206 The male yellow perch used for whole genome sequencing was sampled from Plum Lake, Vilas  
207 County, Wisconsin, USA. A 0.5 ml blood sample was taken from this animal and immediately  
208 put in a TNES-Urea lysis buffer (TNES-Urea: 4 M urea; 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5; 125 mM  
209 NaCl; 10 mM EDTA; 1% SDS) [33]. High molecular weight genomic DNA (gDNA) was then  
210 purified by phenol-chloroform extraction. For the chromosome contact map (Hi-C), 1.5 ml of  
211 blood was taken from a different male from a domesticated line of yellow perch raised at the  
212 Farmory, an aquaculture facility in Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA. The fresh blood sample was  
213 slowly cryopreserved with 15 % Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) in a Mr. Frosty Freezing  
214 Container (Thermo Scientific) at -80°C. Fin clip samples (30 males and 30 females) for whole-  
215 genome sequencing of pools of individuals (Pool-seq) were collected from wild yellow perch  
216 in Green Bay, Lake Michigan, Wisconsin, USA, placed in 90% ethanol and then stored dried  
217 until gDNA extraction was performed using the NucleoSpin Kit for Tissue (Macherey-Nagel,  
218 Duren, Germany). Genomic DNAs from individual fish were then quantified using a Qubit  
219 fluorometer (ThermoFisher) and pooled in equimolar ratios by individual and sex, resulting in  
220 one gDNA pool for males and one gDNA pool for females. For validation of *amhr2* sex-  
221 linkage, 50 phenotypically sexed individuals (25 males and 25 females) wild perch from Lake  
222 Michigan were collected in May of 2018 using gill net sets off the shore of Michigan City,  
223 Indiana (41°42.5300'N, 86°57.5843'W). Upon collection, each individual fish was euthanized,  
224 phenotypic sex was determined by visual inspection of gonads during necropsy, and caudal fin  
225 clips were taken from each yellow perch individual and stored in 95% non-denatured ethanol.  
226 Genomic DNA was extracted using the DNeasy extraction kit and protocol (Qiagen).

227

### 228 **DNA library construction and sequencing**



## 229 Nanopore sequencing

230 The quality and purity of gDNA was assessed using spectrophotometry, fluorometry and  
231 capillary electrophoresis. Additional purification steps were performed using AMPure XP  
232 beads (Beckman Coulter). All library preparations and sequencing were performed using  
233 Oxford Nanopore Ligation Sequencing Kits SQK-LSK108 (Oxford Nanopore Technology) (14  
234 flowcells) or SQK-LSK109 (2 flowcells) according to the manufacturer's instructions. For the  
235 SQK-LSK108 sequencing Kit, 140 µg of DNA was purified and then sheared to 20 kb using  
236 the megaruptor system (Diagenode). For each library, a DNA-damage-repair step was  
237 performed on 5 µg of DNA. Then an END-repair+dA-tail-of-double-stranded-DNA-fragments  
238 step was performed and adapters were ligated to DNAs in the library. Libraries were loaded  
239 onto two R9.5 and twelve R9.4 flowcells and sequenced on a GridION instrument at a  
240 concentration of 0.1 pmol for 48 h. For the SQK-LSK109 sequencing Kit, 10 µg of DNA was  
241 purified and then sheared to 20 kb using the megaruptor system (Diagenode). For each library,  
242 a one-step-DNA-damage repair+END-repair+dA-tail-of-double-stranded-DNA-fragments  
243 procedure was performed on 2 µg of DNA. Adapters were then ligated to DNAs in the library.  
244 Libraries were loaded on R9.4.1 flowcells and sequenced on either a GridION or PromethION  
245 instrument at a concentration of 0.05 pmol for 48h or 64h respectively. The 15 GridION  
246 flowcells produced 69.4 Gb of data and the PromethION flowcell produced 65.5 Gb of data.

## 247 10X Genomics sequencing

248 The Chromium library was prepared according to 10X Genomics' protocols using the Genome  
249 Reagent Kit v2. Sample quantity and quality controls were validated by Qubit, Nanodrop and  
250 Femto Pulse machines. The library was prepared from 10 ng of high molecular weight (HMW)  
251 gDNA. Briefly, in the microfluidic Genome Chip, a library of Genome Gel Beads was  
252 combined with HMW template gDNA in master mix and partitioning oil to create Gel Bead-  
253 In-EMulsions (GEMs) in the Chromium apparatus. Each Gel Bead was then functionalized with  
254 millions of copies of a 10x™ barcoded primer. Dissolution of the Genome Gel Bead in the  
255 GEM released primers containing (i) an Illumina R1 sequence (Read 1 sequencing primer), (ii)  
256 a 16 bp 10x Barcode, and (iii) a 6 bp random primer sequence. R1 sequence and the 10x™  
257 barcode were added to the molecules during the GEM incubation. P5 and P7 primers, R2  
258 sequence, and Sample Index were added during library construction. 10 cycles of PCR were  
259 applied to amplify the library. Library quality was assessed using a Fragment Analyser and

260 library was quantified by qPCR using the Kapa Library Quantification Kit. The library was then  
261 sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq3000 using a paired-end read length of 2x150 nt with the  
262 Illumina HiSeq3000 sequencing kits and produced 315 million read pairs.

### 263 **Hi-C sequencing**

264 *In situ* Hi-C was performed according to previously described protocols [34]. Cryopreserved  
265 blood cells were defrosted, washed with PBS twice and counted. 5 million cells were then cross-  
266 linked with 1% formaldehyde in PBS, quenched with Glycine 0.125M and washed twice with  
267 PBS. Membranes were then disrupted with a Dounce pestle, nuclei were permeabilized using  
268 0.5% SDS and then digested with *HindIII* endonuclease. 5'-overhangs at *HindIII*-cut restriction  
269 sites were filled-in, in the presence of biotin-dCTP with the Klenow large fragment, and then  
270 re-ligated at a *NheI* restriction site. Nuclei were lysed and DNA was precipitated and then  
271 purified using Agencourt AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter) and quantified using the Qubit  
272 fluorometric quantification system (Thermo). T4 DNA polymerase was used to remove un-  
273 ligated biotinylated ends. Then the Hi-C library was prepared according to Illumina's protocols  
274 using the Illumina TruSeq Nano DNA HT Library Prep Kit with a few modifications: 1.4µg  
275 DNA was fragmented to 550nt by sonication. Sheared DNA was then sized (200-600pb) using  
276 Agencourt AMPure XP beads, and biotinylated ligation junctions were captured using M280  
277 Streptavidin Dynabeads (Thermo) and then purified using reagents from the Nextera Mate Pair  
278 Sample preparation kit (Illumina). Using the TruSeq nano DNA kit (Illumina), the 3' ends of  
279 blunt fragments were adenylated. Next, adaptors and indexes were ligated and the library was  
280 amplified for 10 cycles. Library quality was assessed by quantifying the proportion of DNA cut  
281 by endonuclease *NheI* using a Fragment Analyzer (Advanced Analytical Technologies, Inc.,  
282 Iowa, USA). Finally, the library was quantified by qPCR using the Kapa Library Quantification  
283 Kit (Roche). Sequencing was performed on an Illumina HiSeq3000 apparatus (Illumina,  
284 California, USA) using paired-end 2x150 nt reads. This produced 128 million read pairs (38.4  
285 Gb of raw nucleotides).

### 286 **Pool sequencing**

287 Pool-sequencing libraries were prepared according to Illumina's protocols using the Illumina  
288 TruSeq Nano DNA HT Library Prep Kit (Illumina, California, USA). In short, 200 ng of each  
289 gDNA pool (males and females pools) was fragmented to 550 bp by sonication on M220  
290 Focused-ultrasonicator (COVARIS). Size selection was performed using SPB beads (kit beads)

291 and the 3' ends of blunt fragments were mono-adenylated. Then, adaptors and indexes were  
292 ligated and the construction was amplified with Illumina-specific primers. Library quality was  
293 assessed using a Fragment Analyzer (Advanced Analytical Technologies, Inc., Iowa, USA) and  
294 libraries were quantified by qPCR using the Kapa Library Quantification Kit (Roche).  
295 Sequencing was performed on a NovaSeq (Illumina, California, USA) using a paired-end read  
296 length of 2x150 nt with Illumina NovaSeq Reagent Kits. Sequencing produced 119 million  
297 paired reads for the male pool library and 132 million paired reads for the female pool library.

298

## 299 **Genome assembly and analysis**

### 300 **Genome size estimation**

301 K-mer-based estimation of the genome size was carried out with GenomeScope [13]. 10X reads  
302 were processed with Jellyfish v1.1.11 [35] to count 17-, 19-, 21-, 23- and 25-mers with a max  
303 k-mer coverage of 10,000.

### 304 **Genome assembly**

305 GridION and PromethION data were trimmed using Porechop v0.2.1 [36], corrected using  
306 Canu v1.6 [37] and filtered to keep only reads longer than 10 kbp. Corrected reads were then  
307 assembled using SmartDeNovo version of May-2017 [38] with default parameters. The  
308 assembly base pair quality was improved by several polishing steps including two rounds of  
309 long read alignment to the draft genome with minimap2 v2.7 [39] followed by Racon v1.3.1  
310 [40], as well as three rounds of 10X genomics short read alignments using Long Ranger v2.1.1  
311 (10x Genomics 2018) followed by Pilon v1.22 [41]. The polished genome assembly was then  
312 scaffolded using Hi-C as a source of linking information. Reads were aligned to the draft  
313 genome using Juicer [42] with default parameters. A candidate assembly was then generated  
314 with 3D de novo assembly (3D-DNA) pipeline [43] with the -r 0 parameter. Finally, the  
315 candidate assembly was manually reviewed using Juicebox Assembly Tools [42]. Genome  
316 completeness was estimated using Benchmarking Universal Single-Copy Orthologs (BUSCO)  
317 v3.0 [16] based on 4,584 BUSCO orthologs derived from the Actinopterygii lineage.

### 318 **Genome annotation**

319 The first annotation step was to identify repetitive content using RepeatMasker v4.0.7 [43],  
320 Dust (Kuzio et al., unpublished but described in [44]), and TRF v4.09 [45]. A species-specific  
321 *de novo* repeat library was built with RepeatModeler v1.0.11 [46] and repeated regions were  
322 located using RepeatMasker with the *de novo* and *Danio rerio* libraries. Bedtools v2.26.0 [47]  
323 was used to merge repeated regions identified with the three tools and to soft mask the genome.  
324 The MAKER3 genome annotation pipeline v3.01.02-beta [48] combined annotations and  
325 evidence from three approaches: similarity with fish proteins, assembled transcripts (see  
326 below), and *de novo* gene predictions. Protein sequences from 11 fish species (*Astyanax*  
327 *mexicanus*, *Danio rerio*, *Gadus morhua*, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, *Lepisosteus oculatus*,  
328 *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Oryzias latipes*, *Poecilia formosa*, *Takifugu rubripes*, *Tetraodon*  
329 *nigroviridis*, *Xiphophorus maculatus*) found in Ensembl were aligned to the masked genome  
330 using Exonerate v2.4 [49]. As *Perca fluviatilis* is a relatively closely related species from *P.*  
331 *flavescens* (divergence time is estimated to be 19.8 million years ago according to [50]), RNA-  
332 Seq reads of *P. fluviatilis* (NCBI BioProject PRJNA256973) from the PhyloFish project [51]  
333 were used for genome annotation and aligned to the chromosomal assembly using STAR  
334 v2.5.1b [52] with outWigType and outWigStrand options to output signal wiggle files.  
335 Cufflinks v2.2.1 [53] was used to assemble the transcripts which were used as RNA-seq  
336 evidence. Braker v2.0.4 [54] provided *de novo* gene models with wiggle files provided by  
337 STAR as hint files for GeneMark and Augustus training. The best supported transcript for each  
338 gene was chosen using the quality metric called Annotation Edit Distance (AED) [55]. Genome  
339 annotation gene completeness was assessed by BUSCO using the Actinopterygii group. Finally,  
340 predicted genes were subjected to similarity searches against the NCBI NR database using  
341 Diamond v0.9.22 [56]. The top hit with a coverage over 70% and identity over 80% was  
342 retained.

### 343 **Pool-sequencing analysis**

344 Reads from the male and female pools were aligned to the chromosomal assembly with BWA  
345 mem (version 0.7.17, [57]), and the resulting BAM files were sorted and PCR duplicates  
346 removed using Picard tools (version 2.18.2). A file containing the nucleotide composition of  
347 each pool for each genomic position was generated using samtools mpileup (version 1.8, [58])  
348 and popoolation2 mpileup2sync (version 1201, [59]). This file was then analyzed with custom  
349 software (PSASS version 2.0.0 [60]) to compute 1) the position and density of sex-specific  
350 SNPs, defined as SNPs heterozygous in one sex while homozygous in the other sex, 2) absolute

351 and relative read depth for the male and female pools along the genome, and 3)  $F_{ST}$  between  
352 males and females in windows along the genome. PSASS was run with default parameters  
353 except --window-size which was set to 5000 and --output-resolution which was set to 1000.

#### 354 **Validation of *amhr2by* sex-linkage**

355

356 To validate the sex-linkage of *amhr2by* in males suggested by the pool-sequencing results, two  
357 primer sets were designed based on the alignment of yellow perch *amhr2a* and *amhr2by* genes  
358 with one primer pair specific for the autosomal *amhr2a* gene (forward: 5'-  
359 GGGAAACGTGGGAAACTCAC-3', and reverse: 5'-AGCAGTAGTTACAGGGCACA-3',  
360 expected fragment size: 638 bp) and one primer pair specific for the Y chromosomal *amhr2by*  
361 gene (forward: 5'-TGGTGTGTGGCAGTGATACT-3', and reverse: 5'-  
362 ACTGTAGTTAGCGGGCACAT-3', expected fragment size: 443 bp). Gene alignments were  
363 run with mVISTA [61]. Primers were sourced from Integrated Data Technologies (IDT). All  
364 samples were run blind with respect to phenotypic sex; the male and female samples were  
365 randomized, and their phenotypic sex was not cross referenced with field data until gel  
366 electrophoresis was run on the final PCR products. Genotyping was carried out on each gDNA  
367 sample using a multiplexed PCR approach. The PCR reaction solution was composed of 50  $\mu$ l  
368 of PCR Master Mix (Quiagen), 10  $\mu$ l of each primer (40  $\mu$ l total), and 10  $\mu$ l of gDNA  
369 (concentrations of gDNA ranging from 150 to 200 ng/ $\mu$ l) for a total reaction volume of 100  $\mu$ l.  
370 Thermocycling conditions were 1 cycle of 3 min at 94°C, followed by 35 cycles of 30 sec at  
371 94°C, 30 sec at 51°C, and 1 min at 72°C, and finishing with 10 min incubation at 72°C. PCR  
372 products were loaded on a 1.5 % agarose gel, run at 100V for 45 minutes and visualized with a  
373 UVP UVsolo touch UV box.

374

#### 375 **Availability of supporting data**

376

377 This Whole Genome Shotgun project has been deposited at DDBJ/ENA/GenBank under the  
378 accession SCKG00000000. The version described in this paper is version SCKG01000000. Hi-  
379 C, 10X genomics and pool-sequencing Illumina reads, and Oxford Nanopore Technologies  
380 genome raw reads are available in the Sequence Read Archive (SRA), under BioProject  
381 reference PRJNA514308.

382

#### 383 **Author contributions**

384

385 YG, MS, and JHP designed the project. WL, CS and MC collected the samples, EJ, MW, CR,  
386 OB, SV and HA extract the gDNA, made the genomic libraries and sequenced them. RF, CC,  
387 CK, MZ, PE, AH and YG processed the genome assemblies and / or analyzed the results. CS  
388 and MC checked sex-linkage of *amhr2by* on yellow perch samples. YG, RF, WL, MC, JHP,  
389 CC, CK, and CR wrote the manuscript. MS, JHP, CD, PH, AB, RM, MC and YG, supervised  
390 the project administration and raised funding. All the authors read and approved the final  
391 manuscript.

392

### 393 **Competing interests**

394

395 All authors declare no competing interests.

396

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398

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## 578 **Tables**

579

580 **Table 1. Yellow perch assembly statistics.**

<b>Assembly metrics</b>	<b>Pre Hi-C</b>	<b>Post Hi-C</b>
Number of reads	3,118,677	3,118,677
Total size of reads	49,450,446,732	49,450,446,732
Number of contigs	879	269
Total size of the assembly	877,025,633	877,440,133
Longest fragment	18,280,501	44,580,961
Shortest fragment	160	160
Mean fragment size	997,754	3,261,859
Median fragment size	216,440	15,167
N50 fragment length	4,304,620	37,412,490
L50 fragment count	60	11
<b>Assembly completeness</b>	<b>Pre Hi-C</b>	<b>Post Hi-C</b>
Complete BUSCOs	4,482 (97.8%)	4,472 (97.6%)
Complete and single-copy BUSCOs	4,371 (95.4%)	4,363 (95.2%)
Complete and duplicated BUSCOs	111 (2.4%)	109 (2.4%)
Fragmented BUSCOs	47 (1%)	41 (0.9%)
Missing BUSCOs	55 (1.2%)	71 (1.5%)

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582

583 **Table 2. Yellow perch annotation statistics.**

<b>Gene annotation</b>	<b>This paper</b>	<b>NCBI</b>
Number of genes	24,486	28,144
Number of mRNA	21,723	42,926
Number of tRNA	2,763	1,250
Transcriptome size	56,137,542 bp	138,437,341 bp
Mean transcript length	2,292 bp	2,938 bp
Longest transcript	67,783 bp	94,494 bp
Number of coding genes with significant hit against NCBI NR	16,579 (76.3%)	20,992 (88.4%)
<b>Gene completeness (Actinopterygii dataset)</b>		
Complete BUSCOs	4,287 (93.5%)	4,555 (99.4%)
Fragmented BUSCOs	87 (1.9%)	18 (0.4%)
Missing BUSCOs	210 (4.6%)	11 (0.2%)

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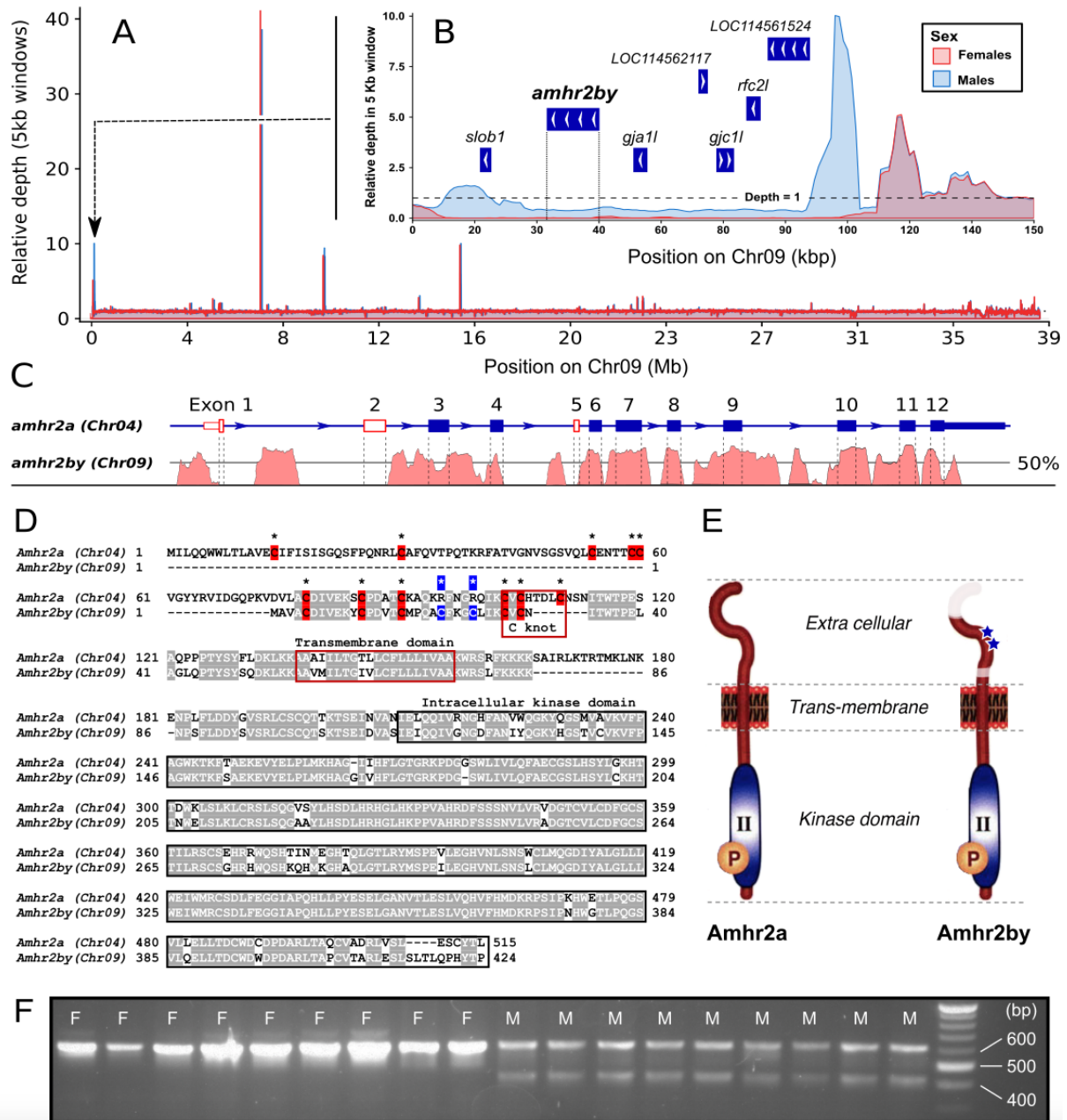
588 **Figures**

589



590

591 **Figure 1: Adult yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*).**



592  
593

594 **Figure 2: Characterization of a Y-specific duplication/insertion of the anti-Mullerian**  
 595 **hormone receptor gene (*amhr2by*) in yellow perch.** **A.** Pool-seq data illustrating relative read  
 596 depth across chromosome 9 (Chr09) for the male (blue line) and female (red line) pools showing  
 597 a coverage difference between males (blue area) and females (red area) in the first 100 kb of  
 598 Chr09. **B.** Zoom-in on the read depth difference between males and females in the first 150 kb  
 599 of Chr09. Gene annotation is represented by blue boxes with arrows to indicate transcript  
 600 orientation (NCBI *Perca flavescens* Annotation Release 100 [13]). Abbreviations: *slob1*  
 601 (probable inactive serine/threonine-protein kinase *slob1*, *LOC114561790*), *amhr2by* (anti-  
 602 Mullerian hormone type-2 receptor-like, *LOC114561927*), *gja1* (gap junction alpha-1 protein-  
 603 like, *LOC114562210*), *gjc1* (gap junction gamma-1 protein-like, *LOC114562012*), *rfc2l*

604 (replication factor C subunit 2-like, *LOC114561955*). **C.** Identity plot of the alignment of  
605 *amhr2by* gene sequence (Chr09, bottom panel) with the autosomal *amhr2a* gene sequence  
606 (Chr04, top panel). The structure of the *amhr2a* gene is depicted with blue boxes (exons, E1 to  
607 E12) and blue lines (introns) with arrows indicating the transcription orientation. The solid line  
608 on the identity plot (bottom panel) represents 50% nucleotide identity between the two  
609 sequences. **D.** ClustalW [62] alignment of Amhr2a and Amhr2by proteins. Identical amino-  
610 acids are shaded and the cysteines in the extracellular domain of Amhr2 are shown with bolded  
611 black asterisks. Additional cysteines specific to Amhr2by are highlighted in blue. The different  
612 domains of the receptor are boxed. **E.** Schematic representation of the two yellow perch Amhr2  
613 proteins showing that the main differences impact the extracellular domain with parts missing  
614 in Amhr2by represented in white and the two additional cysteines represented by blue asterisks.  
615 **F.** Validation of *amhr2by* sex linkage in yellow perch. Agarose gel electrophoresis of multiplex  
616 PCR of *amhr2a* (higher size PCR fragment, 638 bp), and *amhr2by* (lower size PCR fragment,  
617 443 bp) in nine females (F, left side) and nine males (M, right side) genomic DNA.  
618  
619