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"Microsatellite genetic analysis of European sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) samples from an area subject to a restocking program in the Venice Lagoon"

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RIASSUNTO

Il depauperamento degli stock ittici naturali è uno dei problemi più preoccupanti che l'ecologia sta affrontando negli ultimi anni. In risposta a tale problema, la regolamentazione della pressione di pesca si sta rivelando un approccio efficace. Per le popolazioni ittiche già gravemente colpite dall'overfishing, dei programmi di ripopolamento opportuni possono aiutare a reinstaurare un equilibrio tra prelievo e crescita che permetterebbe alle specie interessate di recuperare la stabilità demografica originale. Trattandosi di azioni delicate, le cui conseguenze possono essere deleterie per la specie e l'ambiente soggetto al restocking, la loro programmazione e esecuzione devono seguire alcune regole che aumentino la probabilità che l'azione vada a buon fine. I punti su cui si sono soffermate maggiormente le ricerche più recenti sono l'origine degli animali liberati (e in particolare la distanza genetica dalla popolazione selvatica target) e l'organizzazione genetica dei gruppi di pesci utilizzati per il ripopolamento (ad esempio in termini di variabilità genetica, eterozigosità...).

Lo studio presentato in questa tesi consiste nell'analisi, basata su 9 marcatori microsatellite, di campioni di branzino (Dicentrarchus labrax) provenienti dalla Laguna di Venezia. L'area di campionamento è stata soggetta, alcuni mesi prima dei campionamenti stessi, al rilascio di un gruppo di 30,000 branzini da parte dell' 'Associazione Pescatori della Laguna di Venezia', che lamentava la povertà della zona in animali di questa specie. I giovanili utilizzati per il ripopolamento provenivano dall'allevamento 'Ca' Zuliani' di Pila di Porto Tolle. Due dei campioni analizzati provenivano dall'area della bocca di porto di Malamocco interessata dal ripopolamento, mentre il terzo, commissionato ai membri dell'associazione, è costituito da branzini provenienti da un'area più vasta della laguna e non meglio definita. Per le analisi sono stati utilizzati anche i dati di alcuni campioni della popolazione selvatica della Laguna di Venezia, dei riproduttori utilizzati per generare gli animali liberati e, infine, dati della popolazione selvatica di provenienza di questi riproduttori (area del Delta del Po). Le analisi effettuate comprendono la ricerca di similarità tra i gruppi attraverso l'analisi con il software Structure; un'analisi di parentela tra gli individui dei gruppi campionati e i riproduttori dell allevamento Ca' Zuliani (per verificare la presenza di individui rilasciati tra i campionati); l'assegnazione, basata sui 9 loci microsatellite, dei campioni alle possibili poplazioni d'origine (Laguna, nel caso di animali selvatici o Delta del Po, nel caso di animali rilasciati).

I risultati ottenuti con i tre approcci elencati hanno evidenziato un impatto molto rilevante degli animali liberati, in termini di presenza nell'area soggetta al ripopolamento. Inoltre, grazie alla possibilità di confronto con i data set di Laguna e Delta del Po, è stata riconosciuta una buona somiglianza genetica tra la popolazione selvatica da ripopolare e la popolazione di origine degli animali rilasciati. Questo ultimo risultato è un indicatore positivo per quanto riguarda l'azione di restocking, che dovrebbe essere effettuata utilizzando come fonte degli animali liberati una popolazione il più possibile vicina a quella salvaguardare. Tuttavia, dai risultati è emerso anche che le varie fasi del programma non hanno seguito le regole suggerite dagli studi più recenti. Infatti l'analisi della struttura genetica dei gruppi di branzini utilizzati ha evidenziato una scarsa variabilità allelica. La causa, desunta dai risultati ottenuti, è il ridotto numero di riproduttori che hanno contribuito a generare i branzini rilasciati. Nell'allevamento di provenienza, i branzini adulti vengono fatti riprodurre attraverso eventi di "mass spawning". L'impossibilità di controllare, in queste condizioni, quali individui effettivamente si incrocino rende difficile ottenere, da un singolo evento riproduttivo, un gruppo geneticamente vario di giovanili, come auspicabile nel caso di animali da liberare per un ripopolamento. I risultati di questo studio sottolineano l'importanza di un approccio scientifico agli interventi umani che possono influire sulla stabilità degli ecosistemi per evitare che azioni che dovrebbero migliorare lo stato dei sistemi naturali impattati dall'uomo siano inefficaci o addirittura dannose.

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INTRODUCTION

According to U.S. Census Bureau, at the actual growth rate world population will reach 8.3 billion people in 2025. Together with a necessary reduction of procapite consumption in the richest countries, a massive increase in food production and harvesting will probably be needed. Fish production and fisheries make no exceptions. World fisheries provide more than 15% of the average animal protein intake for 2.9 billion people (FAO 2009). Aquaculture is growing rapidly, also as a consequence of the wild stock depletion due to overexploitation during the last century (Nomura, 2008; Subasinghe et al., 2009) that, together with habitat destruction, is one of the biggest problem affecting global fisheries and marine ecosystems (Jackson et al., 2001). Nowadays cultured animals account for more than 40% of the total sea food (30% species). In the literature there are indications that aquaculture might be a solution to the collapse of fisheries stock worldwide. For some species, such as herbivorous or filter feeders, net contribution to global fish supply is great and the impact on the ecosystems is low. However, the production of some other species that are widely cultured request technology or systems that damage the ocean and coastal environment through habitat destruction. This is the case, for example, of salmon and shrimps (Naylor et al., 2000).

Another collateral and less obvious consequence of aquaculture practicing is related to the escapes of cultured individuals. When this event involve species that are new to the environment they come into, these species could become invasive thus the threat to other native species can be very high (Bax et al., 2003). Up to know a lot of cases of alien species invasions are known, as known are their consequences, including loss in biodiversity as well as radical changes in the entire trophic chain (Galil, 2007). Nevertheless, even in the case of escape of a species already present in the natural environment, the consequences can be deleterious. In this case negative effects can be due to disease and parasites carried by the escaped animals (Naylor et al., 2001; Bartley et al., 2006). Moreover, critical issues depend also on genetic parameters of the released batch: origin of the reared animals and their genetic variability, among others. Similar effects on local stocks can be found analyzing the changes to the wild population derived by restocking practices, considering that in this latter case the number of farmed individuals can be larger (except, for example, when a net of a cage breaks and a massive escape happens, comparable with a restocking release).

Together with aquaculture, which can supply fish food that fisheries will probably not be able to supply, appropriate management actions are in fact required to preserve fish stocks from overfishing or, if too late, to restock depleted areas with animals coming from the wild or with cultured individuals. The same action, in addition to restocking purposes (considered as the restoring of spawning biomass of overexploited fisheries through introduction of juveniles of the same species) can be performed for enhancement, which would permit larger catches or for creating new fisheries (Ward, 2006). These practices have been widely used for salmonid fisheries in the USA and for at least other 90 species of fish and invertebrates in Japan to augment wild stocks (Honma, 1993; Imamura, 1999). Whether this is good or not has been debated for a long and, despite the prevalence of studies indicating negative effects, there is not a unique answer to the question yet, as some positive effects have been underlined either (Araki and Schmid, 2010). Among the most important parameters that should be carefully monitored we can mention the immediate effects due to the increase in animals available for harvesting and the effects on general fitness and genetic diversity of the restocked population. These two features can provide useful information about short term and long term consequences of the restocking, respectively. Combined, these are the variables that make a durable and effective stock enhancement happen or fail.

In the short-term period, release of a considerable quantity of juveniles can provide large net benefits to fisheries. This is mainly due to the availability of the released animals, rather than to a real re-enhancement of the depleted wild stock, which is expected to be stable and durable (Hilborn and Eggers, 2000). To say that a restocking action has been successful, its positive effects should be visible in the long term. In other words the positive effects are not related just to the number of individuals released (e.g. 100 individuals released, then 100 fished), but also to the way these individuals behave in the environment (e.g. they can acclimatize and then reproduce, so that from 100 released individuals it is possible to obtain many more of them). In more technical words we can say that an increase in the census size (or the actual number of individuals in a population) is not necessarily related to a general increase of the target population fitness, which can be described by other indicators such as an increase of genetic variability, evaluated, for example, from the effective population size (Ne) of the target population. Ne, loosely speaking, indicates the size of the group of breeding individuals in the given population. Ne is one of the parameters that are fundamental in population studies as it can provide useful information about genetic variation due to drift, inbreeding or recent bottlenecks. Ne, first introduced by Wright in 1931, has proven useful in the design and analysis of artificial breeding program as well as in understanding evolution of natural populations (Lande and Barrowclough, 1987).

Wild stock re-enhancement, which is the main goal of a restocking program, is an action that permits a depleted wild stock to have a number of reproductive individuals (and a genetic variability) that can support the loss due to fishing in the long term. For this reason the effects of a restocking program should be monitored beyond the simple assessment of stock dimension or immediate stock growth (Bell et al., 2005). In fact, the wild population can be damaged by the introduced individuals. For example, an actual reduction of the number of wild individuals could result by competition with released animals, which produce density dependent mortality, or introgression with hatchery genetic background that can disrupt allelic combination relevant for local adaptation. When designing a restocking program these factors should be seriously taken into account before proceeding with release, so that the right source population is chosen, as to avoid negative effects of interbreeding between wild and hatchery stock when this is thought to be deleterious. Among the other possible problems related to a restocking program not properly designed, we can find lower survival, growth rate, and reproductive fitness of the released animals and possibly of the offspring generated by crosses between released and wild individuals.

For these reasons, cultured fishes used for restocking should be very carefully chosen since proper broodstock selection and breeding plans that minimize negative effects on wild stocks. Natural population and reared fishes should be examined before and after the release of juveniles. The former can provide useful information to the choice of the population that is going to provide the juveniles; the latter permits to monitor the effects of the release in terms of efficacy and long-term consequences. Ideally broodstock should be provided by the population to be enhanced or if not possible, the most similar available (Ward, 2006). Nevertheless, some cases have been reported where even the use of local wild broodstock led to a loss in reproductive fitness in the hatchery fish as well as in the wild born, descendant of hatchery-born parents (Araki et al., 2007b, 2009).

The causes of these negative effects can be understood from the analysis of the chain of events that happen before the release. For example broodstock selection for hatcheries and hatchery practices can lead to low effective population size and thus to a loss of genetic variability inside the breeders pool. Inbreeding may occur and, as a consequence, the phenotypic expression of recessive alleles due to increased homozygosity. Attention should be paid to maintain large dimension of broodstock and to reproduce as many breeders as possible. In addition, renewal of breeders in the broodstock population should aim at increasing the genetic diversity of the captive population.

Once released in nature, hatchery stocks can affect the gene pool of the natural population by increasing homogeneity inside the population or even by completely replacing native strain with the introduced one, as reported for brown trout in northern and central Italy (Marzano et al., 2003). This is expected to happen especially when the target wild population is particularly depleted, so that even the introduction of a small number of new animals can make the genetic arrangement of the local population change. Another aspect that should be taken into account is the possibility for hybridization between wild and released stocks. Small effects of hybrid vigor (major fitness for offspring spawned from unrelated parental) has been found for first generation of salmon when distinct strains hybridized (Bryden et al, 2004). But, from the second generation and later, the break-down of co-adapted gene complexes, together with disruption of interaction between the genetic set and the local environment can results in a loss of fitness, that is expected to increase in severity with increasing genetic distances between the parental strains (Edmans and Deimler, 2004).

If the so called 'supportive breeding' (where parents from the population to be restocked constitute the artificial broodstock) can be a solution for this problem, even this procedure requires attention. To maintain high variability (i.e. high Ne) the number of breeders used for the production of juvenile should be high, especially when the stocked juveniles possibly makeup a large proportion of all offspring. Moreover, it has been reported that a well-planned supportive breeding program can increase Ne, in species with high reproductive ability and high mortality (Wang and Ryman, 2001).

Population analysis using molecular tools

The use of molecular tools in traceability was one of the earliest recognized applications of non human DNA forensics. The ability to generate genetic data is increasing very quickly, so that many of the barriers that geneticists traditionally face are already being removed. Moreover, progresses in genotyping technology are making genetic monitoring increasingly cost effective (Ogden, 2008). The first application of molecular tools in the fisheries sector was directed toward species identification, in order to discover commercial frauds. Examples of the applications are the investigation on illegally traded caviar (De Salle and Birstein, 1996) and shark fins (Abercrombie et al., 2005)

Another very interesting issue that can be solved using genetic markers is the understanding of the genetic structure of a species in terms of populations and geographical organization. Populations' dynamics, both spatial and temporal, are fundamental information to validate models in fish ecology. A direct consequence of knowing populations boundaries is the possibility to develop tools to identify the geographic origin of samples. From a forensic genetics perspective, identify the geographical origin of a sample is equivalent to identify its origin population.

Another powerful tool for answering ecological and evolutionary questions is the reconstruction of parental structure. Knowing this structure can be very useful to get information about the population and not only about single individuals. For example genetic variability and Ne are related to the number of animals that reproduce and this number can be calculated on the base of pedigrees analysis. Although being one of the simplest concepts in biology, a pedigree, that is the genealogical relationship between individuals in a population, has become possible to reconstruct only after the development and application of molecular markers. Pedigrees are based on the simple concept that each parent passes one allele per locus to the offspring, that therefore carries one allele from each parent. Anyhow, behind the simplicity of the theory, the practical implementation of parentage assignment is full of difficulties (Hauser et al, 2011). When all parents can be sampled and when using many variable loci (high exclusion power), parents can be assigned by excluding non parents on the base of Mendelian inheritance rules. Nevertheless, much more often geneticists have to deal with open systems (not all parents sampled) and with limited available data or genotyping errors. If this latter is the case exclusion method may fail to assign parents (genotyping errors) or may assign false parents (lack of marker assignment power), and is therefore advisable the use of other assignment methods, such as likelihood, thus determining probabilities of parentage assignment from simulations. Freely available softwares typically offer this statistical approach with different treatment of genotyping errors, estimation of likelihood and many other factors (Hauser et al, 2011).

Among the others, in the last decade microsatellites have been the marker of choice for most parentage and other assignment studies because of their high variability and wide availability. Recently, the interest in Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) is increasing and it is possible that these will be the marker of choice in future assignment studies. This latter marker consists in polymorphisms that involve just one base inside a genome region, that can vary from an organism to the other. In any case, microsatellites are still the most used markers, thanks to its presence among various species genomes and because it's low price and easy to analyze.

Microsatellite markers

The markers of choice for this work have been the microsatellites. Also known as SSRs (simple sequence repeats) or STRs (short tandem repeat), these are DNA regions composed by short sequence of 2 to 6 nucleotides repeated several times. Presence of SSRs has been found both in eukaryotic and prokaryotic genomes (Field and Wills, 1996; Toth et al, 2000). The feature that makes these regions usable as molecular markers is their mutation rate, which is higher than the mutation rate of other genome regions. Indeed its value ranges from about 10^{-3} to 10^{-6} mutations/locus/generation and the average rate for fish species is widely recognized to be around 5x10⁻⁴ mutations/locus/generation (Lippè et al., 2006). Explanations for this level of mutation rate have been suggested: recombination errors; unequal crossing-over; polymerase slippage during replication or repairing. Together with high variability in repeated regions, the low variability of the sequences that come before and after SSRs (about 10⁻⁹-10⁻¹⁰ mutations/locus/generation) makes these segments easy to amplify using PCR procedure, allowing the development of reliable primers (Hancock, 1999). Presence and density of microsatellites have been demonstrated to be related with non-coding DNA regions, possibly due to the negative effects that SSRs may have on proteins (with an exception for trinucleotide repeats and exanucleotide repeats) (Toth et al., 2000). An interesting feature that characterizes microsatellites technology development is the so called transferability or crossspecies amplification: due to the similarity of the regions surrounding the SSRs, the same pair of primers could be successfully used with species similar to the one the primers were first created for. Nevertheless, the rate of successful amplification gets lower with increasing genetic distance between species (Primmer and Merilä, 2002). Especially for marine organisms, which are characterized by low levels of genetic differentiations when compared to terrestrial organisms (Cooke and Cowx, 2004), microsatellites allowed to identify even small populations differentiation that could not be appreciated using just allozyme or mitochondrial DNA.

The work presented in this thesis consists in the population genetic analysis, based on 9 microsatellites markers, of two European sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) samples (n=164; n=113) collected at the outer side of the Malamocco inlet dams (central Venice Lagoon) during the spring-summer of 2008. A third group of fishes (n=68) was collected in a wider area of the lagoon by local fishermen during their normal fishing sessions. The previous autumn (November 2007) the 'Venice Lagoon Fishermen Association' released 30,000 *D. labrax* juveniles from an enclosed "valle" located near the small village S. Pietro in Volta (see Materials and Methods). The releasing and sampling sites are about one kilometer far from each other. Juveniles released came from a hatchery (Valle Ca' Zuliani located in Pila di Porto Tolle, on the Po river delta) that provided the batch of young sea basses coming from a mass-spawning reproduction event.

Other genetic data available, included in the analyses presented in this thesis were (I) the population of origin from which the breeders were collected (II) the actual broodstock that generated the juveniles (i.e. the breeders' genotypes) and (III) a samples from the Venice Lagoon, considered as an example of the wild population in which the reared animals were going to be released. These data were available thanks to previous studies on the same species undertaken in the same department where I attended my graduation training.

For all the data included in the thesis, several analyses have been performed. First of all several basic genetic parameters were calculated to get general information about the populations and groups that are being analyzed. To do this the 'GenAlEx' add-in for Excel was used.

The genetic pattern of the entire data set was then studied, to detect any possible differentiation among the samples that could help in understanding the effects of the introduction. These analyses were performed by the software 'Structure'.

A further analysis performed was the assignment of the animals sampled along the inlet dams to a set of breeders of the hatchery that provided the juveniles for the restocking. This approach is useful to understand the number of animals that has been used to generate the offspring to be released and thus understand the level of variability of the introduced batch. The software used for parentage assignment was 'Colony 2.0'.

Finally the samples were tested with the population assignment. This approach is the only available when genotypes information of the breeders are not available. Here it was used to test its power under the present conditions, and to compare its performance with other assignment methods. 'GeneClass' was the population assignment software chosen. Comparisons between the various approaches were made to obtain the most accurate results possible. The effects of the restocking action was then discussed in light of what previously mentioned on positive and negative effects of these management actions (such as genetic distance of the broodstock that generated juveniles and the wild population, variability of the released animals, Ne of the samples); some insights on the possible effects of the restocking program undertaken are included.

THE STUDY SPECIES: Dicentrarchus labrax

The European sea bass, *Dicentrarchus labrax* (Moronidae, Perciformes) is a highly valuable commercial species broadly distributed in the coastal waters from Norway to Morocco in the eastern Atlantic as well as in the Mediterranean and Black sea (FISHBASE.com), where it inhabits waters up to 100 meters depth,

being more common in shallow water (Lloris, 2002). This is a euryhaline and eurythermic species and can bear temperature ranging from 5° to 28°. Saline thresholds go from 3‰ to full strength sea water, allowing this species to live in estuaries and brackish



water lagoon as well as venture upstream into freshwater. Its behavior changes over age as younger fishes are often found schooling whereas older individuals are solitary. Seasonal migrations are believed to occur starting from when an individual reaches maturity. From that moment sea basses usually over-winter in marine waters, instead of remaining inside lagoons as they do before becoming adults (Pawson and Pickett, 1987). The change to a migrating behavior is related to the fact that osmoregulation and sexual maturation are incompatible (Zanuy and Carrillo, 1984). The return to shallower and warmer water occurs before the reproduction period. The breeding season differs between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, taking place from December to March and up to June, respectively. Sea bass spawn near to river mouths and estuaries where water salinity is between 30 and 35 (Lloris, 2002). Fecundity is on average 200 000 eggs/kg female, with first reproduction event over 2 kg weight and a fecundity that can reach 6 to 7 years in the wild (Froese and Pauly, 2006).



Fig. 1 Computer Generated Native Distribution Map of Dicentrarchus labrax (FISHBASE)

The annual fisheries production for this species has been stable around 10,000 tons/year since 2001 (see Fig. 1) (FAO). In the Mediterranean the main fisheries

are from France and Italy, and together they account for 75% of the total catch of the area. The most used fishing techniques are bottom trawls, beach seines and hooks and lines. Even if nowadays production from aquaculture is much higher than production from fisheries, wild sea bass maintain an importance on the market, being their price much higher than that of the farmed fish.



In addition to commercial fisheries it is important to notice that sea basses are highly important for sport fishermen, both anglers and "spear fishers". For this reason in areas where the recreational fishing effort

is high the species could be subject of a strong size-dependent mortality, typical consequence of this sport on many fish species. From a management point of view, the different needs of sport and commercial fishermen (i.e. individual size vs. stock size) imply different actions in order to maintain the population structure as well as the population size (Garcia-Asorey et al., 2011). In the present study restocking was carried out by angling fishermen to overcome a deficiency of sea bass in the Lagoon area. It's thus important to consider that this is the category whose needs required to be matched.

Population structure

Since European sea bass is exploited by fisheries and widely cultured, the importance of genetic analysis in this species is increasing. Nowadays, the knowledge of the species in the wild is mainly based on genetic studies and also the development of farming technique is getting useful information from these studies. Analysis of wild populations has become more and more easy and affordable with the availability of genetic markers and the large amount of available data collected from all over the distribution area of the species.

Three main *D. labrax* populations have been identified by many studies based on allozymes (Allegrucci et al., 1997; Castilho and McAndrew, 1998), mitochondrial DNA (Patarnello et al., 1993) or microsatellites (Bahri-Sfar et al., 2000; Castilho and Ciftci, 2005): north eastern Atlantic Ocean, western and eastern Mediterranean. Moreover, eastern Mediterranean population has shown differentiations at a smaller geographic scale, with a structure consistent with the existing basins. In particular differentiation has been found between Adriatic, Ionian and Aegean seas, the Libico- Tunisian gulf and the Levantine basin (Katsares et al., 2005).

Beyond this subdivision, it is important to notice that some studies reported that it is possible to find samples genetically distinct from the population of the area they live (Katsares et al., 2005). Events like this probably began when aquaculture first introduced eggs and larval exchange between different farms, sometimes located far from each other. Escapes of individuals led to interactions between different genetic backgrounds. For example, analysis based on microsatellites data (population analysis) revealed that two samples from Greece and one from Egypt did not cluster according to their expected geographic origin (Katsares et al., 2005). This way, new "populations" might origin from tank or cage escapes, as suggested by a study of a wild population from the gulf of Tunis (Haffray et al., 2007). Lower allelic diversity was observed, probably due to a low Ne, meaning that this population originated from a limited number of parents probably escaped from a local farm.

Aquaculture aspects

Since the late 60s for about a decade a quick development of the production techniques for the juveniles has taken place, mainly in Italy and France. Before this period sea basses were provided by two systems: from fisheries that harvested animals in the wild; from the several coastal lagoons were also salt was harvested. In this latter case the supply of juveniles that grew in the lagoon came from trapping schools of fish during their migrations. The method is still in use today but is less frequent. European sea bass was the first marine non-salmonid species commercially cultured and nowadays it is one of the most important commercial fish produced in Mediterranean areas, with Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Croatia and Egypt as the main producers. Production has been growing rapidly since early 90s, reaching over 60,000 tons in 2010 (FAO).



Fig. 2 Left graph representing European Sea Bass fisheries harvests (in thousand tons) from 1950 to 2010; right graph showing European Sea Bass aquaculture production (in thousand tons) for the same period (FAO)

Nowadays the greatest part of global production comes from intensive systems, which, thanks to controlled diet, obtain commercial size fishes (about 400-500 grams for the sea bass) in just 18-24 months, against the 35 months required for extensive and semi-intensive systems. To do this, juveniles are provided by

specialized farmers and kept in tanks or sea cages where food is provided regularly. Breeders for hatcheries production come from either wild stocks or other farms and are kept long-term and selected by farmers. Optimal parents' age is between 5 and 8 for females and 3 to 5 for males. Control of most of the reproduction phases (including induction of ovulation by photoperiod manipulation or hormonal treatment, fertilization in tanks and incubation in an open water circulation system) is required to secure a reliable and sufficient quality of fish eggs and thus juveniles.

Floating sea cages (net pens) are often used for the fattening period as they are for some aspects easier to manage, not requiring particular onshore structures. They can be located close to the land or in the open sea and in this case water exchange is always granted and the quality depends on the site where the netpens are. Gear care is essential. Especially in the hot season frequent net changing, cleaning and removal of moribund or dead organisms are requested to maintain optimal growing conditions. Moreover the constant care of net integrity would reduce the risk of escapes that, in addition of being a loss for the farmers, can lead to several ecological issues, as mentioned in the introduction. If tanks are the choice, then accurate control of the water quality and fish health are fundamental. To control salinity and temperature brackish or sea water can be pumped at occurrence. Temperature is also an efficient way to control growth in hatcheries and production phase. Since stocking densities is usually up to 25-30 kg/m³ and high water quality is required these techniques are often expensive in terms of filtering, air pumping, general treatment and catabolites removal (FAO).

Improving the harvesting technique by selective breeding has been one of the major aspects of modern harvesting. This could results in loss of heterozygosity (Sola et al., 1998) and alleles that would lower the genetic variability in the reared population. These changes can become a major issue in the case the offspring is used for restocking or in case of escapes of fishes from the farm. The introduction of these animals can be more deleterious for the wild stock if the released/escaped batch had been selected for production (e.g. growth rate, feeding, resistance to antibiotics...) rather than for living in the wild.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During my work I genotyped 9 microsatellites loci from samples of three European sea bass samples collected near one of the Venice Lagoon inlets, where a release of juveniles of *D. labrax* for restocking purpose had taken place. Then, I analyzed these three samples and three additional ones coming from the North Adriatic Sea area, used as reference. Re-editing of all the 6 groups' genotypes was required in order to get comparable data across data sets. Structure analysis, parentage and population assignments were tested. The following table summarizes used sample sets.

POPULATIONS	CODE	Date of sampling	N° samples
Porto Tolle	DeltaPo	1998/2001/2003	161
Venice Lagoon	Laguna	2005	172
1 st sample	VSP1	spring 2008	164
2 nd sample	VSP2	summer 2008	113
3 rd sample	VSP3	spring-summer 2008	68
Breeders from Ca' Zuliani farm	RIPR	2008	178

Tab 1. List of the samples analyzed: populations, codes, date of samplings, number of samples

The name 'VSP' for the three samples collected by the fishermen came from 'Valle San Pietro', that is the enclosed water area were hatchery-produced juveniles were grown before being released.

Study area

The samples used in this work came from the Northern Adriatic and precisely from the Venice Lagoon and from the area around the Po river delta. In particular the introduction of juveniles for restocking was made in a delimited water area near the Malamocco inlet. This is one of three links the lagoon basin has with open sea and is located between the northern one ('Lido inlet') and the southern one ('Chioggia inlet'). These canals generated from an interruption of the earth line dividing sea from lagoon and are characterized by two parallel artificial rocky dams extending from the earth line toward the open sea, about 500-1000 meters long. The complex constitutes a particular environment since rocky coast traits are new to the interested area that is mainly characterized by sand basins and coasts. Obviously this is a very peculiar area, characterized by many disturbing factors such as intense maritime traffic, water current and in the last years by important works on the basin of the channel as well as on the rocky dams due to the 'Mose' project's dockyard.



Fig. 3 Satellite view of the study area: on the right a wide view of the Venice Lagoon; on the left a zoom on the growth and release site near the small town S. Pietro in Volta (1) and on the sampling sites for the groups VSP1 and VSP2 (2)

Already available data

The previous work on breeders selection for farm stock improvement, in addition to providing an affordable set of loci for my analysis, made available a large number of already genotyped samples from the Po river delta. From this population the breeders for the farm were collected so it can be regarded as the origin population of the juveniles used for restocking. Moreover, other projects had been carried out to study Mediterranean sea bass populations before I started mine. Thank to these some additional data were available for a wild population sample collected in the Venice Lagoon's from many different sites inside the Lagoon. These data came as genetic profiles, thus editing of alleles sizes (using Genotyper 3.0) had to be done in order to have values comparable with those of the groups I genotyped.

Sampling methods

Two fishing techniques were used by the fishermen that provided the samples to collect the sea basses along the inlet dams ('VSP1' and 'VSP2'): the 'Barracuda nets' and the long lines. 'Barracuda' is a set gill net particularly used for fishing small size species in sea or rivers. It is made by thin nylon line (0.20 mm diameter) that form a panel kept vertical by a float line and a weighted ground line. The width of the panel is 1.5 meters while the length is 20 meters. Mesh size is 30x30 mm. The long line is made by a main line with hooks attached at interval through branch lines. Long lines can be used to fish near the bottom as well as at the surface and can either be set by an anchor, left to drift or get dragged. In this case the lines got dragged since the baits were artificial ones simulating small fishes. 'VSP3' samples were collected by local fishermen that used their usual technique for fishing (mainly angling).

Individuals Released

The batch of juvenile European sea bass came from a local farm (Valle Ca' Zuliani located in Pila di Porto Tolle) and was produced through a "mass spawning" event. This means that animals were let free to reproduce (i.e. there was no egg and sperm collection and no artificial crossing). The breeders list provided by the farmers indicated that the number of fishes kept in each tank ranged from about 20 to about 40, with a female/male ratio that went from 2:1 to 4:1. One of the consequences of a natural mass spawn is that the individuals that actually reproduce depend on the period since, as normal in farming condition, breeders are not ready for reproduction all at the same time. It has been reported, for the Mediterranean sea bass, that a batch from a single spawning event was made up by 95% of juveniles sharing the same mother. Moreover, 50% of them shared also the same father (Chatziplis et al., 2007). As a consequence, when a batch is collected to be used for restocking, there is the risk that the greatest part of the juveniles come from a small number of breeders (despite the presence of many more females and males in the tank), thus affecting the restocking success and consequences.

Samples conservation

Small pieces of each individual (about 200 mg) from either fins or other body parts were cut and immediately put in 2 ml tube filled with 80% ethanol. Tubes were then stored inside 10x10 rack at a temperature of 4° C at the 'Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science' (UNIPD) in Legnaro (PD), until DNA extraction. If properly stored samples can last long at this temperature. In the present study DNA extraction was performed three years after collection but no signs of major degradation were detected on tissue pieces. Occasionally, a thin layer of undefined mold on the outside of the tubes was present. In those cases I proceeded by cleaning them with sanitizer solution before opening and taking off the sample pieces. Rarely, a white mucus-like substance around the sample piece was found but no evidences for extraction or amplification problem related to this were found.

All procedures described in the following (extraction, amplification, genotyping and data analysis) have been undertaken at laboratories of the 'Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science' (UNIPD) in Legnaro (PD).

DNA extraction

The first step for any genetic analysis is the extraction of genetic material from the samples. This means that cellular and nuclear membranes have to be disrupted and eliminated. Among the many methods for DNA extraction, in my case the Chelex resin protocol was used (Promega). Smaller parts of the sample (about 10-15 mg) were cut from the pieces stored in the tubes using clean instruments (between each sample tools were washed with distilled water and ethanol 90%) and put into a 96-wells plate. A water solution containing 5% water volume Chelex 100 resin and 0.07 μ g/ μ l K proteinase was prepared and each tube was filled with 100-150 μ l of this solution. The K proteinase helps digesting cellular proteins and, more important, nuclease that would otherwise digest the nuclear material. After placing a plastic layer on the plate, to avoid evaporation of solution (problem that anyway occurs sometimes, mainly in the more lateral wells, were layer does not stick properly), digestion proceeds at 55° C for about 1 hour. Digestion phase is followed by inactivation of proteinase, necessary to avoid this enzyme to be functional during the amplification phases and inactivate PCR enzymes. Samples are then incubated at 95° C for 10 minutes. A light centrifugation follows (2000 rpm for 2 minutes) to permit sedimentation of Chelex in the bottom of the wells and get clear surnatant containing target DNA. If not used immediately, plates were stored at -20° C.

Target regions amplification (PCR)

Amplification of target DNA regions is fundamental to achieve good results when analyzing genetic material. In order to do this the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) is used and, thanks to the modern thermo-cyclers, this procedure is nowadays easy and steady. When approaching to microsatellites analysis for both forensic or management studies, a fundamental step is the identification of an informative and affordable set of loci. Choice of loci has not been necessary in my case, thanks to previous work carried out in the same laboratory and on the same species, which included the selection and application of 9 microsatellite loci to be used for parentage analysis, as part of the process of selection of new breeders for broodstock improvement. The farm was the same that provided the juveniles released for this program. Loci were selected on the base of their high variability (mean number of alleles) and on technical specifics (e.g. dimensions) that allowed a correct and easy development and use of the markers. Among 100 loci available in literature the 9 chosen can be divided in three classes, based on the length of the PCR products (3 "small", 3 "medium" and 3 "large"). For each group, the forward primer used in the PCR protocol was marked with either FAM (blue), HEX (green) or TAMRA (yellow) dye. As a result what we got is the following set of loci:

Tab 2. List of loci used divided according to the molecular weight: locus name, repeated sequence, primer sequence, DYE used, annealing temperature (T_a), size range, number of alleles for each locus, linkage group (LG) (Chistiakov et al., 2005) and multiplex amplification group (Amp group).

Locus	Repeat	Primer sequence	Dye	Ta	Size range	No of alleles	LG	Amp group
DLA008	(AC) ₂₄	F:AAGCTATCTGATCTCGCTTG R:ACGTGATTAAGTGTTTGTGAG		56	214-318	51	24	4-plex
DLA119	(TG) ₁₀	F:GCAGGTTCAAATTATTTTTGCTC R:TCCTCCTTTTGCTTGCTAGG		54	221-265	23	14	4-plex
DLA016	(TG) ₂₄	F:GTGACCGCAGATGAAGAAC R:ACTGTGGGGCTCATAAACATC		54	220-272	27	1	4-plex

LARGE SIZE

MEDIUM SIZE

Locus	Repeat	Primer sequence	Dye	Ta	Size	No of	LG	Amp
					range	alleles		group
DLA020	(TG) ₂₀	F:GTCTAATGAGCAGTGGAGCAG R:GCATGTTAGATCCACCTCTTTC		56	144-180	16	12	5-plex
DLA105	(AC) ₁₆	F:GAGGCTGTATGCTGTTGCAG R:ACCCATGCATAAGGTCAGTG		56	135-181	20	8	5-plex
DLA145	(TC) ₂₀	F:CCCACAATAGATTCAAATAG R:CACACATGCAATTATACTG		54	153-195	20	17	4-plex

	SMALL SI	ZE						
Locus	Repeat	Primer sequence	Dye	Ta	Size range	No of alleles	LG	Amp group
DLA248	(AC) ₂₄	F:TGCATGATGATGTGTGAGCA R:TGGCAGGCTAAAACCTCAAG		54	120-126	4	?	5-plex
DLA228	(TG) ₁₀	F:CCAATGTTTTCATCCCCTCA R:TTGCTGCTTGTGAAGTGACC		54	72-104	11	?	5-plex
DLA244	(TG) ₂₄	F:ACTGAAAGCACAGCCTGGTT R:CCCCCATCCAATACACTCAC		54	94-114	9	?	5-plex

I then followed a multiplex protocol that allowed the simultaneous amplification of 5 (5-PLEX) and 4 (4-PLEX) loci. The 9 loci set was then split as follow:

5-PLEX	Dla248	
	Dla228	SMALL
	Dla244	
	Dla020	
	Dla105	MEDIUM
4-PLEX	Dla145	
	Dla008	
	Dla119	LARGE
	Dla016	
	•	

In the PCR protocol the reagent mix contains the genomic DNA (with the target region); two specific primers for this region (a forward primer, in this case marked with fluorescent dye and a reverse primer) (MWG Biotech); a thermostable polymerase (normally from the bacteria *Thermus acquaticus*) (Go Taq Promega), capable of resist at high temperature (in some PCR phases temperature reaches 94° C); dNTPs (dATP, dGTP, dTTP, dCTP) that will be added to the new filaments by the polymerase; MgCl₂ ions that help the polymerase activity; a reaction buffer to create an optimal environment, in terms of pH and ionic strength, for the reaction activities. In my case the mix was as follow:

Buffer 10X	2 μl	1X
MgCl ₂ (25 mM)	0.8 µl	1mM
dNTPs (25 mM)	0.056 μl	70µM
	0.3 μl (large)	0.15 μM
Primer mix (10µM)	0.25 μl (medium)	0.125µM
	0.15 µl (small)	0.075µM
TAQ polymerase 5U/ μl	0.16 μl	0.04 U/μL
H ₂ O	up to 18 µl	
gDNA	2 μΙ	
Total	20 µl	

Tab 3. List of reagents used for the amplification mix: reagent name, volume, final concentration.

A One Advanced thermocycler (Applied Biosystems) was used to carry out the amplification of the samples contained in the 96-wells plate. Through cyclic temperature variations a defined number of amplification cycles were performed, each comprising these fundamental phases:

Denaturation: break of hydrogen bonds and separation of DNA strains that yield single stranded DNA molecules;

Annealing: temperature is lowered allowing annealing of the primers to the single stranded DNA template;

Extension: DNA polymerase, adding dNTPs to the template, synthesizes a complementary DNA strand.

In my particular cases, to suit the primers and the polymerase used, the PCR machine followed this protocol:

Initialization step:	2 minutes a 94°C
	30 seconds at 52°C
	2 minutes at 72°C
33 cycles of:	30 seconds at 94 °C (denaturation)
	30 seconds at 52 °C (annealing)
	40 seconds at 72°C (extension)
Final extension:	5 minutes a 72°C

Agarose gel electrophoresis

To check whether the PCR performed correctly agarose gel electrophoresis is employed. The agarose gel run allows to separate electrically charged fragments thanks to the electric field applied at the side of the gel. Run distance provides information about the charge and the dimension of each fragment. Comparison with a ladder allows to know approximately the dimension of the sample fragment. The ladder is a mix of known length molecules that has to be run next to the sample in the gel. Shorter molecules move faster and migrate farther than longer ones because shorter molecules run more easily through the pores of the gel. In my case this last was prepared by adding 2.7 g of agarose powder to 150 mL of TAE (saline buffer) obtaining a 1.8% agarose gel, good to separate fragments up to 500 bp (Lewis, 2011). TAE 1X buffer is obtained from the dilution of the initial 50X solution: 242 mM of Tris-base, 18.6 mM of EDTA, 5.7 % (v/v) of acetic acid. 15 µL of Sybr Safe (Invitrogen) are then added to the solution. Sybr Safe is a dye used to make DNA or RNA bands visible in electrophoresis gel. Indeed, it fluoresces under UV light when intercalated between the major grooves of the DNA. In the last years this dye has substitute the EtBr (Ethidium Bromide) dye being as much as sensitive but safer than EtBr (Invitrogen, 2011). For each sample 5 μ L of PCR product were put in the gel wells, together with 5 μ L

of Loading Dye 2X composed by glycerol 30%, Bromophenol blue 0.25%, Xilene cyanol 0.25%, Orange 0.25%. This mix helps the loading action (thanks to the glycerol that increases the mixture weight and allows a more precise charge into the wells) and monitoring the run since the dye are visible under normal light and co-sediment with DNA (meaning they move at the same speed as DNA).

The current applied was 120 V for a time of about 20-25 minutes. At the end the visualization was made under UV light through a trans-illuminator.



Fig. 4. Particular of an electrophoresis agarose gel run. In the upper 8 wells the 5-plex was loaded; in the lower wells the 4-plex was loaded. 100 bp Ladder on the left

Genotyping

After extraction and correct amplification what we got was, for each sample, a large number of the target DNA region copies, ready for the genome scan. This last procedure, that will provide a much more precise value for the length of the fragments amplified, is basically another electrophoresis run, this time using acrilamide in place of agarose gel. The analysis was performed by an 'ABI PRISM 3100 Genetic Analyzer' (Applied Biosystems), available for the use at the 'Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science'.

For each group of 96 samples a plate was prepared by adding 4-5 μ L of 5-PLEX PCR product and 4-5 μ L of 4-PLEX PCR product. Amount of DNA was chosen for each plate on the base of the agarose gel electrophoresis result: the intensity of DNA bands on the gel provides information about the amount of DNA available after amplification. The risk of adding too much PCR product to the mix used in the genetic analyzer is getting a null response from the machine due to a too strong signal from the samples.

Every well was then filled with 180-200 μ L BDH water and 7 μ L of a mix of HDF (High Deionized Formamide) and ROX 400 ladder, a mix of fragment 35-400 bp long, regularly spaced, that acts as a reference for the fragment analysis. The mix is composed, for a 96 well plate, by 721 μ L HDF and 21.2 μ L ROX 400.

Before placing the plate in the machine for the fragment analysis, a 3 minutes step at 95° C is required to unfold the double helix, followed by 5 minutes in ice to lower the temperature. After denaturation HDF helps keeping the helix separated to permit the analysis to be performed on the single DNA polymer.

After setting the analyzer, the scan proceeded per 16-samples runs, each lasting about 90 minutes, and results were made available in format file and then read using the software Genotyper 3.0.

Data visualization

Output of ABI PRISM 3100 machine is a series of '.fsa' files that can be viewed using one of the many software available. In my case I used Genotyper 3.0. Results can be visualized for dye color and, for each color, a profile of about 400 bp long is displayed, containing 3 loci (one in the small, one in the medium and one in the large range). The software includes an automatic editing of the microsatellites' peaks, giving the range and dye color for all loci. In this case, for each locus the highest two peak are selected for a heterozygote and, in case of a single peak, the sample is considered homozygote for that particular locus. This is the fastest way to edit profiles assuming the entire process, from extraction to analysis, has gone without any problem. Unluckily this was not my case as most runs needed a careful manual editing. Many anomalies could be found in the profiles and, for most of them, the process phase linked to the problem could be detected.

Generally a good profile consists in a almost flat line disrupted by one (homozygote sample) or two (heterozygote sample) peaks, often preceded by the so called stutter peaks, smaller than the main one (that accounts for the actual value of the allele), consisting in segment of the target region lacking one or more bases due to amplifying variability (variability related to the poly-A final portion of the segment, that can include a different number of A bases).



Fig. 5. Output of the sequencer machine as visualized by Genotyper 3.0. Stutter peaks are visible before the actual alleles' values

When something goes wrong with the extraction or the amplification, dirty or contaminated runs can be obtained. In this case signals coming from something other than the target allele can give peaks higher that the allele itself or, when a contamination occur an unusual number of alleles will be displayed (e.g. up to four alleles when a heterozygote sample is contaminated with another heterozygote with different alleles).



Fig. 6. Example of contaminated samples. Three peaks are visible in both examples

Slippage is a genotyping issue that created some problems during my work. Fragment analysis in a machine like 'ABI 3100' is a very delicate electrophoresis, accurate enough to provide a value for the fragment length with 1 bp accuracy. Since microsatellites are more often repetition of a couple or triplets of bases, a slippage of one or two bases forward or backward can result in important bias when analyzing the profiles. Moreover Genotyper assigns the peaks a value number with two decimals. These values have of course no sense when speaking about microsatellites and it's necessary to round the number to an integer one. This feature gains importance when values for the allele range around the .50 point. In the worst cases a very small slippage results in two different alleles' calls, even if the two individuals carry the same. For this reason it has been necessary, in many cases, to take a direct look to the profile in Genotyper, in order to understand which alleles required manual editing. There are many other sources of bias that can lead to the same errors in genotype data set: one of the most common and known is that related to the use of different analyzing machine or procedures. In this case differences can be really important and it is fundamental to standardize each allele value among the laboratories if a multilaboratory project is the choice (Seeb et al., 2007). However, minor but still problematic slippages can happen also using the same machine, as in my case. This is probably due to differences in the capillaries conditions, sample conditions or temperature that make the sample run further or nearer. During my work I got aware of the problem by looking to the alleles frequencies for some of the 9 loci I used. The frequency patterns differed between one group and the other in terms of 2 or 4 bp. For example, if one group locus showed a frequency of 25% for allele 143, 50% for allele 145 and 25% for 147 another group could show 25% 141, 50% 143 and 25% 145. Such a difference would have been unexpected if it had been due just to a genetic distance between the two groups. In fact, a careful analysis of the runs showed that a slippage occurred, thus a manual calibration of the data was required.



Fig. 7. Example of shifted runs. The same allele (labeled 221) has slightly different values in the upper (rounded 220) and in the lower (rounded 221) samples

After the editing is done using Genotyper, the values for each sample of the data sets have been transposed to an Excel sheet using an ad hoc macro already available in the personal computer I used.

DATA ANALYSIS

Since the enormous increase in available microsatellite data and the development in laboratories techniques that made this kind of data easy to use, many software packages have been created to work with variable markers and microsatellites in particular. As a consequence, there are also many possible formats in which a set of samples can be displayed and often different software require different organization of data (in terms of fragment length vs. number of repetitions, spaces or commas dividing different loci values...). In order to shift from one format to the others without manually editing every single sample, basic formulas of Microsoft Office Excel have been used together with, when needed, the Excel add-in GenAlex (Peakall and Smouse, 2006). This application for Microsoft Excel can be used to analyze many genetic parameters for group of individuals or populations and, once the sample set is organized according to what the software requests, it is possible to export the data set in many format files, ready to be used with other analyzing programs such as GenePop, GeneClass, Arlequin among the most popular ones. Having the entire sample set organized in an Excel sheet, other actions have been possible. Among these, sorting the set according to the alleles' values (i.e. the number of repetitions) has been very useful to detect a bias in the sampling. Animals from the VSP3 group had been caught by sport fishermen during their routine fishing sessions. Instructions for a correct sampling procedure had been provided so that they should have been able to give us the tissue pieces ready for the extraction. However what they probably did was to put several pieces from the same fish in more than one sample tube, resulting in many identical profiles among the samples for this group. As a consequence the sample number decreased from more than 200 samples to less than 70 "real" individuals. With minor incidence this was found even in the other two 'VSP' samples. Sampling methods and procedures are key phases of a scientific reliable work. Nevertheless, often it requires too much time and a high number of qualified people to collect the necessary amount of samples in the proper way. This is why this work is often delegated to others that, thanks to their work activity or hobbies, have more chances to collect samples. However, the lack of knowledge of scientific method in general and the detachment of these people from the research work can result in bad or biased sampling, compromising the entire work. Luckily in my case the bias has been discovered and eliminated, though this decreased the amount of available data.

Before getting to the conclusion that the identical genotypes were due to the sampling, I also considered the possibility that two or more individuals could have carried the same identical genotype just by chance. This could happen

when the loci set used is not variable enough to allow discerning of closely related individuals (such as full or half-sibs). Anyway simple procedures exist to evaluate the probability to have identical genotypes, given the number and variability of the alleles used. GenAlEx gives the opportunity to calculate this Identity Probability. From its values it could be excluded that identical profiles were due to the set of loci used.

Having checked the data set for sampling errors, it was ready to be analyzed and used with various software packages.

As said before genetic parameters have been calculated using the add-in **GenAlex**, based on Microsoft Excel. Every population was characterized for their genetic parameters, allele frequencies per locus and tested for HW equilibrium, based on expected and observed heterozygosity.

To calculate the average number of alleles for each group and to make this parameter comparable between the groups a statistic value that takes in account the number of samples in each group is needed. For this purpose the software **FSTAT** (Goudet, 1995) was used to calculate the 'Allelic Richness'.

To test if there was any genetic pattern beyond the subdivision in 6 sampling groups, the data set has been analyzed using the software **Structure** (Pritchard and Wen, 2003). The program is used to infer population structure using genotype data consisting of unlinked markers. Briefly the software assumes a model in which there are k populations (with k unknown), each of which is characterized by a set of allele frequencies at each locus. Individuals are then assigned to one population or jointly to two or more population (up to k) if their genotypes indicate that they are admixed. Assignment method aims to achieve populations whose loci are in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium and linkage equilibrium. The results of this method are then based on these two assumptions (Pritchard et al., 2000a). This means that, given a data set with populations out of HW equilibrium, Structure will re-arrange the samples in order to have groups with loci in HW equilibrium.

Assignments were performed following two procedures: parental assignment and population assignment. Software used were Colony and GeneClass, respectively. <u>Colony</u> (Jones and Wang, 2009) bases its analysis on a maximum likelihood approach to assign parental and sibship among individuals using their multi-locus genotype. The model assumes a sample of individuals divided in 3 sub-samples: offspring, candidate males and candidate females. Individuals in offspring sub-sample are assigned to maternal and paternal families; candidate males and females are then assigned paternity and maternity to these families. Markers are assumed to be in linkage equilibrium and in Hardy Weinberg equilibrium, otherwise power of analysis may result lowered. Other than the sub-sets, the program allows to enter information about loci and species mating system (polygamy or monogamy). Loci information includes a genotyping error guess including allele drop out and other processing errors. Known sib-ships, maternity or paternity are other information that the software allows to input. These latter two were unknown in my case and thus left blank. Analysis results include information about full and half sib-ships, paternity, maternity and possible genotype errors. When some offspring are not compatible with any couple of candidate female/male, the software generates a virtual breeder with the proper genotype. As a consequence, the mother and the father of each individual can be two animals from the candidate mothers/fathers sets, a virtual individual and one from the candidates or two virtual individuals. Breeders generated by Colony are indicated with either * or #.

The approach to reassign individuals using **<u>GeneClass</u>** (Piry et al., 2004) aimed to test how population assignment performed for the analyzed populations when trying to assign individuals to their origin population or to a genetically close one ('Delta Po' and 'Laguna', respectively). This method could be useful when genotypes of candidate parents are unknown and when the aim is to verify the presence of escaped individuals (e.g. coming from a near farm) in a wild population, using as reference populations (1) the wild one and (2) the population the farmed individuals belong to. In this sense the study of two different events can be studied in the same way because they lead to similar situations from a genetic point of view: the presence of genetically different individuals among a wild population. The variable parameters are the number of "strangers" over the total number of animals in the studied area and the genetic distance between the wild and the escaped/released animals. When the genetic difference between the reference populations (indicated, for example, by the Fst values) is higher the test is expected to perform better in recognizing the exact origin population of both wild and escaped/released individuals. On the contrary, mixed animals from similar populations will be hardly recognized as coming from the wild population or the reared one. It is then important to remember that this situation (i.e. released animals coming from a population similar to the wild one) is the suggested one to better control the restocking negative effects.

For each of the 6 samples the basic genetic parameters were calculated. Observed and expected heterozygosity were calculated using GenAlEx, while FSTAT was used to calculate the Allelic Richness to count for different size of sampled populations. Ne was calculated according to the following formula by Kimura and Ohta (mutation rate μ = 5 x 10⁻⁴):

$$He = 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{8Ne\mu + 1}}$$
$$Ne = \frac{He^2}{8\mu(1 - He^2)}$$

Allelic richness appears to be lower in the first two VSP sample, as well as expected heterozygosity and Ne, although these differences are not significant. The other groups show higher and comparable values for these parameters. VSP1 is the only group that shows an observed heterozygosity (Ho) higher than the expected (He), anyway not significant.

Tab. 4 Genetic parameters for each groups: Number of individuals genotyped, Observed heterozygosity (Ho) average and range, Expected heterozigosity (He) average and range, Allelic Richness, Effective population size (Ne) average and range

Population	No of individuals	Но	Не	Allelic Richness	Ne
Delta Po	161	0,735	0,747	13 8//	316.0
Deltaro	101	(0.572-0.886)	(0.535-0.955)	13,044	(100.4-2565.7)
Laguna	170	0.737	0,751	14.050	324.4
Laguna	1/2	(0.468-0.948)	(0.470-0.927)	14,050	(70.8-1532.1)
	164	0,734	0.695	0 175	233.5
VSP1	104	(0.543-0.949)	(0.508-0.907)	0,125	(86.7-1158.6)
1/502	112	0.676	0.687	7 022	223.2
V3P2	115	(0.469-0.940)	(0.467-0.943)	7,952	(69.7-1989.3)
	60	0.734	0,733	12 020	290.7
V5P3	00	(0.532-0.926)	(0.506-0.953)	15,620	(86.0-2492.7)
DIDD	170	0,752	0,751	14 267	323.5
кірк	1/8	(0.562-0.854)	(0.544-0.873)	14,307	(104.9-804.7)

Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium probability was calculated for each locus and for each population. 'Laguna', 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' groups have most of their loci out of HW equilibrium. The causes of this deviation could be multiple and related to low Ne, recent bottleneck or inbreeding. Other sources of bias could be genotyping errors such as null alleles or stuttering. In the case of the 'VSPs' samples this could be somehow due to the presence of released individuals. For the Laguna population it is more difficult to understand but the causes could be inbreeding, mixing between different strains or differences in the time of the samplings. Moreover, the genotyping had been already performed when I used those data and genotyping errors cannot be excluded.

Tab. 5 Hardy Weinberg equilibrium: probability for each locus for each group. In bold significant values (p < 0.01) after Bonferroni correction (No of multiple tests = 54; p after correction 0.0002)

Locus	Range	DeltaPo	Laguna	VSP1	VSP2	VSP3	RIPR
Dla008	214-318	0.004	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	0.075	0.001
Dla020	144-180	1.000	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	0.999
Dla105	135-181	0.918	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	0.015	0.886
Dla119	221-265	0.320	0.832	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	0.850
Dla228	72-104	0.474	<0.0002	0.027	0.021	0.590	0.840
Dla016	220-272	0.113	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	0.022	0.001
Dla244	94-114	0.908	0.994	0.858	0.558	0.257	0.983
Dla248	120-126	0.543	<0.0002	0.898	0.011	0.309	0.676
Dla145	153-195	<0.0002	0.921	<0.0002	<0.0002	0.236	<0.0002

A test for population differentiation was made via the Analysis of Molecular Variance (AMOVA). The Fst values from this analysis are equal to the amount of variation that arises from inter-population differences rather than intrapopulation differences. The pair wise Fst matrix suggests a subdivisions of the six groups into three subgroups: 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' have non-significant, very low Fst and they are both genetically far from the group composed by 'Delta Po', 'Laguna' and 'RIPR'. 'Delta Po' and 'RIPR' are the most similar populations. Indeed, part of the RIPR individuals is the same as some of 'Delta Po' individuals. VSP3 is genetically different from both groups.

Tab. 6 Fst matrix: bold values indicate a level of significance p < 0.01 after Bonferroni correction (No of multiple tests =15; p after correction 0.0007)

	DeltaPo	Laguna	VSP1	VSP2	VSP3	RIPR
DeltaPo		0.1151	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.4442
Laguna	0.001		0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0173
VSP1	0.023	0.027		0.0260	0.0001	0.0001
VSP2	0.025	0.031	0.003		0.0001	0.0001
VSP3	0.027	0.027	0.054	0.057		0.0001
RIPR	0.000	0.002	0.023	0.026	0.028	

Principal component analysis (performed by GenAlEx) is based on Fst distances previously calculated and provides a better visualization of the organization, with three distinct groups according with Fst values. Despite the fact that they are all samples from the Venice lagoon, there seem to be some big differences among samples 'VSP1' and 'VSP2', 'Laguna', 'VSP3'. The difference between the 'VSP1-VSP2' group and the others could be due to the effect of restocking (i.e. presence of individuals coming from the hatchery that modifies the genetic structure of the group). The difference between 'VSP3' and 'Laguna' is more difficult to explain, but can arise from the time distance of the two sample (3 years passed) and from genetic differentiation at smaller scale or, as said before, by genotyping errors in the 'Laguna' group, that cannot be excluded since the data came as already genotyped and were just analyzed. The sample from the Lagoon and the sample from the Po river delta, despite being characterized by a higher geographical distance, appear to be much more genetically similar than the 'VSP3' and the 'Laguna' groups.



Fig 8. Principal Component Analysis of the 6 groups, based on the Fst distances (performed by GenAlEx)

Pie graphs (data not shown) displaying allele frequencies per each locus have been calculated, using GenAlEx, for each population. Such a way of visualizing the most frequent allele and the allelic pattern is very useful to check for genotyping errors such as small slippages or editing errors (e.g. calling the same allele with different "names" in different populations). Thanks to this graphs a bias has been found in locus Dla145 for population 'DeltaPo'. In that case the same alleles were given a length of two base pairs less than in all the other populations, resulting that allele 167 had the same frequency as allele 169 of the others populations, 169 the same as 171 and 171 the same as 173. After correction the pie graphs were much more similar. Nevertheless, thanks to this method, something can be inferred about the population structure as clear differences can be seen for what regards allelic richness. Some differences in alleles frequencies are present too. The conclusions that can be drawn from this visualization of the genetic arrangement of the groups are in accordance with those that can be drawn from the results collected in Tab.4.

A more accurate analysis of the groups was made using the software <u>Structure</u>, in order to find patterns of differentiation regardless the a priori subdivision in sampling groups. Two different approaches were followed: the first one including all the six populations, in order to get more information about the interpopulation and intra-population structure and to infer something about what makes each population genetically similar or different from the others. The best run (i.e. the run that has the maximum likelihood) was a run that split the whole set in two populations (k=2). In the next figure, each line represents an individual. Samples are grouped per population separated by thin black lines in the figure. The proportion of green or red in each line corresponds to the probability of an animal to belong to the first or the other group based on its genotype.



Fig. 9. Output from Structure analysis (K=2) with 6 populations (1-Delta Po, 2-Laguna, 3-VSP1, 4-VSP2, 5-VSP3 and 6-RIPR). Each line corresponds to an individual from the relative group. Amount of green or red color indicates the belonging to green or red group.

The differentiation highlighted by the AMOVA analysis is still clear looking at Structure output. In particular the differentiation between the 'VSP1-VSP2' group (in the graph labeled with 3 and 4) and the 'Delta Po-Laguna-RIPR' group (labeled with 1, 2 and 6, respectively) is here suggested by the high amount of red lines (i.e. individuals assigned to the red population) in VSP1 and VSP2 and a majority of green lines (i.e. individuals assigned to the green population) in the other groups. In this visualization a clear difference between 'VSP3' (labeled with 5) and 'Delta Po – Laguna - RIPR' (1-2-6) group in not visible. In this latter group a further differentiation can be made between the 'Laguna' population and the couple 'Delta Po' and 'RIPR' populations that are characterized from some "mostly red lines" among the numerous "green lines". The individuals corresponding to these red lines are somehow similar to a great part of VSP1's and VSP2's individuals. In particular the table below report the IDs of the four "red lines" from group 'RIPR' and the amount of red lines in the VSP1 and VSP2 groups. Subdivision has been made according to the Q-value for each group (red or green) of each individual.

Tab 7. IDs of the animals assigned to the red group for 'RIPR', percentages of samples assigned to the red group for 'VSP1' and 'VSP2'.

RIPR	VSP1	VSP2
R26, R30	61.6%	60.2%
R50, R67	(IDs list and Q values in appendix)	(IDs list and Q values in appendix)

Since 'VSP1', 'VSP2' and 'RIPR' groups appeared to be linked by a small number of individuals in RIPR population, a further Structure run was performed. This time the software was asked to analyze only these three samples, in order to search a more accurate subdivision into groups. The run with maximum likelihood split the individuals in three populations (k=3). Again, the output figure shows a series of lines (each corresponding to a single individuals) composed by a red, a green and a blue segment. 'VSP1' is here labeled with 1, 'VSP2' with 2 and 3 corresponds to 'RIPR' group.



Fig. 10. Output from Structure analysis (K=3) with 3 populations (1-VSP1, 2-VSP2 and 3-RIPR). Each line corresponds to an individual from the relative group. Amount of green, blue or red indicates that the individual belongs to green, blue or red group.

The differentiation between the samples from the release area and the breeders group is still strong. A link between the groups is still visible as well, this time

including more individuals from the 'RIPR' group. In particular two individuals, marked with red lines, belonging to the 'RIPR' population appear to be somehow similar to a numerous group of individuals of the 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' groups (red lines). In the same way 7 individuals, marked with mostly blue lines, in 'RIPR' group are similar to a large group of individuals from 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' group. The amount of blue, as showed by different Q values, is different among individuals in the 'RIPR' group as well as in the 'VSP' groups. This means that individuals with a larger green proportion of the line share something with the other mostly green individuals. The table below reports the IDs of the nine animals from 'RIPR' that belong either to the "red" or "blue" population and the corresponding amount of individuals from the 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' groups.

Structure group	RIPRODUTTORI	VSP1	VSP2		
Red	R50	32.9%	31.9%		
	R67	(IDs list and Q values	(IDs list and Q		
		in appendix)	values in appendix)		
Blue	R25, R26, R30, R41	45.1%	43.4%		
	R45, R49, R68	(IDs list and Q values	(IDs list and Q		
		in appendix)	values in appendix)		

Tab 8. IDs of the animals assigned to the red and the blue groups for 'RIPR', percentages of samples assigned to the red and the blue groups for 'VSP1' and 'VSP2'

Comparing the results from the Structure's runs we can see that the "red group" from the first run (with all 6 populations) has been split in a "red group", that includes R50 and R67, and a "blue" one that, other than R26 and R30 (previously included in the red group), includes 5 more individuals. The amount of individuals from the VSP groups linked to these breeders has increased in 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' from 61.6% and 60.2% to 78% and 75.3% ("red" + "blue"), respectively.

The pattern highlighted by Structure analysis suggested a possible link between the greatest part of the individuals sampled along the Venice Lagoon inlet and a small number of individuals from the farm that provided the juvenile for the restocking program.

To obtain more information about this situation I tried to assign the animals from 'VSP' groups to their parents through parentage assignment and to their origin population using the population assignment approach.

<u>Parentage assignment</u> was performed using the software Colony 2.0. As candidate male and female parents the individuals from 'RIPR' group have been used. Colony output suggests, for each individual, the pair of parents that have the maximum probability to be the true parents of the tested animal. When one

(or both) parent of a tested individual misses from the given data set, the software generates one (or two) virtual reproducing individual that can provide the alleles the tested animal has. The software then tries to get the maximum parsimony in reproducers number providing a list of real and virtual parents shorter as possible. In the output file real breeders are labeled with the name provided with the data set while program-generated individuals are labeled with either * or # to differentiate male from female parents. Among the information it is possible to give to the software, a rate of genotyping error can be input. In my case an estimated error rate of 1% was suggested for all loci. The result from the parentage assignment analysis suggested a subdivision of the greatest part of the offspring in few large families, generated by a small number of parent couples that spawned most of the juveniles. The following table summarizes the major families structure for 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' groups. As mentioned before parents tagged with * or # are virtual individuals generated by the software to best fit the offspring genotypes.

Tab. 9. Results from Colony 2.0 parentage assignment. Here are indicated the 5 most numerous families, the number of individuals from 'VSP1' (left) and 'VSP2' (right) assigned to each family and the percentage on the whole sample. (For a more complete list see the appendix)

	VSP1			VSP2	
	No of			No of	
Fam	individuals	%	Fam	individuals	%
R50R67	28	17.07	R50R67	9	7.96
R41R45	27	16.46	R41R45	23	20.35
R26R30	22	13.41	R26R30	14	12.39
*1R67	22	13.41	*1R67	22	19.47
R26R25	16	9.76	R26R25	11	9.73

According to the results from the parentage assignment the sum of the offspring generated from just 5 parent pairs accounts for 70% of the total sampled individuals (70.12% for VSP1 and 69.91% for VSP2). Moreover, these five pairs are composed by only seven individuals from the 'RIPR' group. This result alone would be unexpected considering the large number of breeders present in the tank where the spawning took place. Moreover the success of a single parent seems to be related to the presence of another precise individual (e.g. 'R41' and 'R45' appear only as a couple, and their success is very low or null when associated to other breeders).

Apparently one male (tagged *1 by the software) was missing from the given data set. This individual, in couple with the female R67, generated a great amount of juveniles: 13.41% in VSP1 and 19.47% in VSP2. Important similarities between the results of this analysis and those of Structure can be found looking

at the IDs from 'RIPR' group. The same individuals that appeared "different" from the others in Structure graphs (the red and blue lines) have been found by Colony to be among the most successful parents. In particular the analysis performed with three populations ('VSP1', 'VSP2' and 'RIPR') separated the seven most productive breeders from all the others (plus R49 and R68). A more accurate analysis of the Q values of the animals from 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' and the candidate parents (according to Colony) suggested another conclusion for the individuals that had been assigned to the '*1' male. In fact all the animals assigned to the couple *1 x R67 are assigned to the "red" population both in the 6-groups analysis (where "red" included R26, R30, R50 and R67) and in the 3groups analysis (where "red" included only R50 and R67). Moreover the Q values for these individuals are the same as those of the animals assigned to the couple R50 x R67. For these reasons these samples should be assigned to this latter family. Looking at the inferred genotype of the virtual breeder *1 it can be noticed that it differs from the R50's genotype just for two alleles (one in locus Dla008 and one in locus Dla145). In this case genotyping or editing errors in the 'VSPs' individuals are probably the cause of this bias. Adding the individuals assigned to the *1 x R67 family to those assigned to the R50 x R67 family the amount over the total assigned individuals raises to 30.5% and 27.4% in 'VSP1' and 'VSP2', respectively. These percentages are much more comparable to those resulting from Structure's 3-groups analysis (32.9% for VSP1 and 31.9% for VSP2) confirming that this is probably the right assignment pattern.

In the same way an accordance can be found between the "blue" Structure's group and the most productive breeders. Summing the reproductive output of the couples R41 x R45, R25 x R26 and R26 x R30 the resulting percentages (39.63% and 42.47% for 'VSP1' and 'VSP2', respectively) are very close to the percentages of individuals assigned to the "blue" group (45.1% and 43.4%). Less numerous families have not been identified by Structure analysis, that grouped the most numerous family (R50 x R67) in the "red" group and the other three most numerous (R25 x R26, R26 x R30 and R42 x R45) in the "blue" group. Probably this is due to the fact that the minor families are too small to be identified by Structure as separated sub-samples. An alternative explanation to these minor differences between Structure subdivision and parentage assignment results can be the following: Structure is more accurate than Colony in this context and the fact that Colony assigned individuals not assigned by Structure is due to the similarity between wild and released animals present in the VSP1 and VSP2 groups. This means that, indicating a 1% possible error in the genotyping, the software can assign to a couple of breeders even the wild individuals, just considering as biased one or few alleles.

Nevertheless, the results output by Colony are probably even influenced by the fact that the groups 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' have the most of their loci out of Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. As mentioned in the 'Material and Methods' this can lower the power and accuracy of the parental analysis.

Another difference is that Structure analysis indicated R49 and R68 as part of the "blue" group, whereas Colony didn't find individuals in 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' related to these breeders.

The analysis of 'VSP' groups through <u>population assignment</u> has been carried out with the software GeneClass. As reference populations I used the Po River delta population and the Venice lagoon one. In other words the software was asked to assign every individual from the samples either to the wild Lagoon population or to the population the parents came from, on the base of their genotypes. This method is the only one possible when genotyping information of the actual parents are not provided (so that parental assignment cannot be performed). The method used is a Bayesian one, the same used for detecting immigrated individuals among a wild population explained in Rannala and Mountain, 1997 (Rannala and Mountain, 1997).

Results are here reported for all the six populations. This means that the assignment was performed even for the reference populations against themselves. This can provide information about the genetic differentiations between the two reference populations for what regard the population assignment. More detailed results for each individual from 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' group can be viewed in the appendix where, for each individual assigned, a related percentage score is reported. This value indicates the level of probability for the respective assignment results.

a	' population.								
	Populations	% assigned to Delta Po							
	Delta Po	80.74%							
	Laguna	26.74%							
	VSP1	88.41%							
	VSP2	87.61%							
	VSP3	61.76%							
	RIPR	71.34%							

Tab. 10. Results from GeneClass population assignment. Results are expressed for each group
in terms of percentage of individuals assigned to 'Delta Po' population. The remaining were
assigned to the 'Laguna' population.

Results reported above reflect the effect of the genetic distances between populations already observed in the Fst values. The 'Laguna' and the 'Delta Po' populations are very similar for the loci used, thus the population assignment could be inaccurate when analyzing the samples from these populations. Anyway, the percentages of individuals assigned for 'VSP' groups are in accordance with the high prevalence of released individuals among the samples. In both 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' the amount of animals assigned to the 'Delta Po' population is near 90%, even higher than the assignment percentage of the 'Delta Po' population against itself. 'VSP3' seems to be much similar to the 'Venice lagoon' with the second lowest percentage of individuals assigned to the 'Delta Po' population (61.76%). This was expected considering that these animals had been sampled in the lagoon. Nevertheless, from the Fst values this wasn't so clear, nor from the PCA, since the 'VSP3' group was as far from the Venice lagoon population as from 'Delta Po'. As expected the lowest score is that of the 'Laguna' group. Nevertheless more than a quarter of the individuals of the Venice Lagoon have been assigned to the 'Delta Po' reference population. This can be considered another clue about the low genetic difference between these two groups. The accuracy of the population assignment can be checked comparing the results with the Structure's and Colony's output (see appendix). Among the individuals assigned to the 'Laguna' population there are some of the individuals that both Structure and Colony recognized as released. In particular 12.1% of them belong to the "blue" Structure group (families R25 x R26 and R41 x R45) and 30.3% belong to the "red" group (family R50 x R67). As these results suggest, population assignment, in this case (i.e. when the references populations are genetically very similar), can provide only approximate indications about the composition of samples and the effects of the restocking. Considering the Structure results and parentage assignment as more reliable, GeneClass approach wouldn't be enough accurate to give information about the correct impact of the released animals.

CONCLUSIONS

In fall 2007 a batch of Mediterranean sea bass juveniles (coming from a local fish farm) was released in the Venice Lagoon (precisely near the Malamocco inlet) by the 'Fishermen association of the Venice Lagoon' to increase the number of fishes available for the sport anglers. The animals had been previously grown in an enclosed area and fed for some months and then freed when their size was 15 cm on average. During the summer of the next year two samplings took place in the area of the inlet dams, near the release site. One more sampling was delegated to the fishermen during their normal fishing sessions. In addition to these, genotyping data from Venice Lagoon wild population and Delta Po wild population were available thanks to previous work carried out in the same laboratories. Breeders' genotypes (coming from the Po river estuary area) were also available for parentage analysis.

This work presents the results of the analysis of 9 microsatellite loci from these groups of Mediterranean Sea Bass. To get information about the population differentiation and the possible effect of the restocking program three approaches were followed: an analysis of the population structure (Structure), a parentage assignment test for the individuals sampled around the release area (Colony 2.0) and a population assignment test (GeneClass).

The Mediterranean sea bass juveniles used for the restocking came from a local farm that uses animals from a wild population of the Po river estuary as adult breeders. Genetic differentiation values (Fst) between the population from the Po river delta and a sample from the Venice Lagoon (available thanks to a previous work on this species) suggests that the genetic distance between them is low and not significant. Such a relation between the depleted population and the population of origin of released individuals should be good for restocking in order to maintain a stock similar to the original one. Anyway, wherever possible, the recommended strategy for releases of juveniles is to use the local broodstock (Ward, 2006). This approach is called 'supportive breeding'. In any case, it's important to remember that it can still have deleterious effect when not planned and carried out carefully. This means that the broodstock should be numerous, avoiding to introduce a large number of closely related individuals that could determine variation in the population structure and could affect seriously the wild stock. The effect that introduced individuals can have on the wild population is also related to the number of released individuals or, more precisely, to their amount over the number of already present fishes. As this ratio gets higher the impact is expected to be more important.

Results from Structure analysis and from parentage assignment indicate that, after the release, the juveniles freed didn't move far from the releasing area, but settled in the surrounding waters taking over the wild fishes for presence and abundance. The distance of the sampling site was indeed in the 1 km range from the enclosed tank where the animals had grown and Colony assigned all the fishes sampled from the inlet dams to at least one of the parents from the 'Ca' Zuliani' farm. Results from Structure analysis suggest a similar but less drastic scenario, as more than 70% of the samples from VSP1 and VSP2 have been grouped with few breeders. Anyway it's important to remember that the fact that so many released fishes have been caught could be also related to the sizeselective sampling that has been undertaken. In other words, all the fishes caught were of the size that the released fishes were expected to be considering the size at release and an average growth rate. Another possible explanation for the high presence of hatchery fishes in the same sample is the observation for some species that released individuals formed their own school separated from wild stock fishes (Jeong et al., 2007). In any case higher presence of wild individuals was expected, considering the size of the sampling. Maybe, the presence of wild sea bass in the area was actually very low before release (and that's indeed what pushed the fishermen to undertake the restocking). This suggests that the impact of a large number of released individuals (30,000 in this case, for the area studied) could be really important and should be considered even more carefully.

The juveniles released in the Lagoon came from a 'mass spawning' event in the farm that provided them. Such a procedure implies the presence of a large number of adults in the same tank that are free to couple. So, no selection for male/female is made by farmers and no control of reproducing success can be made a priori. The result from my analysis highlighted one of the consequences of this method in terms of sib-ship of the offsprings. As already reported by some authors, just few individuals actually reproduce using this procedure (Chatziplis et al., 2007). The greatest part of the animals sampled after the release came from a very small group of breeders. Moreover, these reproducing individuals seem to be arranged in a number of pairs lower than expected considering the number of possible crosses. In other words, a single male/female produces the greatest part of its offspring with just one particular female/male or two. For example, the individuals R41 and R45 are among the parents that generate most of the juveniles. Nevertheless, they appear only together and never alone coupling with other individuals. This fact is very important for aquaculture practicing in general and for the production of individuals for restocking as well. The genetic variability of the released stock is fundamental to grant a long term

effectiveness of a restocking program. Thus, every aspect in the chain of events that go from the juveniles production to the release should be carefully monitored in order to maintain genetic variability as high as possible. In the case reported in this work two facts affected the variability of the batch used: low number of successful breeders and a reduced number of actual crosses. These features explain the lower values of parameters such as Allelic richness and Ne for the group 'VSP1' and 'VSP2'. The result of using a group of juveniles arranged like this (low variability) for a restocking program is the introduction of a group of animals genetically different from the wild one, despite its origin from a population that is similar to the depleted one. Moreover, as said before, the impact of the released animals is expected to be even higher due to the abundance of the hatchery sea basses among the whole sample. This can be seen from the Fst matrix (Tab. 6) and from the Principal Component Analysis graph (Fig. 8): despite being composed by animals either from the farm (thus similar to 'RIPR' group) or from the wild (thus similar to the 'Laguna' group) VSP1 and 'VSP2' are genetically different from both 'RIPR' and 'Laguna'. This feature probably affected the results of population assignment too.

The long term effect that this can have on the effectiveness of the restocking is different from the effect of using a genetically far population (out-breeding depression) but are still critical for the maintenance of the population. Low variability in functional genes (mirrored in this case by low variability in neutral markers) means that a population could not be ready to response to environmental changes. An immediate increase in number of fishes available for fishermen (as reported orally by the 'Fishermen association') should be considered carefully since it is probably just linked to the large number of sea basses released. An actual benefit for the population of the Lagoon would mean a long-term increase in animals fished thanks to the implementation of the released animals to the wild stock, without compromising the genetic structure of the stock itself. Further studies should be undertaken to test whether the restock is still having effects on the studied area or if the situation has changed back to what it was before. The risk in fact is that, after the expected reduction of the released batch due to fishing or natural mortality, the survivors won't be able to sustain the depleted population. Moreover natural mortality for released individuals is expected to be higher than for wild individuals (Brown and Day, 2002), making this issue more critical.

The example of restocking presented here highlights the importance of a scientific approach to the human actions that can lead changes in the environment. Blankenship and Leber (1995) widely described what a "responsible approach to marine stock enhancement" is, identifying ten critical

points of these kind of actions. These comprised the definition of quantitative measures of success; the use of genetic resource management to avoid deleterious genetic effects; the identification of released hatchery fishes to assess stocking effects. The importance of a proper management in stock enhancement is also embodied in articles In the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995).

The juvenile release action was undertaken by a private association without the support of experts in this field. The approach currently suggested comprises, for example, a previous analysis of the group of animals that is going to be released. The information from these analysis are important to choose whether that batch is suitable to be used or not as well as the release "tactics". Moreover consequences of the release can be better forecast and analyzed in the future and appropriate management programs would be easier. Otherwise the risk is to invest money and time for actions that have no appreciable effects on the natural stock or, worse, that have a bad impact on the species. If an analysis based on neutral marker had been undertaken on the batch used in 2007, probably it would have been suggested to add some juveniles from other 'mass spawning' events in order to increase the genetic variability (i.e. allelic richness and Ne) of the group of animals freed. These parameters are indeed appropriate to test the goodness of the batch used. A low value of these indicators means that the variability in the group to be released could not be sufficient to grant an appreciable re-enhancement of the target population. In this case the values for 'VSP1' and 'VSP2' are in fact lower, even if not significant.

The approach used in this work represents a possible way to monitor an area subjected to recent restocking. The impact of released individuals on the wild population was studied using both parentage and population assignment. The discordance between the results from the two approaches underlines the importance of accurate genetic information about the breeders used to generate juveniles. One of the most important aspects concerning the impact of introduced animals is their number over the total sampled fishes. Without knowing the genotypes of the parents from the Ca' Zuliani hatchery an affordable evaluation of the number of animals coming from the farm would have been very difficult using only the population assignment approach. In my case Structure analysis provided some information about this, as well as parentage assignment. Anyhow, the success of Structure analysis was due to the low number of breeders that generated the batch used for restocking. If a greater number of fishes had reproduced (i.e. if the production of juveniles had been made properly!), probably Structure results would not have been so clarifying about the VSP1 and VSP2 group organization.

At the moment, four years has passed from the releasing. This means that the fishes that have survived are probably mature, considering that fish sexual maturity occurs, in the Mediterranean, at an age of 2-4 years (FISHBASE). The impact of these fishes can thus continue through their progenies or, in a more complicate way, through a mixed progeny coming from crosses between wild and hatchery fishes. The consequences of such a hybridization are multiple and complicated in at least two way: the "biological" way for the complex interaction between genetic strains that, although being similar, can produce actual hybrids, with both positive (e.g. hybrid vigor) (Bryden et al, 2004) and negative (e.g. breakdown of co-adapted genes) consequences (Edmans and Deimler, 2004); the "technical" way since the difficulties of studying and analyzing an admixture of wild, cultured and hybrid subpopulation is a big deal even with the more advanced markers and technologies available.

Nevertheless this kind of analysis could be unnecessary if the restocking program had been carried out properly, to grant a successful re-enhancement. In order to do this some simple rules had to be followed before the actual release, other than after. A scientific approach to this kind of actions performed by humans is fundamental since the consequences of wrong procedures can lead to seriously negative scenarios. When correctly done, anyway, human interventions could provide real benefits to the natural environment, that result in improvements both for "human" populations and for "non-human" populations.

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APPENDIX

VSP1: full li	st of results	for each	sample of	the group;

	Structu	ure 6				Parent.		
ID	pop.		Structu	Structure 3 pop.		Assign.	Pop. Assi	gn.
0A_02	0,025	0,677	0,005	0,008	0,686	R41xR45	DeltaPo	93.109
0A_03	0,017	0,683	0,004	0,008	0,686	R41xR45	DeltaPo	92.864
0A_04	0,314	0,381	0,007	0,031	0,668	R26xR25	DeltaPo	72.634
0A_05	0,021	0,680	0,004	0,006	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	89.411
0A_06	0,686	0,012	0,687	0,005	0,006	R50xR67	DeltaPo	87.591
0A_07	0,685	0,013	0,688	0,004	0,006	*1xR67	DeltaPo	91.573
0A_09	0,413	0,282	0,006	0,007	0,685	R41xR25	DeltaPo	90.166
0A_10	0,629	0,094	0,647	0,063	0,007	*1xR67	DeltaPo	62.279
0A_100	0,684	0,015	0,685	0,005	0,007	R50xR67	DeltaPo	98.112
0A_11	0,683	0,016	0,685	0,006	0,009	R50xR67	DeltaPo	64.263
0A_12	0,052	0,658	0,005	0,005	0,687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	96.748
0A_13	0,084	0,610	0,014	0,656	0,041	R1xR19	DeltaPo	58.777
0A_14	0,683	0,016	0,685	0,005	0,008	R50xR67	DeltaPo	74.231
0A_15	0,686	0,012	0,687	0,005	0,006	R50xR67	DeltaPo	88.480
0A_16	0,014	0,685	0,003	0,005	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	66.607
0A_17	0,685	0,014	0,688	0,005	0,005	*1xR67	DeltaPo	93.910
0A_18	0,669	0,037	0,018	0,007	0,677	R26xR69	DeltaPo	91.178
0A_19	0,685	0,014	0,687	0,005	0,006	*1xR67	DeltaPo	70.057
0A_20	0,686	0,012	0,688	0,005	0,005	R50xR67	DeltaPo	98.413
0A_21	0,663	0,046	0,005	0,006	0,687	R26xR30	DeltaPo	82.062
0A_22	0,684	0,015	0,685	0,005	0,008	R50xR67	DeltaPo	73.542
0A_23	0,089	0,633	0,012	0,664	0,032	R14xR18	Laguna	65.635
0A_24	0,021	0,680	0,005	0,685	0,009	R1xR12	Laguna	64.023
0A_25	0,685	0,014	0,685	0,006	0,007	R50xR67	DeltaPo	65.322
0A_26	0,035	0,670	0,008	0,675	0,020	R13xR12	DeltaPo	97.983
0A_27	0,686	0,012	0,689	0,004	0,004	R50xR67	DeltaPo	97.608
0A_28	0,599	0,096	0,007	0,018	0,676	R26xR25	DeltaPo	91.363
0A_29	0,022	0,679	0,005	0,011	0,684	R41xR45	DeltaPo	63.008
0A_30	0,683	0,017	0,556	0,034	0,115	*1xR67	DeltaPo	95.745
0A_31	0,685	0,013	0,688	0,005	0,005	*1xR67	DeltaPo	99.255
0A_33	0,659	0,051	0,008	0,012	0,681	R26xR30	DeltaPo	85.341
0A_34	0,678	0,024	0,013	0,009	0,679	R26xR30	DeltaPo	70.828
0A_35	0,107	0,588	0,018	0,670	0,017	R1xR19	Laguna	67.160
0A_36	0,663	0,046	0,005	0,007	0,686	R26xR30	DeltaPo	90.711
0A_37	0,026	0,676	0,004	0,005	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	68.137
0A_38	0,041	0,666	0,008	0,124	0,565	R41xR69	DeltaPo	68.262
0A_39	0,020	0,681	0,004	0,006	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	94.496
0A_40	0,665	0.042	0.007	0 000				
04 44		0,042	0,007	0,008	0,684	R26xR30	DeltaPo	78.906
UA_44	0,677	0,042	0,012	0,008	0,684 0,678	R26xR30 R26xR30	DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942
0A_44 0A_50	0,677 0,674	0,025 0,029	0,012 0,009	0,008 0,012 0,007	0,684 0,678 0,683	R26xR30 R26xR30 R26xR30	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197
0A_44 0A_50 0A_51	0,677 0,674 0,046	0,025 0,029 0,663	0,012 0,009 0,011	0,008 0,012 0,007 0,667	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027	R26xR30 R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902
0A_44 0A_50 0A_51 0A_52	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688	0,008 0,012 0,007 0,667 0,004	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005	R26xR30 R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778
0A_44 0A_50 0A_51 0A_52 0A_53	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077	0,008 0,012 0,007 0,667 0,004 0,618	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,033	R26xR30 R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416
0A_44 0A_50 0A_51 0A_52 0A_53 0A_54	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687	0,008 0,012 0,007 0,667 0,004 0,618 0,004	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,033 0,006	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 81.766
0A_44 0A_50 0A_51 0A_52 0A_53 0A_54 0A_57	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688	0,008 0,012 0,007 0,667 0,004 0,618 0,004 0,004	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,033 0,006 0,005	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 81.766 91.145
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687 0,686 0,020	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,681	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688 0,004	0,008 0,012 0,007 0,667 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,006	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,033 0,006 0,005 0,688	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 81.766 91.145 95.079
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58 OA_59	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687 0,686 0,020	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,681 0,033	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688 0,004 0,015	0,003 0,012 0,007 0,667 0,004 0,618 0,004 0,004 0,006 0,009	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,033 0,006 0,005 0,688 0,678	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45 R26xR25	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 81.766 91.145 95.079 74.538
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58 OA_59 OA_60	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687 0,686 0,020 0,672 0,510	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,012 0,681 0,033 0,185	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688 0,004 0,015 0,064	0,002 0,007 0,667 0,004 0,618 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,006 0,009 0,636	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,033 0,006 0,005 0,688 0,678 0,020	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45 R26xR25 *1xR62	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 81.766 91.145 95.079 74.538 79.184
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58 OA_59 OA_60 OA_61	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687 0,687 0,686 0,020 0,672 0,510 0,653	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,681 0,033 0,185 0,059	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688 0,004 0,015 0,064 0,006	0,003 0,007 0,007 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,006 0,009 0,636 0,011	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,033 0,006 0,005 0,688 0,678 0,678 0,020	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45 R26xR25 *1xR62 R26xR30	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 91.145 95.079 74.538 79.184 59.204
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58 OA_59 OA_60 OA_61 OA_62	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687 0,686 0,020 0,672 0,672 0,510 0,653	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,681 0,033 0,185 0,059 0,089	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688 0,004 0,015 0,064 0,006 0,039	0,003 0,007 0,007 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,000 0,009 0,636 0,011 0,008	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,033 0,006 0,005 0,688 0,678 0,678 0,62	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45 R26xR25 *1xR62 R26xR30 R41xR25	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 91.145 95.079 74.538 79.184 59.204 61.225
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58 OA_59 OA_60 OA_61 OA_62 OA_63	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687 0,686 0,020 0,672 0,510 0,653 0,633 0,685	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,681 0,033 0,185 0,059 0,089 0,013	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,004 0,015 0,064 0,006 0,039 0,688	0,002 0,007 0,667 0,004 0,618 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,005 0,006 0,007 0,008 0,011 0,008 0,004	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,005 0,005 0,688 0,678 0,678 0,683 0,683 0,662	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45 R26xR25 *1xR62 R26xR30 R41xR25 *1xR67	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 91.145 95.079 74.538 79.184 59.204 61.225 89.036
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58 OA_59 OA_60 OA_61 OA_62 OA_63 OA_64	0,677 0,674 0,645 0,139 0,687 0,687 0,687 0,620 0,672 0,510 0,653 0,633 0,685	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,681 0,033 0,185 0,059 0,089 0,013	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688 0,004 0,015 0,064 0,006 0,039 0,689	0,002 0,007 0,667 0,004 0,618 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,005 0,006 0,011 0,008 0,004 0,004 0,004	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,005 0,005 0,688 0,678 0,678 0,678 0,683 0,662 0,662	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45 R26xR25 *1xR62 R26xR30 R41xR25 *1xR67 *1xR62	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo Laguna	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 91.145 95.079 74.538 79.184 59.204 61.225 89.036 54.755
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58 OA_59 OA_60 OA_61 OA_62 OA_63 OA_64 OA_65	0,677 0,674 0,685 0,139 0,687 0,686 0,020 0,672 0,651 0,653 0,685 0,685 0,363	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,681 0,033 0,185 0,059 0,089 0,013 0,331 0,134	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688 0,004 0,015 0,064 0,006 0,039 0,688 0,089 0,656	0,003 0,007 0,667 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,009 0,636 0,001 0,008 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,005 0,005 0,688 0,678 0,678 0,620 0,683 0,662 0,004 0,011 0,013	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45 R26xR25 *1xR62 R26xR30 R41xR25 *1xR67 *1xR62 R242xR67	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo Laguna DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 91.145 95.079 74.538 79.184 59.204 61.225 89.036 54.755 75.651
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58 OA_59 OA_60 OA_61 OA_62 OA_63 OA_64 OA_65 OA_66	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687 0,686 0,020 0,672 0,510 0,653 0,633 0,685 0,363 0,560 0,686	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,681 0,033 0,185 0,059 0,089 0,013 0,331 0,134 0,012	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688 0,004 0,015 0,064 0,006 0,039 0,688 0,089 0,656 0,688	0,000 0,007 0,007 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,000 0,003 0,011 0,008 0,001 0,004	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,005 0,005 0,688 0,678 0,620 0,683 0,662 0,004 0,011 0,013 0,005	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45 R26xR25 *1xR62 R26xR30 R41xR25 *1xR67 *1xR67 R242xR67 R50xR67	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 91.145 95.079 74.538 79.184 59.204 61.225 89.036 54.755 75.651 64.450
UA_44 OA_50 OA_51 OA_52 OA_53 OA_54 OA_57 OA_58 OA_59 OA_60 OA_61 OA_62 OA_63 OA_64 OA_65 OA_66 OA_67	0,677 0,674 0,046 0,685 0,139 0,687 0,686 0,020 0,672 0,673 0,633 0,685 0,363 0,560 0,686	0,025 0,029 0,663 0,013 0,556 0,011 0,012 0,681 0,033 0,185 0,059 0,089 0,131 0,134 0,012 0,013	0,012 0,009 0,011 0,688 0,077 0,687 0,688 0,004 0,015 0,064 0,006 0,039 0,688 0,089 0,656 0,688 0,687	0,000 0,007 0,007 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,004 0,009 0,636 0,011 0,008 0,004 0,043 0,004 0,004	0,684 0,678 0,683 0,027 0,005 0,005 0,005 0,688 0,678 0,620 0,683 0,662 0,004 0,011 0,013 0,005 0,006	R26xR30 R26xR30 R1xR19 *1xR67 R2xR12 *1xR67 R50xR67 R41xR45 R26xR25 *1xR62 R26xR30 R41xR25 *1xR67 *1xR67 R242xR67 R50xR67 R50xR67	DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo DeltaPo	78.906 70.942 89.197 58.902 88.778 76.416 91.145 95.079 74.538 79.184 59.204 61.225 89.036 54.755 75.651 64.450 88.599

0A 69	0,547	0,148	0,008	0,024	0,672	R26xR25	DeltaPo	94.839
0A_70	0,674	0,030	0,012	0,008	0,681	R26xR30	DeltaPo	85.314
0A_71	0,081	0,613	0,009	0,007	0,683	R41xR45	DeltaPo	58.191
0A 72	0,672	0,033	0,027	0,038	0,650	R26xR30	DeltaPo	54.050
0A_73	0,080	0,639	0,041	0,659	0,010	R50xR75	DeltaPo	94.198
0A_75	0,669	0,036	0,007	0,009	0,683	R26xR30	DeltaPo	94.901
0A 76	0,059	0,653	0,007	0,616	0,074	R1xR5	Laguna	51.297
0A 77	0,028	0,675	0,008	0,676	0,018	R1xR5	DeltaPo	52.751
0A 78	0,353	0,342	0,016	0,649	0,049	R26xR18	DeltaPo	76.096
0A 79	0,451	0,244	0,073	0,356	0,265	R13xR18	DeltaPo	94.485
0A_80	0,024	0,678	0,006	0,672	0,026	R1xR5	Laguna	67.913
0A_81	0,683	0,017	0,687	0,006	0,005	R50xR67	Laguna	71.367
0A 82	0,306	0,388	0,014	0,067	0,638	R26xR25	Laguna	56.068
0A 83	0,662	0,047	0,006	0,007	0,685	R26xR30	DeltaPo	95.620
0A 84	0,598	0,097	0,226	0,463	0,007	*1xR62	DeltaPo	88.298
0A 85	0,685	0,013	0,688	0,005	0,005	*1xR67	DeltaPo	81.978
0A 86	0,059	0,653	0,005	0,005	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	80.736
0A 87	0,671	0,034	0,012	0,011	0,678	R26xR25	DeltaPo	69.102
0A 88	0,033	0,672	0,004	0,353	0,339	R68xR62	Laguna	57.543
0A 89	0,687	0,011	0,690	0,004	0,004	R50xR67	DeltaPo	88.534
0A 90	0.684	0.015	0.685	0.006	0.008	*1xR67	DeltaPo	89.072
0A 91	0.666	0.041	0.007	0.008	0.684	R26xR30	DeltaPo	78.906
0A 92	0.686	0.012	0.688	0.005	0.005	*1xR67	DeltaPo	51.916
0A 93	0.687	0.011	0.689	0.004	0.004	R50xR67	DeltaPo	97.775
0A 94	0.685	0.014	0.686	0.005	0.007	R50xR67	DeltaPo	94,351
0A 95	0.515	0 179	0.023	0.050	0 644	R26xR25	DeltaPo	90 934
0A_96	0 174	0,175	0,023	0,650	0.007	R13xR12	DeltaPo	98 897
04 97	0.349	0 345	0.349	0 337	0.012	R242xR67	DeltaPo	79 239
00 98	0,090	0,604	0.021	0.654	0.038	R1vR19	DeltaPo	52 236
0A_90	0,030	0,004	0,021	0,034	0,030		DeltaPo	65.940
1A 01	0,027	0,508	0,007	0,601	0,014	R7yR19	Laguna	50 526
1A 02	0.077	0.641	0.021	0.672	0.012	R13xR12	DeltaPo	65.926
14 03	0.084	0.636	0.007	0.007	0.685	R41xR45	DeltaPo	61 111
14 04	0 1 2 9	0 565	0.014	0.037	0.659	R41xR45	DeltaPo	76 826
14 05	0,599	0.096	0.008	0.018	0.676	R26xR25	DeltaPo	91 363
1A 06	0.024	0.678	0.005	0.006	0.686	R41xR45	DeltaPo	87 920
14 07	0,686	0.012	0,689	0.004	0.004	R50xR67	DeltaPo	95 370
14 08	0.071	0.645	0.007	0.027	0.671	R7xR19	DeltaPo	83 947
14 09	0.632	0.090	0.027	0.014	0.666	R26xR25	DeltaPo	74 005
1A 10	0.034	0,671	0.007	0.426	0 264	R7xR19	DeltaPo	85 180
1A 11	0.132	0.563	0.072	0.469	0.174	R7xR19	DeltaPo	56.943
14 12	0.686	0.012	0,689	0.004	0.004	*1xR67	DeltaPo	95 907
10 13	0.631	0.092	0.007	0.008	0.684	R26xR69	DeltaPo	90 213
1 <u>0</u> 1 <u>0</u>	0.556	0,032	0.018	0.068	0.635	R26xR25	Laguna	54 540
1A 15	0,330	0,135	0,010	0.572	0,096	R7xR19	Laguna	67 714
14 16	0,213	0,470	0,005	0.518	0,050	R13vR18	DeltaPo	77 461
1 <u>A</u> _10	0,583	0.017	0,685	0.007	0,172	*1xR67	DeltaPo	95.064
1A 18	0.673	0.031	0.010	0.008	0.683	R26xR30	DeltaPo	64,232
10 10	0.685	0,031	0,615	0.005	0.008	*1xR67	DeltaPo	98 327
14 20	0.589	0,010	0.028	0.024	0.659	R26xR25	DeltaPo	87 306
1A 21	0.515	0.180	0.161	0.519	0.020	R50xR67	Laguna	93 853
1 <u>Δ</u> 22	0.679	0.022	0.021	0.011	0.672	R26xR30	DeltaPo	66 372
14 22	0.670	0.035	0.007	0.010	0.683	R26xR30	DeltaPo	94 565
14 25	0.476	0 21 8	0.632	0 072	0.018	R242vR67	DeltaPo	51 727
14 26	0.676	0.026	0.011	0 000	0.681	R26vR25	DeltaPo	91 025
14 20	0,670	0.020	0.015	0 019	0.672	R26vR20	DeltaPo	60 877
14 20	0,009	0,030	0.649	0,010	0.007	R50vR67	DeltaPo	86 106
1/ 21	0,057	0,083	0.405	0,038	0,007	R50vP67	DeltaPo	97 097
1A 22	0,000	0,000	0,405	0,015	0,279		DeltaPo	97.007
1/ 22	0,022	0,679	0.012	0,000	0.079	R12vD17	DeltaPo	98 507
1/ 25	0,044	0,004	0,012	0.004	0,079	*1vD67	Laguna	5/ 100
14 28	0,000	0.673	0,000	0,004	0.687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	54 592
11, 20	0,001	0,015	0,000	0,000	0,007	1111111J		21.222

1A_43	0,676	0,026	0,682	0,008	0,009	*1xR67	DeltaPo	88.697
1A_44	0,683	0,016	0,685	0,006	0,008	*1xR67	DeltaPo	99.126
1A_45	0,655	0,057	0,434	0,172	0,089	*1xR62	DeltaPo	55.710
1A_46	0,444	0,250	0,029	0,156	0,518	R13xR19	DeltaPo	53.624
1A_47	0,035	0,670	0,019	0,670	0,016	R2xR12	DeltaPo	56.996
1A_49	0,022	0,679	0,005	0,009	0,684	R41xR45	DeltaPo	85.144
1A_50	0,680	0,021	0,013	0,007	0,680	R26xR30	DeltaPo	91.732
1A_51	0,035	0,670	0,007	0,007	0,685	R41xR45	DeltaPo	86.356
1A_52	0,678	0,023	0,009	0,007	0,684	R26xR30	DeltaPo	79.563
1A_53	0,556	0,138	0,006	0,013	0,681	R26xR30	DeltaPo	66.698
1A_54	0,682	0,018	0,684	0,007	0,009	R50xR67	DeltaPo	92.317
1A_55	0,026	0,676	0,004	0,006	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	68.137
1A_56	0,556	0,139	0,015	0,027	0,665	R26xR69	DeltaPo	83.471
1A_57	0,033	0,672	0,005	0,006	0,687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	72.006
1A_58	0,685	0,014	0,688	0,005	0,005	*1xR67	DeltaPo	87.604
1A_59	0,024	0,678	0,004	0,005	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	95.040
1A_60	0,685	0,013	0,687	0,005	0,006	*1xR67	DeltaPo	86.618
1A_61	0,037	0,669	0,006	0,007	0,686	R41xR45	DeltaPo	61.434
1A_62	0,046	0,663	0,025	0,668	0,013	R7xR19	Laguna	60.591
1A_63	0,685	0,013	0,686	0,005	0,007	R50xR67	DeltaPo	92.120
1A_64	0,685	0,014	0,688	0,005	0,006	R50xR67	DeltaPo	78.604
1A_66	0,052	0,658	0,005	0,006	0,687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	91.202
1A_68	0,663	0,045	0,010	0,008	0,681	R26xR30	DeltaPo	68.379
1A_69	0,093	0,630	0,007	0,181	0,509	R68xR75	DeltaPo	63.307
1A_70	0,051	0,659	0,010	0,676	0,016	R1xR19	Laguna	63.696
1A_71	0,017	0,683	0,004	0,007	0,687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	52.684
1A_72	0,078	0,616	0,029	0,649	0,036	R7xR19	DeltaPo	62.726
1A_73	0,032	0,672	0,010	0,619	0,098	R7xR19	Laguna	54.003
1A_74	0,685	0,013	0,688	0,005	0,005	*1xR67	DeltaPo	70.393
1A_75	0,685	0,014	0,687	0,005	0,006	R50xR67	DeltaPo	84.224
1A_76	0,635	0,085	0,008	0,013	0,681	R26xR25	DeltaPo	91.989
1A_77	0,683	0,016	0,684	0,006	0,009	R50xR67	DeltaPo	96.630
1A_78	0,057	0,655	0,007	0,007	0,684	R41xR45	DeltaPo	90.686
1A_79	0,684	0,015	0,687	0,005	0,006	R50xR67	DeltaPo	98.226
1A_80	0,684	0,015	0,687	0,005	0,006	R50xR67	DeltaPo	99.560
1A_81	0,686	0,012	0,686	0,005	0,007	R50xR67	DeltaPo	74.472
1A_82	0,686	0,012	0,689	0,004	0,004	R50xR67	DeltaPo	95.370
1A_83	0,685	0,014	0,686	0,005	0,008	*1xR67	Laguna	61.963
1A_84	0,093	0,630	0,007	0,005	0,686	R41xR45	DeltaPo	79.253
1A_85	0,653	0,060	0,014	0,011	0,676	R26xR25	DeltaPo	92.461
1A_86	0,663	0,046	0,005	0,007	0,686	R26xR30	DeltaPo	90.711
1A_87	0,081	0,614	0,036	0,611	0,084	R14xR18	DeltaPo	58.896
1A_88	0,672	0,032	0,009	0,008	0,683	R26xR25	DeltaPo	<u>97.</u> 113
1A_90	0,048	0,661	0,006	0,676	0,020	R1xR19	Laguna	53.796
1A_91	0,181	0,514	0,012	0,221	0,465	R26xR25	DeltaPo	79.522
1A_92	0,085	0,635	0,005	0,667	0,036	R68xR62	DeltaPo	81.456

VSP2: full list of results for each sample of the group;

	Structu	ure 6				Parent.		
ID	pop.		Structure 3 pop.			assign.	Pop. assi	gn.
1B_01	0,020	0,681	0,004	0,006	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	90.810
1B_02	0,669	0,036	0,009	0,007	0,683	R26xR30	DeltaPo	83.366
1B_03	0,685	0,013	0,686	0,005	0,007	*1xR67	DeltaPo	98.508
1B_04	0,246	0,449	0,025	0,354	0,323	R7xR19	DeltaPo	55.877
1B_05	0,483	0,212	0,019	0,667	0,020	R13xR18	DeltaPo	97.971
1B_06	0,476	0,219	0,029	0,088	0,614	R26xR25	DeltaPo	92.687
1B_07	0,675	0,028	0,010	0,009	0,681	R26xR30	DeltaPo	81.723
1B_08	0,683	0,016	0,686	0,006	0,007	*1xR67	DeltaPo	97.990
1B_09	0,024	0,678	0,004	0,005	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	93.387
1B_12	0,557	0,138	0,019	0,667	0,020	R13xR18	DeltaPo	98.024

1B_13	0,020	0,681	0,004	0,006	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	71.505
1B_14	0,042	0,665	0,009	0,009	0,683	R41xR45	Laguna	54.965
1B_16	0,676	0,026	0,029	0,011	0,667	R26xR25	DeltaPo	88.204
1B_18	0,041	0,666	0,009	0,009	0,682	R41xR45	Laguna	54.965
1B_24	0,686	0,012	0,687	0,004	0,006	*1xR67	DeltaPo	80.032
1B 25	0,677	0,025	0,030	0,011	0,666	R26xR25	DeltaPo	88.204
1B 26	0,686	0,012	0,687	0,004	0,006	*1xR67	DeltaPo	80.032
1B 29	0.041	0.666	0.010	0.680	0.010	R13xR12	DeltaPo	99.043
1B 33	0,020	0,681	0,004	0,006	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	71.505
1B 42	0,226	0,469	0,025	0,109	0,568	R7xR19	DeltaPo	91.637
1B 43	0.676	0.026	0.012	0.013	0.677	R26xR30	DeltaPo	83.412
1B 44	0,555	0,140	0,043	0,387	0,278	R26xR30	DeltaPo	68.790
1B 46	0.684	0.015	0.686	0.005	0.007	*1xR67	DeltaPo	97.990
1B 48	0.681	0.019	0.685	0.007	0.008	*1xR67	DeltaPo	94,405
1B 73	0.669	0.036	0.009	0.008	0.683	R26xR30	DeltaPo	83,366
1B_73	0.681	0.020	0.681	0.007	0.012	*1xR67	DeltaPo	96,268
1B_01 1B_84	0.028	0.675	0.004	0,006	0.688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	95.659
1B_04	0,625	0.013	0,687	0.005	0.007	*1xR67	DeltaPo	98 508
10_00	0,005	0,013	0,007	0,005	0,007		Laguna	50.201
1B 99	0,074	0,050	0,000	0,037	0,005	R50vP67		05 72 <i>1</i>
10_00	0,004	0,015	0,000	0,005	0,007		DoltaDo	99.754
10_94	0,077	0,025	0,028	0,011	0,007	N20XK23	DeltaDe	00.204
16_96	0,646	0,070	0,683	0,010	0,006		DeltaPo	89.651
10_201	0,676	0,026	0,029	0,011	0,667	R26XR25	DeltaPo	88.204
10_202	0,042	0,665	0,005	0,005	0,688	R41XR45	DeltaPo	/1.5/5
10_203	0,415	0,279	0,314	0,373	0,011	*1xR/5	DeltaPo	56.261
1C_204	0,676	0,026	0,012	0,010	0,678	R26xR30	DeltaPo	88.707
1C_205	0,577	0,117	0,123	0,567	0,007	R50xR62	DeltaPo	83.325
1C_206	0,063	0,651	0,005	0,005	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	96.068
1C_207	0,054	0,657	0,006	0,006	0,687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	79.430
1C_209	0,032	0,672	0,005	0,685	0,009	R1xR12	DeltaPo	61.355
1C_211	0,177	0,517	0,008	0,070	0,640	R26xR25	DeltaPo	83.190
1C_212	0,117	0,577	0,005	0,005	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	95.660
1C_213	0,615	0,079	0,084	0,599	0,017	*1xR62	Laguna	76.436
1C_214	0,059	0,653	0,017	0,666	0,024	R1xR69	Laguna	57.917
1C_215	0,101	0,594	0,007	0,017	0,678	R41xR5	DeltaPo	82.993
1C_216	0,072	0,644	0,014	0,656	0,041	R2xR25	DeltaPo	94.802
1C_217	0,576	0,119	0,661	0,030	0,018	R242xR67	DeltaPo	53.197
1C_218	0,032	0,672	0,007	0,674	0,023	R14xR18	DeltaPo	78.516
1C_219	0,069	0,647	0,027	0,668	0,012	R1xR12	Laguna	73.726
1C_220	0,684	0,015	0,685	0,005	0,008	*1xR67	DeltaPo	93.699
1C_221	0,672	0,033	0,032	0,017	0,660	R26xR30	DeltaPo	81.316
1C_222	0,653	0,060	0,636	0,057	0,027	*1xR67	DeltaPo	60.881
1C_223	0,674	0,030	0,442	0,109	0,143	*1xR67	DeltaPo	94.177
1C_224	0,047	0,662	0,013	0,079	0,606	R41xR45	DeltaPo	94.171
1C_225	0,684	0,015	0,687	0,006	0,005	*1xR67	DeltaPo	54.476
1C_226	0,610	0,084	0,574	0,094	0,039	*1xR61	DeltaPo	80.433
1C_227	0,038	0,668	0,016	0,672	0,016	R2xR12	DeltaPo	68.151
1C_228	0,678	0,024	0,680	0,007	0,014	*1xR67	Laguna	58.984
1C_229	0,679	0,022	0,023	0,010	0,672	R26xR30	DeltaPo	87.428
1C 232	0,685	0,013	0,688	0,004	0,005	*1xR67	Laguna	51.512
1C 233	0.632	0,090	0,151	0,532	0,017	*1xR62	Laguna	78.559
1C 234	0.675	0,028	0,015	0,008	0,678	R26xR30	DeltaPo	89.779
1C 236	0.685	0.013	0.687	0,006	0,005	*1xR67	DeltaPo	71.996
1C 238	0.030	0.674	0.008	0,668	0.030	R14xR19	DeltaPo	72.307
1C 239	0.526	0,169	0.567	0,122	0,009	R242xR67	DeltaPo	99,491
10 240	0.686	0.012	0.688	0.004	0.005	R50vR67	DeltaPo	97 197
10 240	0,000	0.012	0.686	0,004	0.007	R50vP67	DeltaPo	20.702
10_241	0,004	0,013	0,000	0,000	0,007	D26vD20	DoltaDo	79 656
10_242	0,078	0,023	0,010	0,009	0,077		DoltaDo	10.000
10_243	0,050	0,000	0,004	0,000	0,088	1141XK43	DeltaDe	53.094
10_244	0,005	0,042	0,015	0,013	0,075	RZOXK3U	DeltaPo	03.000
10_245	0,606	0,089	0,011	0,018	0,674	R20XR25	DeltaPo	06.000
1C_246	0,003	0,051	0,005	0,005	0,688	K41XK45	DeltaPO	90.068

1C_247	0,023	0,678	0,008	0,684	0,008	R2xR12	DeltaPo	85.184
1C_248	0,676	0,026	0,011	0,008	0,681	R26xR30	DeltaPo	92.451
1C_249	0,681	0,020	0,681	0,007	0,012	*1xR67	DeltaPo	96.268
1C_250	0,484	0,210	0,019	0,667	0,020	R13xR18	DeltaPo	97.971
1C_251	0,053	0,658	0,006	0,006	0,687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	79.430
1C_252	0,685	0,014	0,686	0,005	0,007	*1xR67	Laguna	54.958
1C_253	0,685	0,013	0,687	0,005	0,006	R50xR67	DeltaPo	91.090
1C_254	0,513	0,182	0,278	0,401	0,022	*1xR62	Laguna	53.960
1C_256	0,053	0,658	0,007	0,007	0,685	R41xR45	DeltaPo	91.787
1C_258	0,663	0,046	0,020	0,014	0,671	R26xR25	DeltaPo	76.975
1C_259	0,688	0,010	0,688	0,004	0,005	R50xR67	DeltaPo	97.425
1C_261	0,036	0,669	0,014	0,676	0,011	R14xR18	DeltaPo	96.237
1C_262	0,683	0,016	0,687	0,006	0,006	*1xR67	DeltaPo	86.245
1C_263	0,018	0,682	0,004	0,007	0,687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	94.678
1C_264	0,028	0,675	0,004	0,006	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	95.659
1C_265	0,683	0,016	0,685	0,006	0,008	*1xR67	Laguna	83.342
1C_266	0,041	0,666	0,004	0,006	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	96.100
1C_267	0,636	0,084	0,679	0,013	0,009	R242xR67	DeltaPo	75.528
1C_268	0,028	0,675	0,005	0,007	0,687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	91.365
1C_269	0,168	0,526	0,009	0,676	0,018	R13xR18	DeltaPo	99.965
1C_271	0,683	0,017	0,684	0,006	0,009	R50xR67	DeltaPo	94.594
1C_272	0,597	0,098	0,169	0,518	0,011	*1xR62	DeltaPo	74.658
1C_273	0,235	0,459	0,009	0,110	0,579	R26xR25	DeltaPo	55.896
1C_274	0,414	0,281	0,314	0,373	0,011	*1xR75	DeltaPo	56.261
1C_275	0,683	0,016	0,685	0,005	0,008	*1xR67	Laguna	72.784
1C_276	0,681	0,020	0,685	0,007	0,006	*1xR67	DeltaPo	63.054
1C_278	0,176	0,518	0,008	0,068	0,641	R26xR25	DeltaPo	83.190
1C_279	0,272	0,423	0,006	0,038	0,664	R26xR25	DeltaPo	81.044
1C_280	0,672	0,033	0,014	0,021	0,670	R26xR30	DeltaPo	71.887
1C_283	0,683	0,017	0,685	0,005	0,007	*1xR67	Laguna	55.005
1C_284	0,598	0,097	0,014	0,006	0,680	R41xR25	DeltaPo	88.888
1C_285	0,041	0,666	0,008	0,006	0,685	R41xR45	DeltaPo	86.450
1C_286	0,026	0,676	0,005	0,663	0,040	R13xR12	DeltaPo	73.861
1C_288	0,686	0,012	0,688	0,004	0,005	R50xR67	DeltaPo	71.783
1C_289	0,028	0,675	0,004	0,006	0,688	R41xR45	DeltaPo	95.686
1C_292	0,026	0,676	0,009	0,680	0,012	R7xR12	DeltaPo	64.570
1C_294	0,032	0,672	0,005	0,685	0,009	R1xR12	DeltaPo	61.355
1C_295	0,678	0,024	0,678	0,009	0,015	R50xR67	DeltaPo	93.047
1C_297	0,021	0,680	0,004	0,007	0,687	R41xR45	DeltaPo	93.721
1C_299	0,681	0,019	0,015	0,007	0,679	R26xR30	DeltaPo	95.516
1C_300	0,197	0,498	0,025	0,572	0,105	R26xR69	DeltaPo	76.774

	VSP1			VSP2	
Fam		%	Fam		%
*1R62	4	2,44	*1R61	1	0,88
*1R67	22	13,41	*1R62	4	3,54
R13R12	4	2,44	*1R67	22	19,47
R13R18	2	1,22	*1R75	2	1,77
R13R19	1	0,61	R13R12	2	1,77
R14R12	1	0,61	R13R18	4	3,54
R14R18	2	1,22	R14R18	2	1,77
R1R12	1	0,61	R14R19	1	0,88
R1R19	6	3,66	R1R12	3	2,65
R1R5	3	1,83	R1R69	1	0,88
R242R67	3	1,83	R242R67	4	3,54
R26R18	1	0,61	R26R25	11	9,73
R26R25	16	9,76	R26R30	14	12,39
R26R30	22	13,41	R26R69	1	0,88
R26R69	3	1,83	R2R12	2	1,77
R2R12	2	1,22	R2R25	1	0,88
R41R25	2	1,22	R41R25	1	0,88
R41R45	27	16,46	R41R45	23	20,35
R41R69	1	0,61	R41R5	1	0,88
R50R62	1	0,61	R50R62	1	0,88
R50R67	28	17,07	R50R67	9	7,96
R50R75	1	0,61	R7R12	1	0,88
R68R62	2	1,22	R7R19	2	1,77
R68R75	1	0,61			
R7R19	8	4,88			

Colony 2.0: Results from the parentage assignment. Families are sorted in alphabetical order.

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