## **Pacific Lamprey**

## **One Population?**

# Or Many?

Relative likelihood of occurence 0.80 - 1.00 0.60 - 0.79 0.40 - 0.59 0.20 - 0.39 0.01 - 0.19

## What Is the Evidence?

More Than One Population:

Anadromous adults return to streams where lamprey historically occurred (homing?)

Significant allozyme differences between lamprey from Vancouver Is and Fraser River

But...

But...

Significant msat DNA differences between lamprey in Columbia River

- Beamish & Withler (1986)
- Scribner et al. (unpublished)

**One Population:** 

Sea lamprey do not home. Spawning locations chosen by olfactory cues; mechanism also occurs in Pacific lamprey

No mtDNA differences among lamprey from Vancouver Is, BC, WA, OR, CA coast

- Docker et al. (1999)
- Goodman (2006)

## Pondering the Solution...



### Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphisms (AFLP)

- No previous molecular information required
- Large number of polymorphic loci with shared alleles



Low cost/locus



### **AFLP** Analysis



### **Collection of Pacific Lamprey**





Genetic differences exist among Pacific lamprey from different regions and streams

#### Assignment to Hypothetical Populations



## Where Did the Genetic Differences Occur?



All comparisons significant (P < 0.001)



- Genetic differences exist among Pacific lamprey from different regions and streams
- Across their range, Pacific lamprey show evidence of isolation by distance



Nov 2009



- Genetic differences exist among Pacific lamprey from different regions and streams
- Across their range, Pacific lamprey show evidence of isolation by distance
- Significant differences occurred among aggregations in the Pacific Northwest but with no apparent strong geographical pattern

#### 1-Fst MDS plot





## Why?

Why are these results different from Goodman (2006)?

What might explain the patterns we observed?



# Why?



- ammocoetes versus adults
- Female mediated gene flow
- Interaction of different life-history traits:
  - Sweepstakes" ocean dispersal
  - Imprecise homing
  - High variance in reproductive success (common for highly fecund species)



## Differences within the Pacific Northwest?

Bering

### Different populations

Gulf of

Alaska

- High variance in reproductive success (and low abundance) combined with "sweepstakes" dispersal & imprecise homing
- Large year-to-year variation in allele frequencies with little geographical pattern 500 km

## Conclusions

- Pacific lamprey are not panmictic
- Large genetic differences between aggregations in different streams may indicate different populations or year-to-year variation
- Useful to develop suites of Pacific lamprey specific microsatellite or other DNA markers (10-20 loci)
- Understanding the ocean-phase of the Pacific lamprey life history is critically important



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