

1     **“And if you gaze long into an abyss, the abyss gazes also into thee”: four**  
2     **morphs of Arctic charr adapting to a depth-gradient in Lake Tinnsjøen**  
3

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44     The quote: “*And if you gaze long into an abyss, the abyss gazes also into thee*” is from the philosopher  
45     Friedrich Nietzsche (from his Book titled *Beyond good and evil*, 1886; published in the Complete  
46     Works of Friedrich Nietzsche (1909-1913)). The original quote is translated from German to English  
47     by Helen Zimmern. The information is from; <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/4363/4363-h/4363-h.htm>

48

49 **Abstract**

50  
51 **Background:** The origin of species is a central topic in biology aiming at understanding  
52 mechanisms, level and rate of diversification. Ecological speciation is an important driver in  
53 adaptive radiation during post-glacial intra-lacustrine niche diversification in fishes. The  
54 Arctic charr *Salvelinus alpinus* L. species complex in the Northern hemisphere freshwater  
55 systems display huge morphological and life history divergence in lakes with one or several  
56 morphs present, thus offering a unique opportunity to address ongoing speciation mechanisms.  
57

58 We studied Arctic charr in Lake Tinnsjøen by fishing in four nominal lake habitats (pelagial,  
59 littoral, shallow-moderate profundal, and deep-profundal habitats) down to 350 meters depth.  
60 Research topics addressed were; (1) to illuminate Holarctic phylogeography and lineages  
61 colonizing Lake Tinnsjøen, (2) to estimate reproductive isolation of morphs or fish using  
62 unbiased methods, and (3) to document eco-morphological and life history trait divergence.  
63 Also, we compared Lake Tinnsjøen with four Norwegian outgroup populations of Arctic charr.  
64

65 **Results:** Four field-assigned morphs were identified in Lake Tinnsjøen; the planktivore  
66 morph in all habitats except deep-profundal, the dwarf morph in shallow-moderate profundal,  
67 the piscivore morph in shallow-moderate profundal (less in littoral and deep-profundal), and  
68 an undescribed new morph – the abyssal morph in the deep-profundal only. The morphs  
69 displayed extensive life history variation based on age and size patterns. A moderate to high  
70 concordance was observed between field-assigned morphs and four unbiased genetic clusters  
71 obtained from microsatellite variation. MtDNA suggested the occurrence of two minor  
72 endemic clades in Lake Tinnsjøen likely originating from one widespread colonizing clade in  
73 the Holarctic. All morphs were genetically differentiated at microsatellites ( $F_{ST}$ : 0.12-0.20;  
74 with some ongoing gene flow among morphs, and for most mtDNA comparisons ( $F_{ST}$ : 0.04-  
75 0.38). Analyses of Norwegian outgroup lakes implied colonization from a river system below  
76 Lake Tinnsjøen.  
77

78 **Conclusion:** Our findings suggest post-glacial adaptive radiation of one colonizing mtDNA  
79 lineage with divergent niche specialization along a depth-temperature-productivity-pressure  
80 gradient. Concordance between reproductive isolation and the realized habitat of the morphs  
81 imply that ecological speciation may be the mechanism of divergence. Particularly novel is  
82 the extensive morph diversification with depth into the often unexplored deep-water profundal  
83 habitat, suggesting we may have systematically underestimated biodiversity present in lakes.  
84

85 **Key words:** Adaptive radiation, Ecological speciation, Niche specialization, Population  
86 divergence, Morphs, Natural selection, Pleistocene ice-age, Microsatellites, MtDNA,  
87 *Salvelinus alpinus*  
88  
89

90 **Background**

91 Revealing processes behind adaptive diversity, and formation of species, are central themes in  
92 evolutionary biology. Although studied for a long time, the underlying mechanisms for  
93 adaptive radiation and speciation often appear enigmatic. However, our consensus  
94 understanding is that adaptive radiation by natural selection has been important in the massive  
95 origin of populations and species adapting to various environments [e.g. 1-3].

96 Scientist continuously search for ideal study systems and species groups, to illuminate  
97 how speciation processes are acting under evolutionary scenarios and time-scales. Here,  
98 highly recognized model species used as rewarding looking-glasses into the species-formation  
99 process comprise e.g. Darwin's finches on the Galapagos Islands, European-Mediterranean  
100 sparrows, the *Anolis* lizards, Cichlid fishes, the Threespined stickleback, and Sun-flowers [4-  
101 9]. The polymorphic northern freshwater fishes of *Coregonus* and *Salvelinus* species  
102 complexes are becoming increasingly recognized as good model-systems in this regard [10-  
103 23]. Speciation is a complex issue [e.g. 24], where a supportive theoretical framework  
104 presents a plethora of mechanisms and avenues for adaptive diversification towards speciation  
105 [e.g. 25-30]. Here, it is important to search for and document adaptive divergence in nature  
106 e.g. beyond the littoral-pelagic axis in polymorphic species of *Salvelinus*, to derive at a better  
107 understanding of the extent and mechanisms of adaptive differentiation. Across examples of  
108 adaptive radiation, similarities exist for patterns and processes, where one could tailor models  
109 specifically to each species-system to derive a more thorough understanding of the underlying  
110 driving mechanisms by empirically parameterizing theoretical models [31-32]. The insight  
111 from combined theoretical-empirical analyses can point to important areas where we need to  
112 fill knowledge gaps that surface through predictive theoretical models when attempting to add  
113 empirical values.

114 In the ice-covered northern Eurasian hemisphere, the late Pleistocene ice sheet set the  
115 frame for colonization and post-glacial adaptation to lakes as the maximum extent of the ice  
116 sheet occurred at ca. 21 000 years before present (ybp) and deglaciation at ca. 10-20 000 ybp  
117 [33-37]. The Pleistocene (or Quaternary) ice age started ca. 2.58 million years before present,  
118 with several alternating phases of glaciation (of roughly 70 000-100 000 years duration) and  
119 interglacials (10 000 - 30 000 years duration) [33, 38-39]. Thus, the Pleistocene ice age  
120 dynamics represents a long time series where flora and fauna likely repeatedly colonized new  
121 land and retracted to glacial refugia over vast geographical areas. Such conditions created  
122 opportunities for allopatric differentiation, secondary contact and sympatric diversification  
123 between and within species [40-43]. Thus, Holarctic lakes comprise a unique window into the  
124 adaptive diversification process of colonizing Arctic charr (*Salvelinus alpinus*, L) where the  
125 degree and rate of novel, or parallel adaptations, can be studied by contrasting old versus  
126 young glacial geological systems represented by genetic lineages or carbon-isotope dated  
127 lakes. Ecological opportunity for diversification via intraspecific competition and niche  
128 radiation in species-poor post-glacial lakes may be an important mechanism in morph- and  
129 species formation in several fish taxa [16, 28, 44, 45]. One mechanism that could build up  
130 reproductive isolation as a secondary product is termed ecological speciation [46-48], and  
131 could have been central in adaptive proliferation trajectories of morphs into all lake niches.  
132 With regard to sympatric Arctic char morphs, several evolutionary scenarios may be  
133 hypothesized [see also 28]. First, the lake could have been colonized by already divergent  
134 genetic lineages (associated with different morphs) coming into secondary contact only after  
135 separation for thousands of years in glacial refugia. Secondly, sympatric morphs may  
136 represent a real intra-lake sympatric adaptive diversification after colonization of one genetic  
137 lineage (comprising one initial ancestral morph). Thirdly, a combination of such scenarios  
138 could have occurred, generating temporal dynamics in gene-pool-sharing via expansion-  
139 contraction, adaptive divergence, speciation reversal, introgression and hybrid swarm

140 dynamics, and subsequent divergence based on novel combinations of genetic variants to be  
141 selected upon. Under such adaptive diversification mechanisms, a set of additional interacting  
142 mechanisms may be important such as genetic drift and phenotypic plasticity [28, 49, 50].

143 The highly polymorphic Arctic charr species complex has a Holarctic distribution and  
144 is one of the most cold adapted northern freshwater fish species, with some populations  
145 having anadromous life history, while most populations are stationary in freshwater [19, 51,  
146 52]. Arctic charr often occupy species-poor Holarctic lakes, suggesting ecological opportunity  
147 for adaptive radiation into available niches [15, 19, 53]. Many Arctic charr lakes apparently  
148 only harbor a generalist morph, supported by the relative few studies revealing polymorphism.  
149 Some of these monomorphic populations, with a generalist morph, utilize both littoral and  
150 pelagic habitats through ontogenetic habitat shifts [19]. In a much fewer set of lakes, two  
151 more or less distinct morphs, e.g. a littoral and a pelagic morph, may co-occur [55, 56],  
152 suggesting lake-specific temporal persistence of niches for the evolution and coexistence of  
153 two different morphs. In a very few lakes, a third morph are found in the profundal, termed  
154 the profundal morph, coexisting with e.g. the littoral and pelagic morph [57]. Only in one  
155 single lake worldwide, namely Lake Thingvallavatn in Iceland, a set of four sympatric morphs  
156 are reported that have radiated into all lake niches; a small and large benthic morph, a pelagic  
157 morph and a piscivore morph [e.g. 58, 59]. Arctic charr morphs that adapt to divergent niches  
158 may show parallelism among lakes with independent origin of morph-pairs [19, 60]. Here,  
159 similar morphs can evolve through parallel- or non-parallel evolutionary routes revealing  
160 similar gene expression as seen in independently derived morph replicates of two genetic  
161 lineages (Atlantic and Siberian lineage) in Arctic charr [23]. This suggest the presence of a  
162 highly robust adaptive system in the Arctic charr complex for deriving the same evolutionary  
163 outcome from different genetic starting points (historical contingency: adaptive standing  
164 genetic diversity, genomic architecture) as response to similar selection pressures. However,  
165 there are often lake-specific differences in morph variance regarding e.g. niche occupation,  
166 phenotype, and life history [15, 19, 61, 62]. This large-scale parallel evolution in Holarctic  
167 lakes, with similar morphs appearing apparently due to similar selection pressures exerted in  
168 same niches, is a unique feature when studying natural selection and early steps in the  
169 speciation continuum, making the Arctic charr species complex an excellent model system in  
170 evolutionary biology and eco-evo-devo studies.

171 In our study, we report on a new system harboring a striking diversity in phenotypes  
172 and life history, apparently associated with a depth-temperature-productivity-pressure  
173 gradient in the deep oligotrophic Lake Tinnsjøen in Norway. The history before our study is  
174 as follows. On 20th of February 1944, in the occupied Norway during the Second World War,  
175 the Norwegian partisans sunk the railway ferry *D/F Hydro* carrying an estimated 20 barrels  
176 with 500 kilo of heavy water ( $D_2O$ ) in Lake Tinnsjøen. The German occupation government  
177 had the purpose to construct an atomic bomb back home in Germany using  $D_2O$  [63, 64]. It  
178 has been debated whether this second world war famous sabotage action hampered or stopped  
179 Hitler's attempt to produce the atomic bomb. Almost 50-60 years later, in 1993 and 2004, a  
180 Norwegian team on their search for the sunken ferry, making a second world war news report  
181 regarding the presence of heavy water on the ferry, was able to locate it at 430 meter depth  
182 using a ROV-submarine, but also at the same time observed small fish residing at the bottom.  
183 That team successfully retrieved two fish specimens that was later classified as Arctic charr  
184 [65]. The knowledge about the Arctic charr diversity within Lake Tinnsjøen up to that date  
185 comprised a study by Hindar et al. [66] showing that a dwarf and planktivore morph grouped  
186 together (being statistically different from each other) compared to yet other Norwegian lakes  
187 when analyzing allozymes. From old age, local fishermen in Lake Tinnsjøen have recognized  
188 a rare deep-water morph of Arctic charr locally named "Gautefisk" ("Gaute" is a Norwegian  
189 male name, and "fisk" is fish in Norwegian). This morph has different coloration from other

190 morphs in the lake, and different body proportion, weighting up to 4-6 kg [67]. Thus, when  
191 summarizing available information, a set of four morphs were suggested in Lake Tinnsjøen.

192 As no progress occurred considering scientific studies on the small white fish from the  
193 bottom of the lake from the ROV team and associated researchers, we decided to perform a  
194 fish survey ourselves that was conducted in the lake in 2013 to document the occurrence of  
195 morphs. We set up three main research topics with regard to the Lake Tinnsjøen Arctic charr  
196 diversity; (1) to illuminate the phylogeography and ancestral lineages colonizing Lake  
197 Tinnsjøen (mtDNA-CytB sequences), (2) to estimate reproductive isolation of field assigned  
198 morphs or fish assessed using unbiased methods (microsatellites), and (3) to document eco-  
199 morphological and life history trait divergence (body-shape, proportional catch in habitat,  
200 age). To accomplish these tasks we collected fish in different habitats in the pelagial, littoral,  
201 shallow-moderate profundal and in the deep-profundal. In the field, we classified fish to  
202 morphs from exterior phenotype, while in laboratory we assessed morphological (body shape)  
203 and genetic divergence using mtDNA and nDNA markers. We further performed a Holarctic  
204 phylogeography with online genetic sequences to evaluate lineages colonizing Lake  
205 Tinnsjøen. The strength of association of field-assigned morphs and genetically identified  
206 morphs using microsatellites (i.e. genetic clusters) was tested. We compared mtDNA and  
207 nDNA in Lake Tinnsjøen with a set of four Norwegian outgroup lakes. Using a putative  
208 ancestor below in the same drainage, we compared body shape to the Lake Tinnsjøen morphs.  
209

210 **Methods**

211

212 **Material used for different analyses**

213 The material used for various analyses is summarized in Additional file: Table S1.

214

215 **Study area, fish sampling and field-assigned morphs**

216 Lake Tinnsjøen (60°38'15.6" North, 11°07'15.2" East) is a long (35 km), large (51.38 km<sup>2</sup>) and  
217 deep (max depth of 460 m, 190 m mean depth) oligotrophic lake in southeastern Norway (Fig.  
218 1a, b) [68]. High mountain sides surround the lake descending steeply into the lake resulting  
219 in a relative small littoral area compared to an extensive pelagic volume and a large profundal  
220 area. In the southern and northern end of the lake, larger littoral areas exist with shallow  
221 depths. The littoral zone is exposed to the elements such as wind and waves. The shoreline is  
222 monotonous with few bays and only one small island. The littoral zone is composed mostly of  
223 bedrock, large boulders, smaller rocks as well as sand in less exposed areas and in the deeper  
224 layers. The pelagic zone is extensive. The profundal appears to differ structurally in shallow  
225 and deep areas - composed of bedrock, boulders, sand and larger-sized organic matter in  
226 shallow areas while more fine particulate organic detritus dominates in the deep-profundal  
227 areas (based on organic matter on catch equipment and from videos by the Norwegian  
228 Broadcasting Company ([www-link](http://www-link.no), no longer valid)). A survey in Lake Tinnsjøen in June  
229 2006 by Boehrer et al. [69] gave an oxygen concentration of 11.5-12.0 mg/l from surface  
230 down to 460 m depth, a temperature profile from 4.0-3.3 °C from 50-460 meters depth,  
231 conductivity of 10.0-8.0 µS/cm from 0-460 m depth, and dissolved oxygen ranged 90-85%  
232 from 0-460 m depth. Lund [70] sampled Lake Tinnsjøen once a month from December 1946  
233 to December 1947 and found that below ca 80 m depth the temperature was at a constant 4 °C  
234 (depth stratified), while warming up to ca. 18-20°C in top layer in summer. Thus, Lake  
235 Tinnsjøen likely offers a divergent temperature profile (as well as light, pressure and  
236 productivity) among habitats, depths and niches, along pelagic and littoral-benthic depth-  
237 gradients from surface to 460 m.

238 We collected Arctic charr from Lake Tinnsjøen during 2013 and from four additional  
239 outgroup populations (see below) North, West, East and South of Lake Tinnsjøen in 2013-  
240 2015 (Fig. 1a). Fish were caught in four lake habitats (can be viewed as crude nominal niches  
241 for individuals and morphs) in Lake Tinnsjøen using equipment described below. At this  
242 stage, we do not reveal the exact sampling sites until the taxonomic status of the new abyssal  
243 morph has been described and conservation biology authorities in Norway have considered  
244 the situation with regard to its conservation value. Particularly relevant here is the population  
245 size and uniqueness of the new discovered morph, and what conservation status it merits. As  
246 the lake have steep mountain sides entering the lake, it is hard to place equipment precisely at  
247 predetermined positions. Thus, habitat and depth ranges fished were grouped to be able to  
248 compare catch among four nominal lake habitats. Some fish equipment overlapped to some  
249 degree with catches across habitats. However, depth measurements were taken at catch  
250 location and noted in the field log, which allowed for later reallocation of the catch effort. As  
251 such, the lake habitats defined are quite crude categorizations of habitat and depth ranges, but  
252 generally fits with limnologic description of lake niches. The four lake habitats (nominal  
253 niches) sampled (and defined by us) in Lake Tinnsjøen in 2013 were; (i) the pelagic (gillnets  
254 at <20 m depth, in areas with depths of >30 m, and >50 meters from the shore), (ii) the littoral  
255 (gillnets from shore <20 m depth), (iii) the shallow-moderate profundal (gillnets, traps and  
256 hook and line from shore at >20 m and <150 m depth), and (iv) the deep-profundal (traps  
257 at >150 m depth, > 100 m from the shore).

258 Sampling was conducted with gill-nets, baited anchored longlines, and traps. Initially,  
259 we aimed at fishing with a standardized effort x equipment in all niches, but due to the

260 experimental nature of fishing at depths >150 m, and the low fish density, it was difficult to  
261 obtain a sufficient sample size. Thus, we intensified the effort in the different habitats with the  
262 catch methods that worked best. As such, the material obtained may not be fully  
263 representative of fish populations at all depths and habitats, but represents an opportunistic  
264 sampling strategy under quite challenging fishing conditions. We used different monofilament  
265 series coupled in gangs when fishing with gillnets. In the pelagic, we used a 12-panel  
266 multimesh Nordic series (each net; 6 x 60 m) with mesh size (in the following order) of 43,  
267 19.5, 10.0, 55.0, 12.5, 24, 15.5, 35.0, 29.0, 6.3, 5.0 and 10.0 mm (knot to knot), and extended  
268 Jensen floating series (each net: 6 x 25 m) with mesh size; 13.5, 16.5, 19.5, 22.5, 26.0, 29.0,  
269 35.0, 39.0, 45.0 and 52.0 mm. In the littoral, we used extended Nordic- and Jensen littoral net  
270 series (each net; 1.5 x 60 m or with the same mesh size as in the pelagic zone) including extra  
271 nets of some of the largest meshes. We used traps at 20-60 m depth, and Jensen littoral net  
272 series (see above for specifications) and hook and line down to 150 m depth in the shallow-  
273 moderate profundal. In the deep-profundal we used traps at 100-350 m depth. The baited  
274 anchored longlines (ca 220 m long; 3-4 mm line; 180 hooks; size 1, 1/0 and 2), aimed at  
275 catching piscivorous Arctic charr, were placed vertically mostly close to the shoreline (<100m)  
276 and in a few cases horizontally at the bottom. These attempts resulted in a low catch, and thus  
277 the hook and line approach was not used extensively. Nets and baited lines were checked  
278 after 12 hours, traps could be out for 48 hours. A motorized winch was used for hauling  
279 equipment. All catch was grouped in lake habitats (nominal niches) despite different types of  
280 gear used. A total effort of 42 Nordic multimesh and 225 Jensen - net nights, 1001 trap nights,  
281 and 27 line nights were implemented in fishing. Besides Arctic charr, we caught brown trout,  
282 perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and minnows (*Phoxinus phoxinus*) (catch statistics not reported as  
283 being minute, ie. < 10 individuals in few locations). The lake only hold these four fish species.  
284 Minnow was introduced into Lake Tinnsjøen recently (likely in the timeframe 1960-1970's).

285 Fish were killed using an overdose of benzocain and transported dead on ice to the  
286 field laboratory at Lake Tinnsjøen. In the field, all the fish were subjectively assigned into  
287 four nominal morphs based on exterior morphology, being; (i) planktivore, (ii) dwarf, (iii)  
288 piscivore, and (iv) abyssal (see representative individuals in Fig. 1c). Each fish was  
289 classified as one of the four morphs despite variation within morphs and subsequent  
290 uncertainties. This field assignment of morphs was labelled as field-assigned morphs (FA-  
291 morphs). Length and weight were recorded, with sex and maturity stage, and age from otoliths  
292 in the laboratory. A DNA sample was taken in the field and stored on 96% EtOH for use in  
293 analyses (see description below).

294 The four additional outgroup populations of Arctic charr were situated to the North  
295 (River Leirfossvassdraget; anadromous sea-running), West (Lake Vatnevatnet), East (Lake  
296 Femund) and South (Lake Tyrivatnet), of Lake Tinnsjøen (Fig. 1a). The three latter Arctic  
297 charr populations were stationary in freshwater. The sampling equipment, effort and  
298 placement varied among lakes comprising gill nets with at least 16.5, 19.5, 22.5, 29.0 mm  
299 (knot to knot) and/or modified Jensen series or Nordic multi-mesh panels set in littoral,  
300 pelagic, and profundal areas. In the laboratory, these four populations were analysed as  
301 described above for Lake Tinnsjøen. A DNA sample was also stored on 96% EtOH for  
302 analyses. These four populations were used as selected outgroups in microsatellite analyses,  
303 in mtDNA based phylogenetic analyses, and partly in the morphological analyses. Arctic  
304 charr in Lake Tyrivatn was inferred as a putative “ancestral state” founder that could have  
305 colonized Lake Tinnsjøen, and was thus used for comparative purposes in microsatellite-,  
306 mtDNA- and morphometric analyses (Fig. 1a,b). This was anticipated as the lake is situated  
307 far below Lake Tinnsjøen in the same watersystem (see supporting argumentation of the most  
308 likely colonization routes in the discussion below). Ideally, we would use the real founding  
309 population into Lake Tinnsjøen, but this is not known.

310

### 311 **Phylogeography and the ancestral lineages colonizing Lake Tinnsjøen based on mtDNA**

312 DNA was isolated from pectoral fins using the E-Z96 Tissue DNA Kit (Omega Bio-tek)  
313 following the manufactures instructions. Quality and quantity of isolated DNA was assessed  
314 using a NanoDrop spectrophotometer and agarose gel electrophoresis. A 851 base pair  
315 fragment of the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) gene for Cytochrome B (CytB) was amplified  
316 using a standard primer pair, FishCytB\_F (5' ACCACCGTTATTCAACTACAAGAAC  
317 3') and TrucCytB\_R (5' CCGACTTCCGGATTACAAGACCG 3') [71] in 10  $\mu$ l polymerase  
318 chain reactions (PCR). The reactions consisted of 1  $\mu$ l 10 x PCR-Buffer, 0.3  $\mu$ l 10  $\mu$ M dNTP,  
319 0.5  $\mu$ l of each of the 10  $\mu$ M F and R primers, 5.5  $\mu$ l ddH<sub>2</sub>O, 0.2  $\mu$ l FinnZyme DNazyme ext  
320 Polymerase, and 2  $\mu$ l DNA template (0.4-0.8  $\mu$ g). The cycling profile consisted of an initial 5  
321 min denaturation step at 94°C, 32 cycles of 94°C for 30 s, 57°C for 35s, and 70°C for 1 min,  
322 followed by a final 10 min elongation step at 70°C. The products were treated with ExoZap™  
323 to remove leftover primers and dNTPs, before running the standard BigDye reaction, using  
324 the above primer set in 3.5  $\mu$ M concentrations. The products were cleaned by precipitation,  
325 before sequencing them on an ABI 3130XL Automated Genetic Analyzer (Applied  
326 Biosystems), using 80 cm capillaries. All sequences were manually trimmed and verified in  
327 Geneious 10 (Biomatters).

328 For phylogeographical analyses using Cytochrome B, the 851 base pair long  
329 sequences were aligned in Mega 7.0.26 using default settings [72]. Sequences were  
330 interpreted mostly based on both forward and reverse readings (but in a few cases, only one  
331 sequence direction was readable). A set of 115 Norwegian sequences were retrieved where  
332 sample size range 21-22 for the four Lake Tinnsjøen FA-morphs and a sample size of 5-9 for  
333 the four Norwegian outgroup lakes (Additional file 1: Table S1).

334 For larger scale comparison of phylogeny, highly similar sequences were retrieved  
335 using BLAST (<https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>) (Fig. 2a,b, Additional file: Table S2a).  
336 A cutoff of 200 highly similar sequences were downloaded from Blast (including various  
337 *Salvelinus* taxa), aligned as described above and analyzed with sequences from Lake  
338 Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroup lakes.

339 The best substitution model for the combined dataset (115 Norwegian and 200 Blast  
340 sequences) was interpreted using online server IQ-Tree (<http://www.iqtree.org/>) with 10 000  
341 ultrafast bootstrap iterations [73-75]. Here, the best substitution model revealed was TN + F +  
342 I [76] (Additional file: Table S3).

343 A circular phylogenetic tree using the TN + F + I model was visualized in Tview  
344 1.6.6 [77] using all the 88 observed haplotypes from the joint dataset from the 115 Norwegian  
345 sequences and 200 Blast sequences. Earlier, in another tree, we initially used three outgroup  
346 taxa to reveal the most ancient haplotypes in the charr sequences, being; *Salmo trutta*  
347 (GeneBank accession; LT617532.1), *Oncorhynchus kisutch* (KJ740755.1) and *Coregonus  
348 lavaretus* (AJ617501.1). This latter tree is not shown, but the most ancestral *Salvelinus* sp.  
349 sequence revealed from this analysis presented in results.

350 A map was made [78] for the joint dataset of the 88 sequences and plotted  
351 geographically with regard to 10 selected major clade configurations. Clade definition and  
352 selection was done to visualize the large geographical scale patterns of sequences (although  
353 alternative clade definitions do exist).

354 A major large-scale phylogenetic branch including the Lake Tinnsjøen haplotypes  
355 were used for drawing a minimum spanning network in PopART (<http://popart.otago.ac.nz>)  
356 [79], when not considering frequencies of haplotypes. This major clade which harbored 21  
357 haplotypes had good statistical support (89%) from the remaining haplotypes and were  
358 selected for further resolution, covering a large geographical range. The purpose with this

359 clade selection was to have an in-depth look at the putative radiation and geographical  
360 distribution of the closest genetic relatives to the Lake Tinnsjøen morphs.

361 In addition, for Lake Tinnsjøen, a network was built using TCS v1.21 [80] visualizing  
362 only the mtDNA sequences found inside the lake to reveal putative formation of subclades  
363 after initial founding colonization.

364 The three 1-mutational step clades (clade 1-1-, 1-2, and 1-3) revealed in TCA in Lake  
365 Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroup lakes were only analyzed for putative signals of  
366 population demographic changes in DnaSP v6.11.01 [81] using pairwise sequence distribution  
367 and Tajima's D and Fu and Li's D estimators [82, 83].

368 For the four outgroup lakes, the four FA-morphs and the three mtDNA clades in Lake  
369 Tinnsjøen, the number and percentage of haplotypes were calculated along with genetic  
370 diversity estimators in DNAsp v6.11.01 [81].

371

### 372 **Reproductive isolation of field assigned morphs or fish assessed using unbiased methods**

373 A set of 11 microsatellites were amplified and analyzed after procedures in Moccetti et al. [62]  
374 (Additional file: Table S2b,c). 3-6% negative controls per plate and 4% replicate samples  
375 were included in the analysis to control cross-contamination and consistency of genotypes.  
376 All negative samples were blank in the fragment analysis and all replicate samples had  
377 matching genotypes. The genotypes were scored in Genemapper 3.7 (Applied Biosystems)  
378 using automatic binning in predefined allelic bins. All genotypes were subsequently verified  
379 by visual inspection independently by two persons.

380 Deviation from Hardy Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) and linkage disequilibrium (LD)  
381 was estimated using GENEPOP 4.6 [85, 86] implementing an exact test. The presence of  
382 LD may lead to erroneous conclusions if loci do not have independent evolutionary histories.  
383 Loci exhibiting significant LD should be excluded from analyses. False discovery rate (FDR)  
384 corrections [87] was used to test for significant HWE and LD adjusting p-values for multiple  
385 tests. The results showed that out of 40 tests of departures from HWE, significant deviations  
386 were not found in any loci or populations after FDR correction. Significant LD was discovered  
387 between loci SCO204 and SCO218. Thus, locus, SCO204 was removed, and a total of 10 loci  
388 were used in the following genetic analyses.

389 GENEPOP 4.6 [85, 86] was used to calculate number of alleles, expected and observed  
390 heterozygosity, as well as genetic divergence between populations ( $F_{ST}$ ) using log-likelihood  
391 based exact tests. The software HP-RARE 1.0 [88] was used to calculate standardized private  
392 allelic richness ( $A_p$ ) and standardized allelic richness ( $A_r$ ) accounting for differences in sample  
393 size.  $A_p$  and  $A_r$  was calculated with rarefaction using the minimum number of genes in the  
394 samples i.e. 28 genes.

395 The software MICRO-CHECKER 2.2.3 [89] was used to check for null alleles, stutter-  
396 errors, large allele dropout and size-independent allelic dropout. Of the ten loci, MICRO-  
397 CHECKER found one loci to exhibit homozygote excess, potentially due to null alleles, being  
398 SalF56SFU. Due to the presence of null alleles, the program FREENA [90, 91] was run to  
399 correct for this using the ENA method (Excluding Null Alleles). The FREENA software was  
400 run with 5000 replicates, and corrected  $F_{ST}$  values were used.

401 The software LOSITAN [92, 93] was used to test if loci were under selection. Using  
402 loci under selection may give erroneous results of genetic structure and  $F_{ST}$  values [93]. All  
403 loci were run under both the stepwise mutation model (SMM) and the infinite alleles model  
404 (IAM) using 100,000 simulations under the "Force mean  $F_{ST}$ ", and "Neutral mean  $F_{ST}$ "  
405 alternatives. None of the loci were indicated as candidates for directional selection.

406 Genetic differentiation ( $F_{ST}$ ) was estimated in GENEPOP 4.6 [86] comparing Lake  
407 Tinnsjøen and the four outgroup lakes, the four FA-morphs and the four outgroup lakes, and

408 among revealed genetically defined morphs (termed GA-morphs, with a definition of genetic  
409 morphs being  $q > 0.7$  based on STRUCTURE results; see details below) in Lake Tinnsjøen.

410 To determine the most likely number of genetic clusters (K) the software  
411 STRUCTURE [94] was run using 500 000 burn-in steps and 500 000 Markov Chain Monte  
412 Carlo (MCMC) repetitions with 10 iterations, considered as a high enough number to reach  
413 convergence. STRUCTURE was run a first time with the individuals from Lake Tinnsjøen  
414 and the four Norwegian outgroups; Lake Femund, Lake Tyrvatnet, Lake Vatnevatnet and  
415 Lake Leirfossvassdraget. Secondly, a hierarchical approach was performed where the  
416 population that deviated the most from the remainder of the populations was removed, and all  
417 remaining populations were run a second time. This was repeated until no more clustering  
418 was found. The number of genetic clusters was estimated by calculating the logarithmic  
419 probability (LnP(K)) and  $\Delta K$  which is based on changes in K [95]. The most likely number of  
420 clusters was determined using STRUCTURE- HARVESTER [96]. According to  
421 recommendations by Hubisz et al. [97], STRUCTURE was also run with the LOCPRIOR  
422 function which incorporates geographic sampling locations using default values.

423 Based on K-clusters results from the STRUCTURE analysis, we assigned different  
424 genetic populations or morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen (GA-morphs). We further contrasted Lake  
425 Tinnsjøen with the four outgroup lakes. Assignment analyses was based on K-clusters of  
426 individuals with q-values of  $> 0.7$  to its own cluster, evaluated as belonging to this population.  
427 Individuals with q-values  $< 0.7$  were interpreted as being hybrids of unsure population origin.

428 As an alternative way to test genetic differentiation, we first conducted a principal  
429 component analysis in Genetix 4.05.2 [98] based on microsatellite alleles, revealing the  
430 variation explained along the first two axes to be; PC1 (33.0 %) and PC2 (17.3 %). Then, we  
431 tested for differentiation among the five lakes for PC1 and PC2 using a nonparametric  
432 multiple comparison test (Steel-Dwass all pairs) in JMP 11.2 [99]. In addition, we used the  
433 same approach for testing differentiation, but now along PC1-3, for four FA-morphs in Lake  
434 Tinnsjøen as described above, by only sub-setting Lake Tinnsjøen from the five lake dataset.  
435

436 **Eco-morphological and life history trait divergence in the Lake Tinnsjøen charr morphs**  
437 In Lake Tinnsjøen, association between habitat occurrence with FA-morphs or GA-morphs  
438 was tested using  $\chi^2$  statistic in JMP 11.2 [99]. See bathymetric map in Figure 3a. The main  
439 purpose here was to reveal association of morphs (FA or GA) and habitat at catch, however,  
440 we are aware of the putative bias in having used different fishing gear in different habitats.  
441 See also previous section on fish sampling regarding overall issues related to statistical testing.

442 A discriminant analysis in JMP 11.2 [99] was used to test for association between GA-  
443 morphs and FA-morphs.

444 A geometric morphometric analysis using landmarks to reveal body shape was  
445 conducted using; Lake Tinnsjøen only, and secondly Lake Tinnsjøen and Lake Tyrvatn in the  
446 river drainage to the south of Lake Tinnsjøen. In the latter analysis, the idea was to evaluate  
447 the phenotype of the putative ancestral founder that could have colonized Lake Tinnsjøen, and  
448 how the Arctic charr in Lake Tyrvatn was morphologically assigned to the FA-morphs in  
449 Lake Tinnsjøen.

450 A Canon EOS 550d mirror reflex camera (Canon lens EFS 18 - 55 mm and macro lens  
451 EFS 60 mm; F20 ISO1600 AV, blitz) was used to photograph (JPEG) fish. Photos were taken  
452 in a Styrofoam box with a permanent standardized light. Fish were placed in natural position  
453 with their left side fronting the camera. All fish which had inflated swim bladders were  
454 carefully punctuated so that inflation did not affect body shape (subjective correction).

455 After digitalization in TpsUtil 1.53 [100], transforming JPEG to tps-files, landmarks  
456 were scored in TpsDig2 2.16 [101]. A set of 30 landmarks (real and semi-landmarks) were  
457 used to capture the body shape of fish, with main focus on the head region (Fig. 4a). Similar

458 landmarks have been used in other studies, but there are no consensus regarding position or  
459 number of landmarks to be used. A transparent film with imposed lines helped setting semi-  
460 landmarks. To minimize inter-individual scoring bias, all landmarks were set by one person.

461 In MorphoJ 1.06 [102], using the TpsDig2 file, extreme outliers were removed from  
462 both datasets after an outlier analysis, followed by a Procrustes fit analysis. A principal  
463 component analysis with eigenvalues was conducted for each dataset. The first five PC-axes  
464 were used for further analyses. For Lake Tinnsjøen, PC-axes 1-5 explained 45-4% of the  
465 variation in body shape, with a summed variation of 81.5% (PC1 45%, PC2 14%, PC3 13%,  
466 PC4 6% and PC5 4%, respectively). For Lake Tinnsjøen and Lake Tyrvatn, PC-axes 1-5  
467 explained 45-4% of the variation in body shape, with a summed variation of 78.3% (PC1 45%,  
468 PC2 13%, PC3 12%, PC4 5% and PC5 4%, respectively). As there were still body length  
469 effects on shape after PC-analyses in MorphoJ (likely due to allometric growth), we corrected  
470 for body length using a regression of log centroid size on body shape (PC-axes 1-5) in  
471 MorphoJ in both datasets, then saving the residuals for further analyses.

472 To evaluate how concordant body shape was to FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen, we  
473 used a discriminant analysis in JMP 11.2 [99] with linear, common covariance using  
474 residuals from the five PC-axes in MorphoJ. Similarly, we tested morphological resemblance  
475 in body shape of the FA-morphs with their putative ancestral founder from Lake Tyrvatn.  
476 Assignment percentages to each of the categories were recorded for both analyses.

477 A subset of the fish was used for determining age based on otoliths, immersed in 95%  
478 EtOH, read using a microscope [103]. An unfortunate challenge was encountered as the  
479 Arctic charr heads had been stored in unbuffered formalin which partly prevented age reading  
480 in some fish due to unbuffered formalin eating up parts of the otoliths. However, for age  
481 determined fish, we were confident in their age. Some of the morphs had few individuals  
482 analyzed for age. Also, it was difficult to determine maturity stage in some fish. This situation  
483 prevented a thorough life history analysis. Thus, we present age and body weight distributions  
484 revealing the youngest sexually mature male and female (also for body weight distributions).

485

486 **Results**

487 **Fish catch and field assigned morphs**

488 A total of 754 fish were caught in Lake Tinnsjøen, comprising 457 Arctic charr, 294 brown  
489 trout, 3 perch, and a small number of European minnow (not quantified). In Arctic charr, 63  
490 fish (13.8% of the total catch of Arctic charr) were caught in the pelagial, 105 fish (23.0%) in  
491 the littoral, 256 fish (56.0%) in the shallow-moderate profundal, while 33 fish (7.2%) were  
492 caught in the deep profundal (Table 1). For brown trout, 101 fish were caught in the pelagial,  
493 131 in the littoral, and 62 in the profundal. European minnow and perch were only caught in  
494 the littoral.

495 In Lake Tinnsjøen, the field assigned morphs based on visual appearance (FA-morphs,  
496 N=457) revealed 282 fish (61.7%) of the planktivore morph, 81 fish (17.7%) of the dwarf  
497 morph, 62 fish (13.6%) of the piscivore morph, and 32 fish (7.0%) of abyssal morph (Table 2).  
498

499 **Phylogeography and the ancestral lineages colonizing Lake Tinnsjøen based on mtDNA**

500 A set of 13 haplotypes (*h1-13*) were found in the combined dataset of Lake Tinnsjøen and the  
501 four Norwegian outgroup lakes (Table 3). The 13 haplotype sequences obtained in our study  
502 are deposited on GenBank (accession number x-y). Here, 12 of the 13 haplotypes were only  
503 found in Lake Tinnsjøen (which lacked *h2*). The four outgroup lakes all had haplotype *h1*,  
504 which also occurred in all of the four FA-morphs, while only one outgroup lake, Lake  
505 Vatnevatnet, had an additional haplotype *h2*.

506 From the samples in the larger scale phylogeography (Fig. 2a), a total of 75 new  
507 haplotypes were retrieved from Blast, comprising 88 haplotypes including the 13 Norwegian  
508 haplotypes (Additional file: Table S2). Comparing these 75 haplotypes to the ones found in  
509 Norway revealed that only *h1* (in several lakes) and *h13* (in one lake) were found outside  
510 Lake Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroups. Lake Tinnsjøen harbored a set of 10  
511 endemic haplotypes (*h3-h12*).

512 The major branch in Figure 2b (light purple) including the Lake Tinnsjøen haplotypes  
513 were used for drawing a minimum spanning network, not considering frequencies of  
514 haplotypes. This major clade with 21 haplotypes had good statistical support (89%), covering  
515 a large geographical range (Fig. 2b,c). Within the light purple clade, a total of 6 haplotypes or  
516 sub-clades was supported with good statistical bootstrap values between 77-93%.

517 In figure 2b the phylogeny of the 13 haplotypes in Lake Tinnsjøen revealed moderate  
518 to high bootstrap support for clustering of three “clades”; clade I (*h1, h2, h10*) with bootstrap  
519 support of 88%, clade II (*h5-h9, h11, h12*) with bootstrap support of 93%, and clade III (*h3,*  
520 *h4*) with bootstrap support of 85%. Here, clade I consisted of more haplotypes (i.e. *h13-18,*  
521 *h21, h32, h33*) that were found outside Lake Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroup  
522 lakes. One haplotype link, *h5-h13*, had unresolved cluster groupings, where it was interpreted  
523 that *h5*, being one mutational step away from *h1*, belonged to clade II rather than to clade I,  
524 and that *h13* belonged to clade I. The tree topology in figure 2b support these evaluations.

525 The minimum spanning network drawn using only the 13 haplotypes in Lake  
526 Tinnsjøen revealed variable frequency and their internal phylogenetic relationship (Fig. 2d).

527 Using the FA-morphs within Lake Tinnsjøen as units, the number of haplotypes  
528 ranged from 4 in the piscivore morph to 6 in the dwarf and planktivore morph (Table 3).

529 The percentage occurrence (based on Table 3) of the three clades in the four FA-  
530 morphs showed that the planktivore morph consisted of mostly clade III (77.3%), and less of  
531 clade II (18.2%) and clade I (5%). The dwarf had most of clade I (47.6%) and clade II  
532 (38.1%), and less of clade III (14.3%). The piscivore morph had mostly clade III (66.7%), and  
533 less of clade I (28.6%) and clade II (4.8%). Finally, the abyssal morph had most of clade II  
534 (72.7%), and less of clade III (18.2%) and clade I (9.1%).

535 The genetic diversity (Table 3) of FA-morphs ranged from a low haplotype diversity  
536 of 0.476 (planktivore morph) to a high 0.743 (dwarf morph) in Lake Tinnsjøen, and from 0-  
537 0.222 (highest in Lake Vatnevatnet) in outgroup lakes. In Lake Tinnsjøen combined, the  
538 haplotype diversity was 0.711. Similarly for nucleotide diversity, a low value was observed  
539 for the abyssal morph (0.00078) and a high value for the dwarf morph (0.00128), while the  
540 four outgroup lakes varied 0-0.00026 (highest in Lake Vatnevatnet). In Lake Tinnsjøen  
541 combined, nucleotide diversity was 0.00124.

542 Pairwise distance  $F_{ST}$  values based mtDNA Cytochrome B among the four morphs in  
543 Lake Tinnsjøen ranged from a low 0.042 (planktivore vs piscivore morphs) to a high 0.38  
544 (planktivore vs dwarf) (Additional file: Table S4). All other  $F_{ST}$  comparisons than the  
545 planktivore versus the piscivore morphs were significantly different.

546 With regard to signals of demographic changes in mtDNA, support for demographic  
547 expansion was indicated for clade I (Tajima's D; p-value > 0.05 and Fu and Li's D; p-value  
548 0.05) which comprised all four Norwegian outgroup lakes and 19 fish from Lake Tinsjøen (all  
549 four morphs present) (Additional file: Table S5). A stronger support for demographic  
550 expansion was suggested for clade II (Tajima's D; p-value < 0.05 and Fu and Li's D; p-value  
551 <0.02) which were endemic in Lake Tinnsjøen. However, no support for population  
552 expansion was suggested for the other endemic clade III (Tajima's D; p-value > 0.10 and Fu  
553 and Li's D; p-value > 0.10).

554 **555 Reproductive isolation of field assigned morphs or fish assessed using unbiased methods**  
556 The hierarchical STRUCTURE analysis suggested K=8 genetic clusters with the four morphs  
557 in Lake Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroup lakes occurred as distinct clusters (Fig.  
558 5ad, Additional file: Table S9, hierarchical STRUCTURE plot in Additional file: Fig. S1).

559 The number of alleles in the four morphs and the four outgroup lakes ranged between  
560 76 (Lake Vatnevatn) to 143 (planktivore morph), private allele richness from 0.13 (piscivore)  
561 to 0.69 (River Leirfossvassdraget), allelic richness from 6.02 (Lake Vatnevatn) to 8.63  
562 (planktivore morph),  $F_{IS}$  from -0.012 (Lake Tyrvann and Femund) to 0.118 (River  
563 Leirfossvassdraget), heterozygosity from 0.128 (piscivore morph) to 0.820 (Lake Tyrvann  
564 and Femund), and gene diversity from 0.567 (Lake Vatnevatn) to 0.761 (River  
565 Leirfossvassdraget).

566 Microsatellite based  $F_{ST}$  of morphs and sample lakes ranged from 0.08- 0.29  
567 (Additional file: Table S10). When using Lake Tinnsjøen as one group compared with the  
568 four Norwegian outgroup lakes,  $F_{ST}$  ranged 0.06-0.27 (Additional file: Table S11). If  
569 considering genetically pure GA morphs only (i.e.  $q>0.7$ ),  $F_{ST}$  ranged between 0.09-0.21  
570 (Additional file: Table 12).

571 On a broader scale, using the principal component analysis on microsatellite data  
572 ( $q=2.74$ ,  $P=0.05$ ), comparing the five lakes, revealed that all lakes were significantly different  
573 along PC1 and PC2 (Steel-Dwass method;  $q=2.72$ ,  $\alpha=0.05$ ) except Lake Tyrvann and  
574 Lake Femund that were not significantly differentiated (Fig. 5b).

575 Using the same principal components on microsatellite as above, but only contrasting  
576 the four FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen, revealed that four out of the six comparisons were  
577 significantly different for PC1 ( $q=2.57$ ,  $\alpha=0.05$ ), and five of six were significantly  
578 different for PC2 (Fig. 5c). For PC1, the piscivore morph was not different from the abyssal  
579 morph, and the planktivore morph was not different from the dwarf. Along PC2, the dwarf  
580 morph was not different from the abyssal morph, while for PC3, the piscivore and abyssal  
581 morph did not differ significantly.

582  
583 **Eco-morphological and life history trait divergence in the Lake Tinnsjøen charr morphs**

584 In the contingency analysis of FA-morphs by habitat-specific catch the association was  
585 significant (N=457, Df=9,  $R^2$  (U)=0.400, Likelihood ratio test;  $\chi^2=387.92$  and  $P<0.0001$ )(Fig.  
586 3b). The planktivore morph was caught in the pelagic (22.3% of the catch within morph),  
587 littoral (36.2%) and shallow-moderate profundal (41.5%), but not in the deep profundal (0%).  
588 The dwarf morph was primarily caught in the shallow-moderate profundal (98.8%) appearing  
589 at 20-70 m depths, and only rarely in the littoral (1.2%). The piscivore morph was primarily  
590 caught in the shallow-moderate profundal (95.2%), and rarely in the littoral (3.2%), and deep  
591 profundal (1.6%). The abyssal morph was only caught in the deep-profundal habitat (100.0%).  
592

593 In the contingency analysis of habitat-specific catch by the four revealed GA-morphs  
594 the association was also significant (N=344, Df=12,  $R^2$  (U)=0.4283, Likelihood ratio test;  
595  $\chi^2=302.55$  and  $P<0.0001$ ), although less than 20% of cells in the tests had expected count  $<5$   
596 (suggesting  $\chi^2$  to be suspect)(Additional file: Table S6). The same general pattern emerged as  
597 previously described for FA-morphs above in the FA-morphs by habitat-specific catch  
contingency analysis.

598 When testing concordance of body shape and FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen it was a  
599 moderate-strong concordant assignment ranging between 54.8% (piscivore morph) and 83.0%  
600 (abyssal morph) (Table 4, Fig. 4a).

601 In the contingency analysis of FA-morphs and GA-morphs association was significant  
602 (N=344, Df=12,  $R^2$  (U)=0.563, Likelihood ratio test;  $\chi^2=453.75$  and  $P<0.0001$ ) (Table 5).  
603 Here, association ranged from moderate 55.4% (dwarf morph) to a value of 100% (abyssal  
604 morph).

605 Similarly, back assignment using body shape of the FA-morphs and the putative  
606 ancestor from Lake Tyrivatn showed that Lake Tyrivatn had highest assignment to plantivore  
607 morph (18.8%), a lower assignment to dwarf (6.3%) and piscivore (3.1), while no fish from  
608 Lake Tyrivatn was assigned to the abyssal morph in Lake Tinnsjøen (Additional file: Table  
609 S7).

610 For comparative purposes, the FA-morphs and GA-morphs were visually contrasted  
611 with regard to age and weight distribution, suggesting large difference among morphs (Fig.  
612 4bc). It seems that the planktivore morph has the lowest age span followed by a roughly equal  
613 life span in the dwarf and abyssal morph. The piscivore morph has the longest life span. There  
614 were large differences in weight distribution, where the piscivore attained the largest size  
615 followed by the planktivore morph. The dwarf and abyssal morphs were minute in  
616 comparison, but the dwarf morph attained a larger body size than the abyssal morph. The  
617 comparison of FA-morphs and GA-morphs broadly gave the same picture in age and weight.  
618

619 **Discussion**

620 In our study we have found empirical support for evaluating the three main research questions  
621 addressed. First, we find it reasonable to postulate that members of one Holarctically  
622 widespread mtDNA lineage colonized Lake Tinnsjøen, likely suggesting one single common  
623 ancestor that later diversified into the observed four sympatric morphs. Further, the number of  
624 endemic haplotypes, and signatures of population demographic expansion, in one of the Lake  
625 Tinnsjøen clades (clade II), support a mechanism of intralacustrine diversification. Secondly,  
626 we found that the four field assigned morphs were genetically divergent at microsatellite loci  
627 (and partly mtDNA), thus suggesting reproductive isolation among morphs (although with  
628 some degree of gene flow). Further, there were a close association between field assigned  
629 morphs and unbiased genetic analyses (microsatellites) revealing four distinct genetic clusters  
630 in the lake, supporting morph differentiation. Thirdly, we evaluate that the four morphs were  
631 differentiated with regard to habitat use based on catch, and in their life history, suggesting  
632 diversification along a depth-temperature-productivity-pressure gradient. Given that this  
633 adaptive radiation occurred after the lake became ice-free (<10 000 years), it represents a  
634 rapid diversification in lake niches with associated phenotypical modifications. If considering  
635 a 5 year mean generation time it correspond to a maximum of 2000 generations of evolution.  
636 Although not directly studied, the seen association between phenotypic divergence and catch  
637 habitat imply adaptive niche proliferation with morphological specialization (regardless of  
638 phenotypic plasticity or genomic hardwiring) towards different environmental conditions  
639 along the depth-temperature-productivity-pressure gradient in the lake. The degree of genetic  
640 differentiation is complementary to the level seen in other sympatric Arctic char lake systems.  
641 However, the degree of morphological differentiation, and niche radiation, in Lake Tinnsjøen  
642 reveal an extension of specialization into the deep profundal niche. Thus, this highlight an  
643 intriguing general question in speciation research of polymorphic fish in lakes; have we  
644 systematically underestimated the degree and rate of adaptive radiation into profundal niches?  
645

646 **Timeframe of fish colonization into Lake Tinnsjøen based on the glacial geology pattern**

647 It is relevant to address the glacial geological conditions surrounding the area of Lake  
648 Tinnsjøen for evaluating the potential of colonization direction and timing of founder events.  
649 The maximum extension of the Eurasian Late Weichelian ice sheet occurred ca 21-23 000  
650 years before present (ybp) [36, 37]. Around 15 000 ybp the retreating ice margin was close to  
651 the Norwegian coast, and the ice stream in the Skagerak Sea broke up in the Norwegian  
652 channel [104]. In southern Telemark county, wherein Lake Tinnsjøen is situated, the ice sheet  
653 extended all the way to the coast ca 13 000 ybp [105]. Around 12 000 ybp the coast was ice  
654 free [104]. The ice-sheet retreated in a northwestern direction. An ice-recession line southeast  
655 of Lake Heddalsvatnet, situated below Lake Tinnsjøen in the same drainage (River Tinne),  
656 was dated to 9 700 ybp by Bergstrøm [105]. Further, marine sediment deposits was recorded  
657 (www.ngu.no) close to the village of Årlifoss 11 km southeast of Lake Tinnsjøen in River  
658 Tinne (see Fig. 1b for position of the upper limit of marine deposits). A sediment core study  
659 from Lake Skogstjern in the lower part of the Skiensvassdragets River by Wieckowska-Lüth  
660 et al. [106] revealed a lake formation dating at ca 10 500 ybp. The outlet of Lake Tinnsjøen is  
661 situated 50 km (estimated current waterway distance) northwest of Lake Heddalsvatnet. Lake  
662 Tinnsjøen was glaciated and we thus assume that it could not have been accessible for fish  
663 immigration prior to that period – setting a crude frame for colonization to <9 700 ybp. We  
664 further infer that the fish colonization have proceeded from the southeast through the River  
665 Skienselva, or alternatively through any existing non-identified pro-glacial lakes situated  
666 southeast of Lake Tinnsjøen. This is also logic given the elevation level of the landscape  
667 surrounding Lake Tinnsjøen, where colonization along the suggested direction is most likely  
668 as the alternative routes imply crossing mountains and elevated slopes. Furthermore, the

669 estimated ice-flow directions (Fig. 1b; [105],) support that the Arctic charr colonized Lake  
670 Tinnsjøen along the River Skjenselva from the coastline and upwards. As the Arctic charr can  
671 be anadromous and live short periods in the sea [19], and as the Skagerak area at certain times  
672 during deglaciation was carrying a brackish water upper layer [107, 108], it seems reasonable  
673 to infer that the Arctic charr came from the south and colonized lake Tinnsjøen from the coast.  
674

#### 675 **Holarctic phylogenetic patterns using mtDNA CytB in Arctic charr and *Salvelinus* spp.**

676 We have screened a moderate number of each of the four morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen and only  
677 few fish in the four comparative Norwegian populations to the South, West, East and North of  
678 Lake Tinnsjøen for one mtDNA Cytochrome B fragment. In our evaluation, all these lakes  
679 hold Arctic charr as we would phenotypically recognize them in Norway, with perhaps the  
680 exception of the abyssal morph which is morphologically distinct. We used our sequences to  
681 obtain similar sequences from 18 named species of *Salvelinus* from GenBank to assess  
682 Holarctic patterns in haplotypes, lineages, clades and taxa distributions (Additional file: Table  
683 S2a). The initial description of taxa in GenBank sequences comprised; *Salvelinus* spp,  
684 *Salvelinus albus*, *S. andrashevi*, *S. alpinus*, *S. alpinus alpinus*, *S. alpinus erythrinus*, *S.*  
685 *boganidae*, *S. confluentus*, *S. elgyticus*, *S. krogiusae*, *S. kronocius*, *S. kuznetzovi*, *S. malma*, *S.*  
686 *malma malma*, *S. malma lordi*, *S. neiva*, *S. oquassa*, *S. schmidti*, and *S. taranetzi*. Here, we  
687 used the sequences from GenBank regardless of species denomination in the initial deposition  
688 or publications. This strategy was chosen as the species designation in the *Salvelinus* complex  
689 is challenging due to the traditional use of morphological species criteria with variable  
690 consensus. When considering all 88 haplotypes together, *S. alpinus* was described with  
691 haplotypes; *h1-h17*, and *h82*, while remaining taxa belonged to other taxa than *S. alpinus*.  
692 Here, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Canada, USA, and Russia report haplotypes of *S. alpinus*.  
693 Our Holarctic CytB phylogeny, and phylogeographic patterns, reveals a much deeper  
694 divergence than only considering the single Arctic charr *S. alpinus* taxa. As mtDNA is  
695 maternally inherited it only partly reveals the evolutionary history of the *S. alpinus* species  
696 complex. In general, one should be cautious inferring mtDNA based phylogeography as we  
697 assume selective neutrality, which may not always be the case [e.g. see 109].

698 For the five Norwegian lakes combined, we observed a set of 13 haplotypes (*h1-h13*).  
699 Haplotype *h1* was found in all the five Norwegian lakes, as well as in some other Holarctic  
700 lakes (Sweden, Finland, Russia, and Canada). Haplotype *h13* was found in Lake Tinnsjøen  
701 and one other lake in Sweden. Haplotype *h2* was only found in one Norwegian lake (Lake  
702 Vatnevatnet). A set of 10 haplotypes (*h3-h12*) were found to be endemic in Lake Tinnsjøen.  
703 In the phylogenetic analyses using the full dataset of the 88 mtDNA CytB sequences, a  
704 moderate to strong statistical support for branching events were observed (Fig. 3). These  
705 major branches were found in different parts of the Holarctic and reflects a deeper taxonomic  
706 partitioning than only containing Arctic charr (Additional file: Table S2a). However, our main  
707 purpose of this large scale comparison of CytB sequences (using different described charr  
708 (*Salvelinus* spp.) taxa) was to visualize, and polarize, the closest relatives in the major branch  
709 that also contained the Arctic charr in Lake Tinnsjøen. With that in mind, we focused on the  
710 major light purple lineage in Figure 3 (named #1 in Fig. 3a,b). This lineage included a set of  
711 21 haplotypes widely distributed (Fig. 3c) in Transbaikalia - Kamchatka - Bering Sea (*h17*,  
712 *h18*, *h21*, *h32*, *h33*), Quebec - Taimyr - Chucotka - Fennoscandia (*h1*, *h2*, *h13*, *h14*, *h15*, *h16*),  
713 and in Lake Tinnsjøen (*h3-h13*). Based on these results, it seems plausible to evaluate that the  
714 ancestors of this major lineage colonized a large geographic area throughout the Holarctic,  
715 where some ancestral individuals also colonized Lake Tinnsjøen. Here, the founders of Lake  
716 Tinnsjøen could potentially have carried the *h1* haplotype (clade I), subsequently giving rise to  
717 clade II (*h5*, *h7*, *h8*, *h9*, *h11*, *h12*) and clade III (*h3*, *h4*) (Fig. 3d).

718 In our study, considering the major lineage 1 (light purple; named #1 in in Fig. 3a,b)  
719 with 21 haplotypes (*h1-h18, h21, h32, h33*), it is interesting to see what species designations  
720 are given to haplotypes as these should be the closest relatives to morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen.  
721 This lineage was distributed in Quebec - Bering Sea - Kamchatka - Chucotka - Transbaikalia -  
722 Taimyr - Fennoscandia, and Lake Tinnsjøen. The taxa described were: *S. alpinus* (*h1-h13*), *S.*  
723 *a. alpinus* (*h14-h15*), *S. alpinus* and *S. a. oquassa* (*h16*), *S. alpinus*, *S. boganidae* and *S. a.*  
724 *erythrinus* (*h17*), *S. malma* and *S. m. malma* (*h18*), *S. malma* (*h21*), and *S. a. erythrinus* (*h32*,  
725 *h 33*). Based on Osinov et al. [110], which used mtDNA CytB to assess phylogenetic  
726 relationship among taxa in *Salvelinus*, it seems that *S. alpinus*, *S. a. oquassa*, *S. a. erythrinus*  
727 and *S. malma* group together (MP tree), being genetically related to *S. boganidae* (evaluated  
728 from lack of bootstrap support). Thus, our results seems concordant with Osinov et al. [2015],  
729 and other studies regarding a genetic relationship between *S. malma* and *S. alpinus* [111-114],  
730 comprising taxonomic members in lineage 1 (light purple; named #1 in in Fig. 3a,b).

731 In general, there were few similar CytB sequences in GenBank, and specifically with  
732 regard to the Fennoscandian area (as revealed in Fig. 3d). However, we contrast our findings  
733 with the large scale phylogeographical study by Brunner et al. [115] who targeted Holarctic  
734 *Salvelinus* spp. using the mtDNA control region. They found five major phylogeographic  
735 lineages, named; Atlantic, Acadia, Siberia, Bering, and Arctic groups in the *Salvelinus* sp.  
736 complex. Our phylogeographic data has much less geographical coverage than Brunner et al.  
737 [115], however, with some putative similarities. As such, our lineage 2 (yellow; named #2 in  
738 in Fig. 3a,b) may potentially fit with their Bering lineage, our lineage 5 (green; named #5 in in  
739 Fig. 3a,b) may fit with their Arctic lineage, and our lineage 1 (light purple; named #1 in in Fig.  
740 3a,b) may fit with their Atlantic lineage. However, our lineage 1 seems to extend further north  
741 and east than the Atlantic lineage revealed by Brunner et al. [115]. A study by Gordeeva et al.  
742 [116] studying Arctic charr (mtDNA control region) in the European part of Russia and  
743 Siberia revealed that the Atlantic group was distributed all the way to Taimyr (see also [117]).  
744 Further, Alekseyev et al. [118] found no strong support for a separation of Atlantic and  
745 Siberian haplotypes into two distinctive groups when analyzing Arctic charr in Siberia using  
746 the mtDNA control region. Thus, these studies in general seem to support our crude inference  
747 of a widespread Atlantic mtDNA lineage (Fig. 3a,b). However, we seem to lack the Siberian,  
748 the Acadian, and the Svet lineage as being revealed by Brunner et al. [115]. The discrepancy  
749 between our results and Brunner et al. [115] may be due to lower geographical coverage, use  
750 of CytB as a much less powerful marker for divergence than the control region, and also a  
751 different set of individuals that may, or may not, belong to different *Salvelinus* taxa proposed.  
752

753 **Patterns in adaptive radiation of Arctic charr – genetic divergence of sympatric morphs**  
754 In the Holarctic it seems to be a pattern in adaptive diversification into lake niches in Arctic  
755 charr where most lakes hold only one morph (e.g. littoral), fewer lakes have two morphs (e.g.  
756 littoral and pelagic), even fewer lakes have three morphs (e.g. littoral-pelagic and profundal),  
757 while only one lake so far has been reported to harbor four morphs (small and large benthic,  
758 planktivore and piscivore) (see relevant references below). Here, we contrast lakes with  
759 Arctic charr holding one, two, three or four morphs with regard to genetic differentiation in  
760 microsatellites unless otherwise stated. The comparisons and case systems are not complete,  
761 meaning that we do not cover all systems, but assumes that this is a representative set of  
762 polymorphic systems in the Holarctic. The measure for evaluating genetic differentiation is  
763 the common metric  $F_{ST}$  if not stated otherwise. The different microsatellite loci applied and  
764 significance levels of  $F_{ST}$  value comparisons among morphs are found in the given references.

765 Several studies have compared Arctic charr among lakes with regard to their genetic  
766 differentiation (where there may be lakes holding more than one morph of Arctic charr)  
767 revealing a  $F_{ST}$  range of 0.003-0.627 when contrasted in Holarctic lakes [119-127]. Presence

768 of two morphs associated (or not) with genetic clusters have been found in a number of Arctic  
769 charr lakes revealing a  $F_{ST}$  range of 0.001-0.381 in Holarctic lakes [55, 60, 62, 66, 123-125,  
770 128-133]. When considering Arctic charr lakes with support for three morphs and/or genetic  
771 clusters, much fewer systems are reported. Moccetti et al. [62] report three morphs (littoral  
772 omnivorous, small-sized profundal benthivorous, and large-sized profundal piscivorous) in  
773 Lake Tårvatn in Norway with a range in  $F_{ST}$  0.042-0.134. Gíslason et al. [128] compared  
774 three morphs (planktivore, piscivore and benthivore) in Iceland in Lake Svinavatn with  $F_{ST}$  of  
775 0-0.059. A later study by Wilson et al. [123] estimating  $F_{ST}$  0-0.085; suggesting only two  
776 morphs in that particular lake. May-McNally et al. [126] studied three Alaskan Arctic charr  
777 morphs (large, medium and small-bodied) in Lake Tazimina with  $F_{ST}$  0.017-0.092. Alekseyev  
778 et al. [134] studied three Arctic charr morphs (dwarf benthophage, small planktophage and  
779 large predator) in Lake Kamkanda in Transbaikalia and found  $F_{ST}$  0.168-0.299. Gordeeva et al.  
780 [60] studied three lakes with three morphs in Transbaikalia, Russia revealing  $F_{ST}$  0.015-0.497.  
781 Across Holarctic lakes with three morphs, a range in  $F_{ST}$  values from 0 to 0.497 were  
782 observed. A set of four morphs (small and large dark and small and large pale morphs) have  
783 been described from Gander Lake in Canada [135, 136]. Gomez-Uchida et al. [137] tested the  
784 dark and pale morphs and found  $F_{ST}$  (theta) 0.136, suggesting two genetic clusters. Currently,  
785 it is unknown whether these four morphs constitute four genetic clusters. The classic textbook  
786 example of adaptive radiation in Arctic charr comes from a continental plate rift lava lake in  
787 Iceland. Here, a set of four morphs of Arctic charr are described in Lake Thingvallavatn; large  
788 benthic, small benthic, planktivorous and piscivorous morphs [59]. Kapreolova et al. [125]  
789 studied three of these morphs (small benthic, large benthic, planktivorous,) and found  $F_{ST}$   
790 (theta) 0-0.07. As such, the genetic status of the four Lake Thingvallavatn morphs remains  
791 partly unresolved to date with regard to microsatellite differentiation. In our study of the  
792 Arctic charr in Lake Tinnsjøen, we estimated  $F_{ST}$  0.130-0.195 among the four morphs, being  
793 much more differentiated than among the three compared morphs in Lake Thingvallavatn.  
794 However, the range in genetic differentiation among morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen lies within the  
795 range among-lakes ( $F_{ST}$  0.060-0.627), among two-morph sympatric systems ( $F_{ST}$  0.010-0.381),  
796 and within the three-morph sympatric systems ( $F_{ST}$  0-0.497). It is difficult to discuss in more  
797 detail given the large  $F_{ST}$  range in the four types of lakes (mono-quadrats). Also, the different  
798 marker sets used in various studies makes it difficult to conduct a direct comparison, but the  
799 level of genetic segregation within Lake Tinnsjøen seems generally to comply with the level  
800 of genetic segregation seen in other sympatric systems. As Lake Tinnsjøen is the only lake  
801 with four morphs of Arctic charr, currently known, the range in  $F_{ST}$  was 0.130-0.195.

802 With regard to mtDNA divergence (and other marker sets) of sympatric Arctic charr  
803 morphs much fewer studies exist. Alekseyev et al. [118] studied a set of 22 lakes in  
804 Transbaikalia, Russia, analyzing the mtDNA control region. They found that sympatric  
805 morphs shared one or two haplotypes in each lake, with no significant differentiation in  
806 haplotypes between morphs in each of the lakes. Salisbury et al. [138] found that all their  
807 Arctic charr in Gander Lake belonged to the Atlantic mtDNA D-loop lineage (except one pale  
808 morph individual). They implied that morphological, ecological and genetic differentiation of  
809 dark and pale morphs could be due to sympatric origin within the last 10 000 year postglacial  
810 timeframe. Alekseyev et al. [118] and Gordeeva et al. [60] studied the same 22 lakes having  
811 sympatric morphs in Transbaikalia, Russia. They suggested that six of these lakes may  
812 represent evolutionary events of independent parallel divergence in sympatry, since they had  
813 their own set of endemic mtDNA-control region haplotypes shared only among morphs  
814 within lakes, while 16 lakes could be evaluated as potential allopatric events due to sharing  
815 of mtDNA haplotypes both among morphs and nearby lakes. Three morphs of Arctic charr  
816 were suggested in Loch Rannoch in Scotland by Verspoor et al. [139] being the pelagic  
817 morph and two benthic morphs (small and large mouth). They analysed mtDNA-RFLP in the

818 D-loop and found that the pelagic morph was divergent from the benthic morphs, with  $F_{ST}$   
819 between the pelagic and the two benthic morphs ranging 0.326-0.487. Differentiation among  
820 the two benthic morphs was lower with  $F_{ST}$  0.158. The authors suggested that the pelagic  
821 morph and the two morphs comprised two allopatric lineages, while a sympatric divergence  
822 could have led to the two benthic morphs after colonization of their ancestral mtDNA lineage  
823 into the lake. In the four morph system in Lake Thingvallavatn, Magnusson and Ferguson  
824 [140] analyzed allozymes and found that all four morphs were genetically closely related with  
825 a Nei's (D) range 0.00004-0.00126, suggesting that the four morphs did not belong to  
826 different evolutionary lineages. They stated that caution should be used interpreting data using  
827 few polymorphic loci. Later, Volpe and Ferguson [141] analysed sequences and mtDNA  
828 restriction fragment analysis of the control region, and minisatellites, but according to the  
829 authors own statement lacked resolution to test the specific hypotheses regarding sympatric  
830 origin and genetic divergence among morphs. However, they found some support for morphs  
831 in the lake to be more genetically similar than to other morphs in other lakes, potentially  
832 supporting an intra-lacustrine diversification (although low bootstrap support for divergence  
833 of the morphs within Lake Thingvallavatn). Danzmann et al. [142] used mtDNA restriction  
834 analyses and suggested that the Thingvallavatn morphs were closely related. Escudero [143]  
835 analysed the d-loop in three of the morphs (planktivorous, small and large benthic morphs;  
836 not including the piscivore morph) and found five haplotypes where two haplotypes were  
837 shared among all morphs, one morph had two endemic haplotypes, and another morph had  
838 one endemic haplotype. Barring a full contrast of the four morphs with regard to mtDNA,  
839 there seems to be no strong differentiation in mtDNA among morphs in this lake. However,  
840 Lake Thingvallavatn is indeed one of the best Arctic charr systems studied worldwide and  
841 two studies by Gudbrandsson et al. [144, 145] reveal presence of significant development  
842 transcriptomic gene expression differences among the four sympatric morphs, suggesting  
843 extensive genetic divergence among sympatric morphs. Gudbrandsson et al. [144, 145] also  
844 discuss an alternative hypothesis of whether or not the piscivore morph exists as one genetic  
845 cluster, if it has recently diverged under asymmetric gene flow from other morphs, or if it is  
846 an inducible morph due to threshold values in growth before becoming a piscivore. Based on  
847 these two studies, it seems that the piscivore morph is less genetically distinct than the three  
848 other morphs in that lake. In comparison, the  $F_{ST}$  values among the four sympatric morph in  
849 Lake Tinnsjøen were 0.042-0.382. Here, the only comparison that was non-significant was  
850 between the planktivore and the piscivore morph. Thus, five out of the conducted six morph  
851 comparisons in Lake Tinnsjøen were significantly different, implying limited gene flow  
852 among morphs. The number of haplotypes ranged from 4-6 among the four morphs, with the  
853 number of endemic haplotypes differing from 1-2 among morphs. There is a possibility that  
854 the small sample size in our mtDNA analyses reflect biased sampling of morphs, but that do  
855 not seem likely given the sample size of 21-22 individuals from each morph. Due to lack of  
856 previous studies, it appears that no direct comparison can be made to relevant studies on  
857 Arctic charr with regard to contrasting  $F_{ST}$  values based on mtDNA. However, using the same  
858 line of argument as in Alekseyev et al. [118] and Gordeeva et al. [116], one could imply a  
859 case of sympatric origin of the four lake Tinnsjøen morphs as they have endemic haplotypes  
860 not yet seen outside the lake. However, that could also reflect limited geographical coverage  
861 nearby, or far from, Lake Tinnsjøen. Thus, one should be cautious interpreting these results.

862 In summary, genetic divergence (using different markers) among sympatric Arctic  
863 charr morphs in lakes throughout the Holarctic varies widely, and we expect them to do so  
864 given their different evolutionary histories, genetic load and evolvability, biotic and abiotic  
865 environmental conditions, and ecological opportunities to radiate. Indeed, we can see systems  
866 with one to four morphs in different lakes. However, few studies have addressed nuclear and  
867 mtDNA markers at the same time. The best studied system so far is Lake Thingvallavatn in

868 Iceland, where four morphs reside – where one of the morphs (i.e. piscivore morph) could be  
869 recently evolved as a separate genetic cluster or being induced due to growth threshold  
870 dynamics. In comparison, in Lake Tinnsjøen we have described four morphs that are different  
871 with regard to microsatellites and mostly with regard to mtDNA haplotypes. The Arctic charr  
872 morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen seem to be differentially distributed along a depth-temperature-  
873 productivity-pressure gradient. The evolutionary branching in their phylogeny, and the high  
874 number of endemic haplotypes in Lake Tinnsjøen, with signatures of demographic expansion,  
875 could support an intra-lacustrine origin of these morphs. However, the evolutionary scenarios  
876 remain to be tested in detail using a set of higher resolution markers. Although the Arctic  
877 charr species complex has been studied for a long time, researchers still need to address the  
878 important mechanisms underlying origin, presence and temporal persistence of sympatric  
879 morphs. Thus, a multi-method based eco-evo-devo approach with ecological, morphological  
880 and life history studies [146], and state of the art genomics as performed in Lake  
881 Tingvallavatn [e.g. 144, 145], seem to be a good avenue, as well as the methods applied in  
882 Jacobs et al. [23] contrasting two independent replicate lineage radiations of the Arctic charr.  
883

884 **Adaptive divergence of morphs - yes likely - but, what are the drivers of diversification?**  
885 Is there a repeatable pattern in niche use in sympatric morph? Imagine the colonization of a  
886 barren lake after the ice age with all lake niche available for utilization. Here, founders will  
887 likely utilize the most energetically profitable niche first, depending upon the lake-specific  
888 morphometry with regard to the highest fitness gain in the littoral or pelagic niche. Thus, the  
889 starting point for adaptive proliferation may be highly contingent on what niche(s) is actually  
890 holding the highest fitness reward among the available lake niches. This will also apply in a  
891 situation with presence of another species being a resource competitor or predator. Imagine a  
892 shallow lake with large littoral zone and a small pelagic zone. Here, it is reasonable to expect  
893 a higher temporally reliable food production in the littoral producing a higher proportion of  
894 littoral adapted morph individuals and a smaller proportion of pelagic adapted morph  
895 individuals. If the lifetime fitness is higher in the littoral than in the pelagic, radiation may  
896 not occur, but be present as a temporal utilization of the pelagic zone during zooplankton  
897 blooms in summer. As such, the pelagic may not harbour available energetic capacity during  
898 the whole year to open for a permanent life style adapted to strictly the pelagic. This could be  
899 an explanation for the many Arctic charr lakes that seem to hold monomorphic populations,  
900 acting as generalists. In contrast, deeper lakes, or a deep fjord lake, where the pelagic is  
901 proportionally much larger than the littoral, the pelagic may have the highest food resource  
902 and the expected lifetime fitness reward. Here, one could imagine that most fish would adapt  
903 to the pelagic and less to the littoral. In a given lake, if both habitats hold temporal stable and  
904 predictable energetically rewarding resources, one may expect that two morphs can evolve,  
905 one in the pelagic and one in the littoral, likely with relative proportions of morphs associated  
906 with relative proportion of habitat available according to an ideal free distribution. The same  
907 would apply for a system with three niches and morphs – evolving a morph adapted to the  
908 profundal. Based on the number of sequence of morphs from monomorphic to four morph  
909 systems, it seems that there is a predictable temporal pattern in evolutionary branching  
910 associated with niche radiation. Here, the littoral (or pelagic) may be the first niche to be  
911 filled – then the pelagic (or littoral) – then the profundal, with a piscivore morph originating  
912 putatively due to growth threshold dynamics from one of the units, or evolving independently.

913 Adding upon this complexity, moving away from an assumption of only three discrete  
914 niches in given a lake, one can imagine that there could be gradients of expected predictable  
915 fitness along environmental variation such as e.g, the depth-temperature-productivity-pressure  
916 gradient in Lake Tinnsjøen. Indeed, a study on polymorphic European whitefish (*Coregonus*  
917 *lavaretus*) in the Swizz Alpine Lake Neuchâtel suggest adaptive diversification and build up

918 of reproductive isolation along ecological gradients when assessing morphs spawning at  
919 different time and place [147]. Ohlberger et al. [148] used an adaptive-dynamics model,  
920 calibrated with empirical data, finding support for an evolutionary diversification of the two  
921 German Lake Stechelin *Coregonus* sp. morphs likely driven by selection for physiologically  
922 depth-related optimal temperatures. In the 1.6 km deep Lake Baikal, Russia, one of the oldest  
923 freshwater lakes on earth, adaptive radiations have occurred in several taxa such as e.g.  
924 reflected by the depth-gradient and the environmental niche radiation of the freshwater  
925 sculpins (*Cottidae*, *Abyssocottidae* and *Comephoridae*) [149]. Also, speciation along depth  
926 gradients in the ocean are strongly suggested [150]. A study by Chavarie et al. [151] tested a  
927 multi-trait depth gradient diversification of morphs in Lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) in  
928 Bear Lake in Canada, but did not find a strong association in differentiation with depth (but,  
929 partly association with genetic structure), suggesting that a highly variable nature of  
930 ecological opportunities existed for divergent selection and phenotypic plasticity. In  
931 comparison with these studies, it seems reasonable to infer that there is a depth-temperature-  
932 productivity-pressure gradient with different fitness rewards reflecting an adaptive landscape  
933 where upon the four Arctic charr morphs within Lake Tinnsjøen can adapt. Such a gradient  
934 may not necessarily be discrete with regard to environmental sustainable conditions, but could  
935 reflect a continuum, or a holey adaptive landscape [see 26]. A recent study by Jacobs et al.  
936 [23] reveal the complexity in inferring mechanisms behind origin of replicate Arctic charr  
937 morphs. These authors suggested that similar morphs, contrasting the Atlantic and Siberian  
938 lineage of Arctic charr, could originate through parallel or non-parallel evolutionary routes as  
939 revealed in gene expression being highly similar between independently derived replicates of  
940 the same morph. They highlighted that variability in the Arctic charr with regard to predicting  
941 phenotypes was contingent on a set of factors being demographic history, selection response,  
942 environmental variation, genomic architecture and genetic association with specific morphs.  
943 Thus, revealing mechanisms in speciation trajectories in the Arctic charr complex is indeed a  
944 challenging task.

945 A novel finding in our study was the appearance of the deep-profundal abyssal morph  
946 with its distinctive phenotypic features, apparently being adaptations to the cold, dark and  
947 low-productive high-pressure environment in deeper parts of the oligotrophic Lake Tinnsjøen.  
948 Our finding of the four morphs could reflect ongoing divergence along a depth-temperature-  
949 productivity-pressure gradient from surface to deep profundal environments. This imply large  
950 differences in yearly cumulative temperature sum at different depths and productivity, likely  
951 strongly affecting life history evolution. In shallow Fennoscandian lakes, the littoral seem to  
952 have the highest biotic production, followed by the pelagic and profundal [152]. In the 1.6  
953 km deep Lake Baikal, oligochaetes was found from the surface down to maximum depth,  
954 comprising up to 70-90% of biomass and numbers in the bottom fauna [153]. In the same lake,  
955 biomass of benthos decreased with depth, with an increasing proportion of oligochaetes. In  
956 comparison with the Baikal studies, we assume that the biotic prey production for Arctic charr  
957 is highest in the pelagic in the deep Lake Tinnsjøen (with small littoral areas) and lower in  
958 the benthic-littoral, and the least in the deep profundal. As such, a temperature and food  
959 production gradient likely exists in Lake Tinnsjøen from more productive pelagic and littoral  
960 areas down to the shallow profundal and deep profundal. Also, as the pressure increase by one  
961 atmosphere each 10 meters depth, it should also have marked impacts on adaptations evolved  
962 in various traits, being particularly evident in the small abyssal morph with its curved head,  
963 upturned mouth and small eye size. Thus, both abiotic factors, and ecological opportunity,  
964 likely determine potential of adaptive divergence in deep water lakes as already implied in  
965 studies on Arctic charr in the profundal habitat [19, 53]. In deep lakes such as Tinnsjøen (460  
966 m) and Gander Lake in Canada (288 m; [154]) selective forces for habitat and niche  
967 occupation could be even stronger than previously anticipated, selecting traits that have not

968 been seen in other morphs from other lakes. In Lake Tinnsjøen, the small eyes (an apparent  
969 reduction of size and potential function?) in the abyssal morph bear apparent similarities with  
970 eye-reduction seen in cave fishes [e.g. 155]. This seems somehow logical given that cave  
971 environments often can be described as nutrient-poor, cold, and harboring few present species.

972 In speculation, there might be a temporal cascade effect in the adaptation process to a  
973 given niche where e.g. body size, growth rate, sexual maturation, coloration, secondary sexual  
974 traits, physiology and morphology are highly contingent upon the ecological opportunity,  
975 constraining environmental conditions, and the evolutionary optimal solutions in any given  
976 niche. Here, e.g. morphology and physiology may reflect specialization to niches, growth rate  
977 and size and age at sexual maturity may reflect food conditions and predation regimes, while  
978 body size, coloration and secondary sexual traits may reflect the optimal visual conditions,  
979 affecting mate choice behavior and thus sexual selection. Here, evolution would likely result  
980 in optimal solutions to obtain the highest overall life-time fitness in a given niche, and also  
981 due to relative fitness rewards in yet other niches in the lake due to overall e.g. frequency or  
982 density dependent fitness of the present morphs. Further, in this adaptive process e.g. major  
983 histocompatibility complex (MHC) genes, which are related to e.g. kin recognition, parasite  
984 and disease resistance, as well as niche occupation, may be important as previously shown to  
985 differ among morphs and lakes in Arctic charr [156-159]. A study by Baillie et al. [160]  
986 surveying microsatellite and a MHC gene in Lake Trout in Lake Superior revealed that  
987 variation was partitioned more by water stratum than by ecomorph with a stronger association  
988 with MHC gene variants and depth. This suggests presence of an adaptive MHC gene  
989 polymorphism along the depth gradient, potentially due to divergent environments and  
990 ecological niches. As Arctic charr has sexual dimorphism in coloration it also implies sexual  
991 selection as a driver for population or morph differentiation. The high level of genetic  
992 differentiation often seen in sympatric Arctic charr morphs in comparison with e.g. a lower  
993 inter-morph genetic differentiation in European whitefish radiations [e.g. 133, 161] may  
994 suggest that sexual selection may be less pronounced in whitefish than in Arctic charr.  
995 Coloration in Arctic charr may thus be a reliable evolutionary signal of parasite and disease  
996 resistance, as well as niche use, used in mate choice preferences. One should also in such  
997 studies consider the optimal color wavelengths present at different depths or niches.

998 It is pertinent to pose the question whether the Lake Tinnsjøen morphs have originated  
999 due to ecological speciation mechanisms. According to the ecological theory of adaptive  
1000 radiation and ecological speciation [3, 16, 48, 162], our four morphs do seem to fit well to an  
1001 ongoing diversification process according to several of the expectations from this theory (see  
1002 also [163-167]). However, the process of ecological speciation is complex and remains to be  
1003 tested awaiting ecological niche studies and using higher resolution genetic markers under an  
1004 evolutionary scenario framework comparing simulated and empirical data. As a crucial and  
1005 fundamental basis in ecological theory, we would also here, in our newly discovered Lake  
1006 Tinnsjøen system, expect a niche-specific fitness trade-off in adaptations to evolve so that no  
1007 one phenotype will be optimal in all the available lake niches. Thus, the saying "*Jack of all  
1008 trades, master of none, but oftentimes better than master of one*" might nicely reflect the early  
1009 postglacial stages of the ongoing evolutionary dynamics in adaptive radiation of Arctic charr.  
1010

## 1011 Conclusion

1012 In Lake Tinnsjøen, we revealed four Arctic charr morphs associated with differential catch in  
1013 four habitats in the pelagial (<20 m), littoral (<20 m), shallow - moderate profundal (20-150  
1014 m), and deep profundal (150-350m). Apparently, morphs diverge along a depth-temperature-  
1015 productivity-pressure gradient. Field assignment from exterior appearance, and laboratory  
1016 geometric landmark analyses, support distinction into four morphs. Life history parameters  
1017 also supported morph separation based on size, age and maturity patterns. MtDNA implied

1018 colonization of founders from one widespread Holarctic lineage, with subsequent origin of  
1019 two new clades in Lake Tinnsjøen. Most morph pairs were genetically differentiated for  
1020 mtDNA ( $F_{st}$ : 0.04-0.38). Microsatellites revealed significant reproductive segregation among  
1021 all morph pairs ( $F_{st}$ : 0.12-0.20), with presence of gene flow. A novel finding was the abyssal  
1022 morph in the deep profundal which has not yet been described before in the worldwide Arctic  
1023 charr species complex. Thus, the deep profundal needs to be studied more in polymorphic fish  
1024 species complexes as we may have overlooked a substantial part of the present biodiversity  
1025 below the species level. Whether or not Lake Tinnsjøen represents a true sympatric speciation  
1026 process remains to be tested using a combined set of genetic markers to contrast evolutionary  
1027 scenarios. Lake Tinnsjøen offers a rare research window into an ongoing speciation process –  
1028 evidently revealing an important part of the worldwide evolutionary legacy of Arctic charr.  
1029 We suggest that the Norwegian management authorities merit Lake Tinnsjøen special  
1030 biodiversity protection as it is one of the most divergent Arctic charr systems seen worldwide.  
1031

1032

1033 **Declarations**

1034

1035 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

1036 Not applicable.

1037

1038 **Fishing license**

1039 Fish were sampled after initial consent from local authorities at Tinn County Administration  
1040 giving us permission to fish in Lake Tinnsjøen after consent was approved also by the local  
1041 landowners. The local landowners gave us the oral permission to fish on their land. No other  
1042 permit or ethics approval is needed in Lake Tinnsjøen in order to sample Arctic charr when  
1043 the main purpose is to use Arctic charr for scientific studies.

1044

1045 **Consent for publication**

1046 Not applicable.

1047

1048 **Availability of data and material**

1049 Data deposition: Parts of the data used in this study are available as online supplementary  
1050 information in the electronic version of the article. The reason why not all data have been  
1051 freely distributed is the current unknown status of the abyssal morph described in our survey.  
1052 As such, conservation authorities should evaluate the taxonomic status and conservation need  
1053 of the morph before information on specific sampling locations and catches may be released.  
1054 This is a logic precautionary conservation biological approach as the observed new abyssal  
1055 morph in the deep-profundal habitat (150-350 m) may have a small/vulnerable population size.  
1056 Further, as this morph is not found elsewhere in the world, it merits the highest conservation  
1057 status possible. The Lake Tinnsjøen represents a unique window into speciation for scientists.

1058

1059 **Competing interests**

1060 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

1061

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1066

1067 **Authors` contribution**

1068 K.P. and K.Ø. conceived/designed the study (equal project leaders). All authors contributed in  
1069 the field sampling (with exception of A-M.P.T. who entered the project at a later stage). Basic  
1070 genetic work in the laboratory was conducted by M.H.H, M.H. and K.P. Analyses of fish  
1071 morphology was done by M.H.H. and M.H. Genetic analyses was done by K.P., M.H., A.-  
1072 M.P.T. and K.Ø. The main body of the manuscript was written by K.Ø., K.P. and M.H. with  
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1751

1752 TABLES AND FIGURES

1753

1754 **Table 1.** The arctic charr (N=457) collected in Lake Tinnsjøen in 2013 using different  
1755 equipment. - denote equipment not used in that habitat (niche) while a value of 0 denote  
1756 equipment used, but no catch in that habitat. The sampling effort was not standardized  
1757 precluding catch per unit effort.

1758

Lake habitat sampled	Habitat code	Depth (m) range	N fish total	Benthic nets	Floating nets	Lines	Traps
Pelagial <sup>1</sup>	PEL	0-20	63	-	63	0	-
Littoral <sup>2</sup>	LIT	0-20	105	105	-	0	0
Shallow-moderate profundal <sup>3</sup>	SDP	20-150	256	173	-	9	74
Deep-profundal <sup>4</sup>	ABY	150-350	33	-	-	1	32

1759

1760 <sup>1</sup> Deposited <20 m depth, over depths of >30 m, and >50 meters from shore, <sup>2</sup> from shore <20  
1761 m depth, <sup>3</sup> from shore at >20 m and <150 m depth, <sup>4</sup> deposited at >150 m depth > 100 m from  
1762 shore.

1763

1764 **Table 2.** Number and catch percentage of the total catch (N=457) partitioned into field  
1765 assigned morphs (FA-morphs) in the four lake habitats. The bottom row summarize the  
1766 number and catch percentage in the four habitats across the morphs and the last two columns  
1767 similarly summarize the catch of the morphs.  
1768

FA-morphs	PEL N	%	LIT N	%	SDP N	%	ABY N	%	In morph	%
Planktivore	63	13.8	102	22.3	117	25.6	-	-	282	61.7
Dwarf	-	-	1	0.2	80	17.5	-	-	81	17.7
Piscivore	-	-	2	0.4	59	12.9	1	0.2	62	13.6
Abyssal	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	7.0	32	7.0
Across morphs	63	13.8	105	23.0	256	56.0	33	7.2	457	

1769

1770      **Table 3.** The observed mtDNA-haplotypes in Lake Tinnsjøen and in the four Norwegian  
 1771      outgroup lakes. Colors represents three clades where haplotypes group together in the  
 1772      phylogenetic tree (see Fig. 6). Summarize statistics for genetic variation in the morphs and  
 1773      lakes is also given.

1774

Units	Haplotype	N fish	Planktivore	Dwarf	Piscivore	Abyssal	Tinnsjøen	Leirfoss	Vatnevatnet	Femunden	Tyrvatnet
Clade I	h1	45	1	9	5	2	17	5	8	9	6
	h2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	h10	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	h13	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Clade II	h5	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
	h6	23	2	6	1	14	23	-	-	-	-
	h7	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	h8	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	h9	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	h11	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
	h12	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Clade III	h3	37	16	3	14	4	37	-	-	-	-
	h4	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
N basepairs		851	851	851	851	851	851	851	851	851	851
N sequences		115	22	21	21	22	86	5	9	9	6
N haplotypes		13	6	6	4	5	12	1	2	1	1
Variable/singletons		11/8	5/4	5/3	3/1	4/2	10/7	0/0	1/1	0/0	0/0
Parsim. inf. sites		3	1	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	0
Hapl. diversity		0.709	0.476	0.743	0.519	0.576	0.711	0	0.222	0	0
Nucleot. Div. (Pi)		0.00131	0.00086	0.00125	0.00116	0.00078	0.00124	0	0.00026	0	0

1775

1776 **Table 4.** Assignment percentage based on discriminant analysis of PC-axis  
1777 1-5 for body shape comparing the four FA-morphs within Lake Tinnsjøen.  
1778

Unit compared	Individuals	Planktivore	Dwarf	Piscivore	Abyssal
Planktivore	282	<b>83.0</b>	9.9	1.1	0.4
Dwarf	81	8.6	<b>70.4</b>	14.8	1.2
Piscivore	62	-	25.8	<b>54.8</b>	8.1
Abyssal	32	-	-	9.4	<b>71.9</b>

1779

1780      **Table 5.** Association between genetically assigned morphs (GA-morphs) based on  
1781      microsatellite based STRUCTURE analysis ( $q > 0.70$ ) and the subjectively field-assigned  
1782      morphs (FA-morphs). The group GA – hybrids is fish with a  $q$ -value  $< 0.70$  and in such could  
1783      not be assigned to any specific GA-morph. Values are percentages within morphs using  
1784      genetic assignment in GA-morphs compared to FA-morphs.  
1785

Unit compared	Individuals	FA- Planktivore	FA- Dwarf	FA- Piscivore	FA- Abyssal
GA - Planktivore	166	<b>94.6</b>	3.0	2.4	-
GA - Dwarf	74	28.4	<b>55.4</b>	16.2	-
GA - Piscivore	41	4.9	17.9	<b>78.0</b>	-
GA - Abyssal	29	-	-	-	<b>100.0</b>
GA - hybrids	34	14.7	55.9	26.5	2.9

1786

1787 **Figure legends:**

1788

1789 **Fig. 1.** (A) Norway with Lake Tinnsjøen and the four outgroups sampled. (B) The River  
1790 Skienvassdraget wherein Lake Tinnsjøen is situated. Red lines denote dated ice-recession  
1791 lines in years before present (ybp) based on Bergstrøm [105]. Grey arrows denote the  
1792 youngest ice-flow direction in the end of the Pleistocene glaciation based on Bergstrøm [105].  
1793 The black bar at indicates the upper deposits of marine sediments. (C) The four nominal field  
1794 assigned arctic char morphs (FA-morphs) observed within Lake Tinnsjøen (note: fish scaled  
1795 to the same length).

1796

1797 **Fig. 2.** (A) Distribution of 88 mtDNA-Cytochrome B mtDNA haplotypes compared with  
1798 major clades in different colors according to figure B. White circles denote haplotypes not  
1799 well supported in figure B. (B) Circular phylogenetic tree of sequences mapped in figure A.  
1800 Here, a total of 13 Norwegian sequences and 75 haplotypes retrieved from GenBank (using a  
1801 cut-off of 200 highly similar BLAST sequences) are compared. Hhere, haplotype 31 was  
1802 found to be the most ancestral when rooted with three distant salmonid taxa (*Salmo trutta*,  
1803 *Oncorhynchus kisutch* and *Coregonus lavaretus*) (tree not shown). Major supported clades  
1804 have different colors. Main geographical regions are named on the outer circle. (C) A  
1805 minimum spanning network of haplotypes (not frequencies) in the major light purple clade  
1806 comprising Lake Tinnsjøen with geographical areas described. Haplotypes in red was found  
1807 in Lake Tinnsjøen. (D) A minimum spanning network with frequencies for haplotypes in  
1808 Lake Tinnsjøen. The three clades harbor haplotypes from Lake Tinnsjøen while more clades  
1809 can be found in the major light purple clade in figure B.

1810

1811 **Fig. 3.** (A) A crude bathymetric map of Lake Tinnsjøen (modified from; The Norwegian  
1812 Water resources and Energy Directorate; [http://gis3.nve.no/metadata/tema/DKBok1984/  
1813 Dybdekart\\_1984.htm](http://gis3.nve.no/metadata/tema/DKBok1984/Dybdekart_1984.htm)) [68]. (B) The association between the catch of the four FA-morphs in  
1814 the four lake habitats in Lake Tinnsjøen. A drawing of representative heads (lateral and  
1815 ventral views) of each of the four FA-morphs are given in top panel.

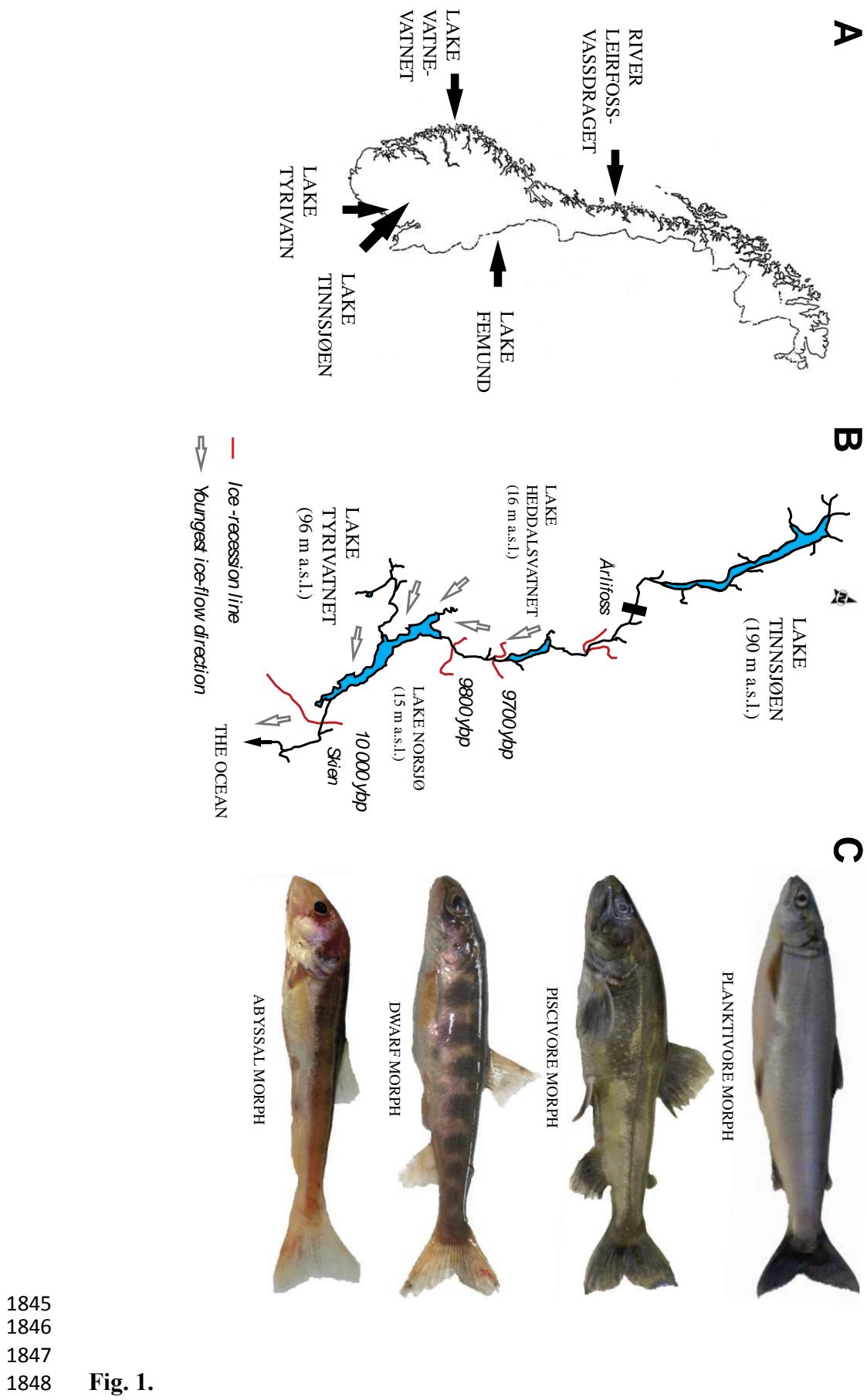
1816

1817 **Fig. 4.** (A) The 30 landmarks used for body shape analyses in Lake Tinnsjøen: 1. lower edge  
1818 of preoperculum, 2. edge of maxillary bone, 3. mouth opening, 4. tip of snout, 5. - 8. eye  
1819 positions, 9. mid edge of preoperculum, 10. posterior edge of preoperculum, 11. posterior  
1820 edge of operculum, 12. pectoral fin, 13. and 28.; dorsal fin, 14. pelvic fin, 15. and 29.; anal fin,  
1821 16. adipose fin, 17. upper tail root, 18. lower tail root, 19. end of the side line organ, 20. top of  
1822 head, 21. back above pectoral fin, 22. nostril, 23. over nostril, 24. under-jaw, 25. edge of  
1823 mouth, 26. lower edge of operculum, 27. transition zone from head to body, and 30. edge of  
1824 lower lip. (B) Principal component axis 1 versus respectively FA-morphs (left panel) and GA-  
1825 morphs (right panel) based on the 30 landmarks. (C) weight versus FA-morphs and GA-  
1826 morphs. (D) Age versus FA-morphs and GA-morphs. The youngest sexually mature male  
1827 (yellow line) and female (red line) are given. The graphs denote median values (white  
1828 horizontal line), 25% to 75% (solid blocks), and 10% to 90% percentiles (grey vertical line).  
1829 In figure A-C arbitrarily selected horizontal lines have been imposed for helping out visual  
1830 comparisons among the four FA-morphs and the four GA-morphs, and in two panels  
1831 compared.

1832

1833 **Fig. 5.** (A) STRUCTURE plot for K=8 genetic clusters based on the 10 microsatellites for the  
1834 four Lake Tinnsjøen FA-morphs and for the four Norwegian outgroup lakes. Abbreviations;  
1835 Lake Tinnsjøen (Ab=abyssal morph, Dw=dwarf morph, Pl=planktivore morph, Pi=piscivore  
1836 morph), Fe=Lake Femund, Ty=Lake Tyrivatn, Va=Lake Vatnevatnet and Le=Leirfoss-

1837 vassdraget River. **(B)** PCA plot of microsatellite alleles partitioned into the five lakes studied  
1838 (different letters denote significant differences on PC1; colors match figure A). **(C)** Three-  
1839 dimensional PCA plot of microsatellite alleles for the four FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen only  
1840 (a subset of the four lakes visualized in figure B). The colours in graphs represents heads of  
1841 the four FA-morphs given on the sides of the graph. **(D)** STRUCTURE plot for K=4 based on  
1842 microsatellites in the four FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen. Note that the colors in figure C and  
1843 D are different and do not correspond to the same morphs across figures.  
1844

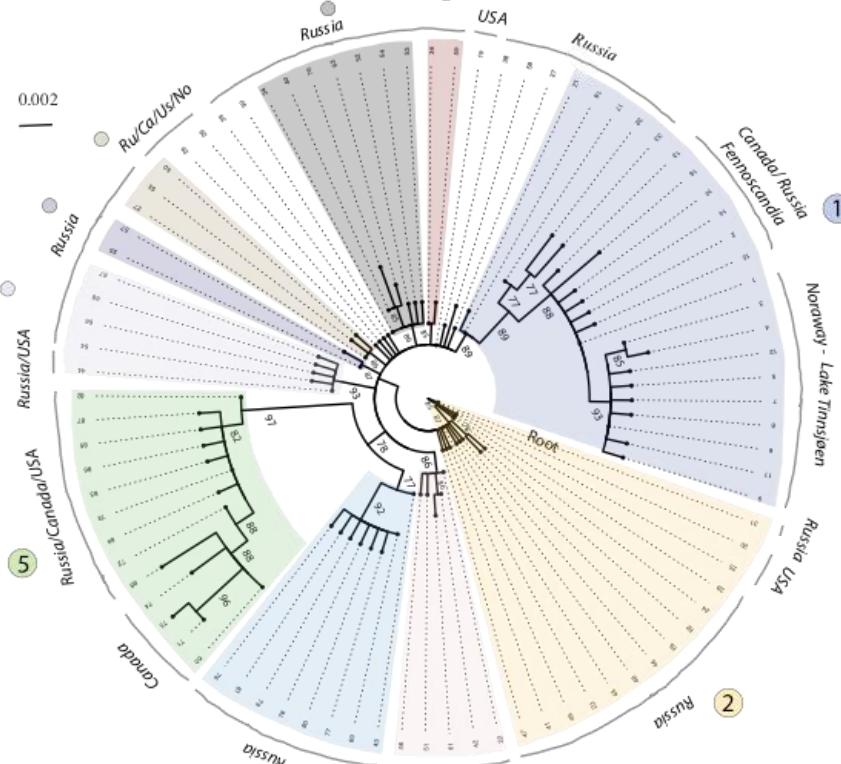


**Fig. 1.**

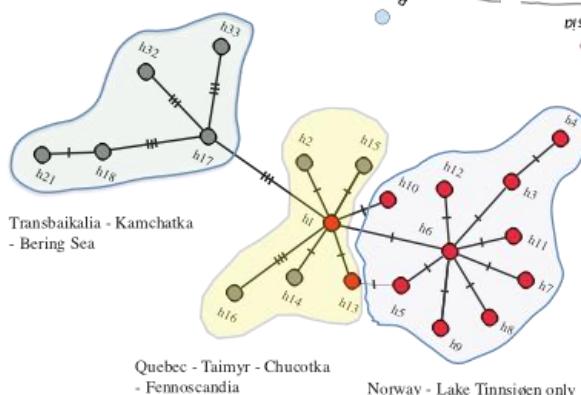
A



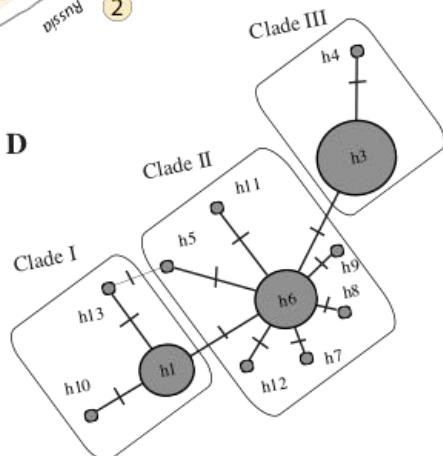
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C



D



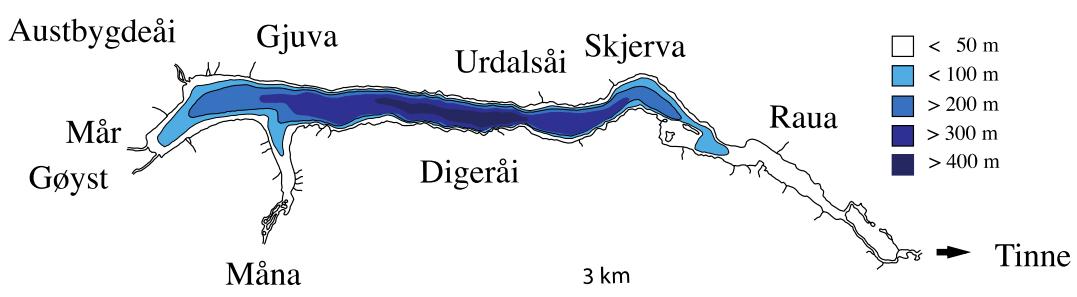
1849

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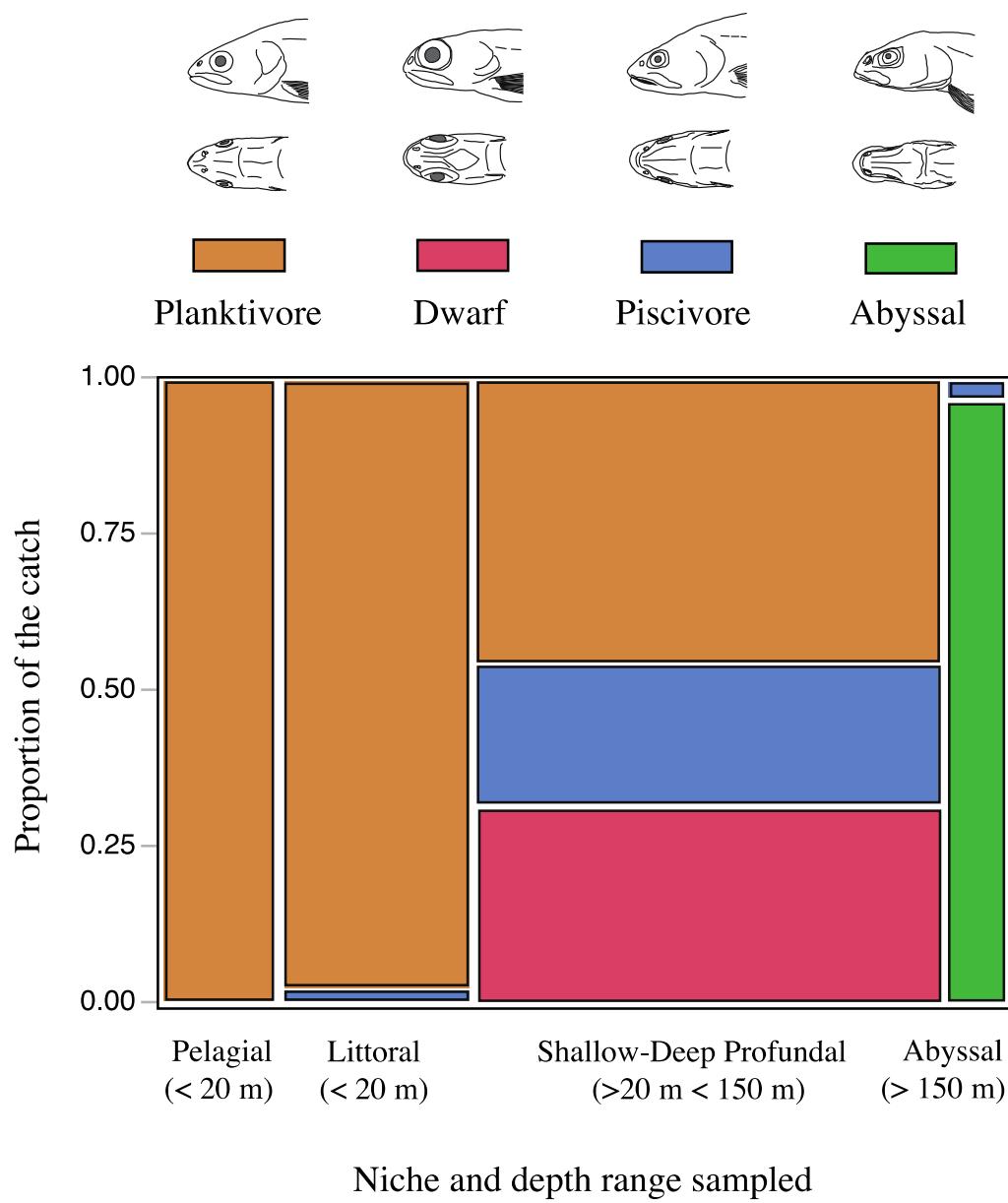
1851 **Fig. 2.**

1852

A



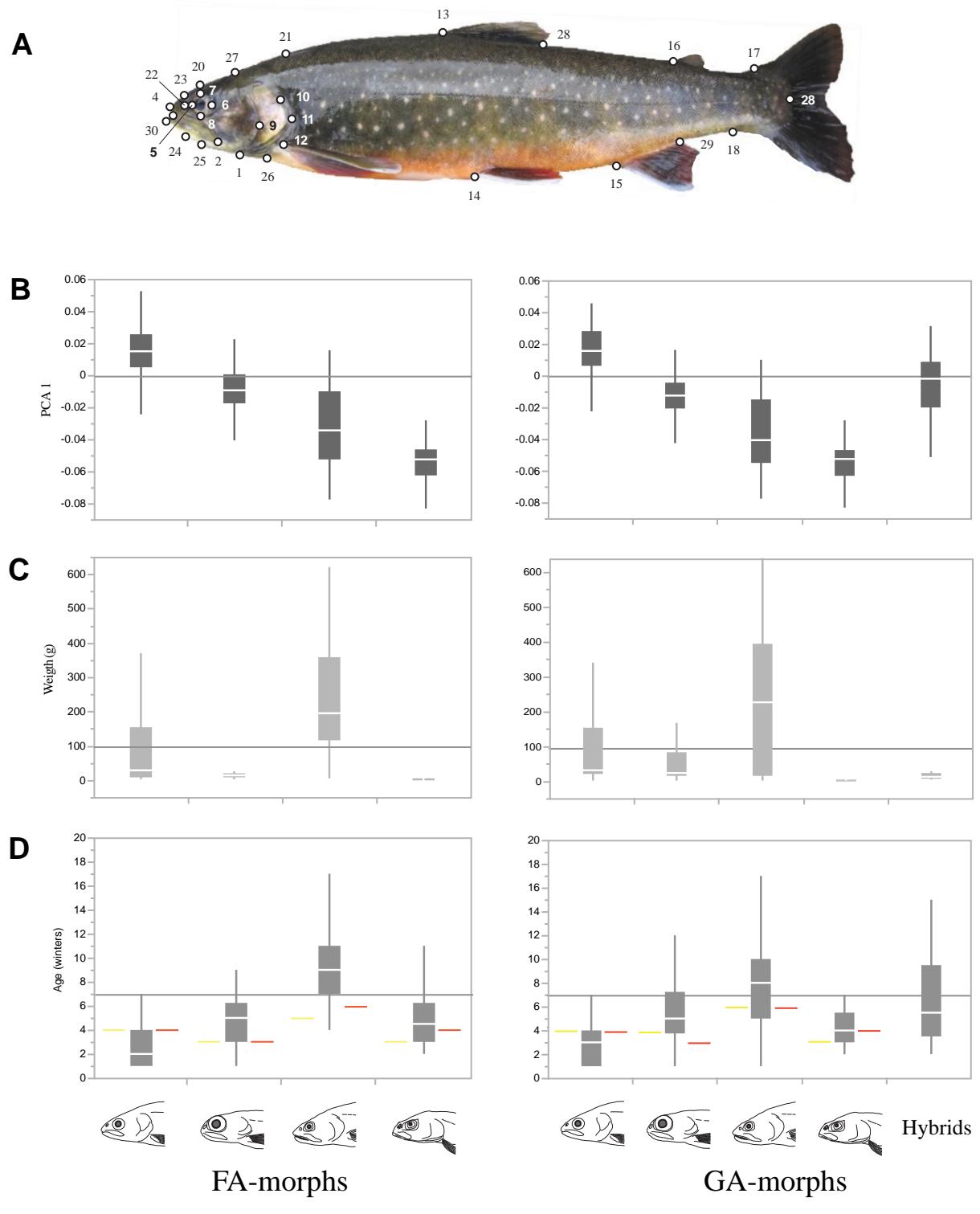
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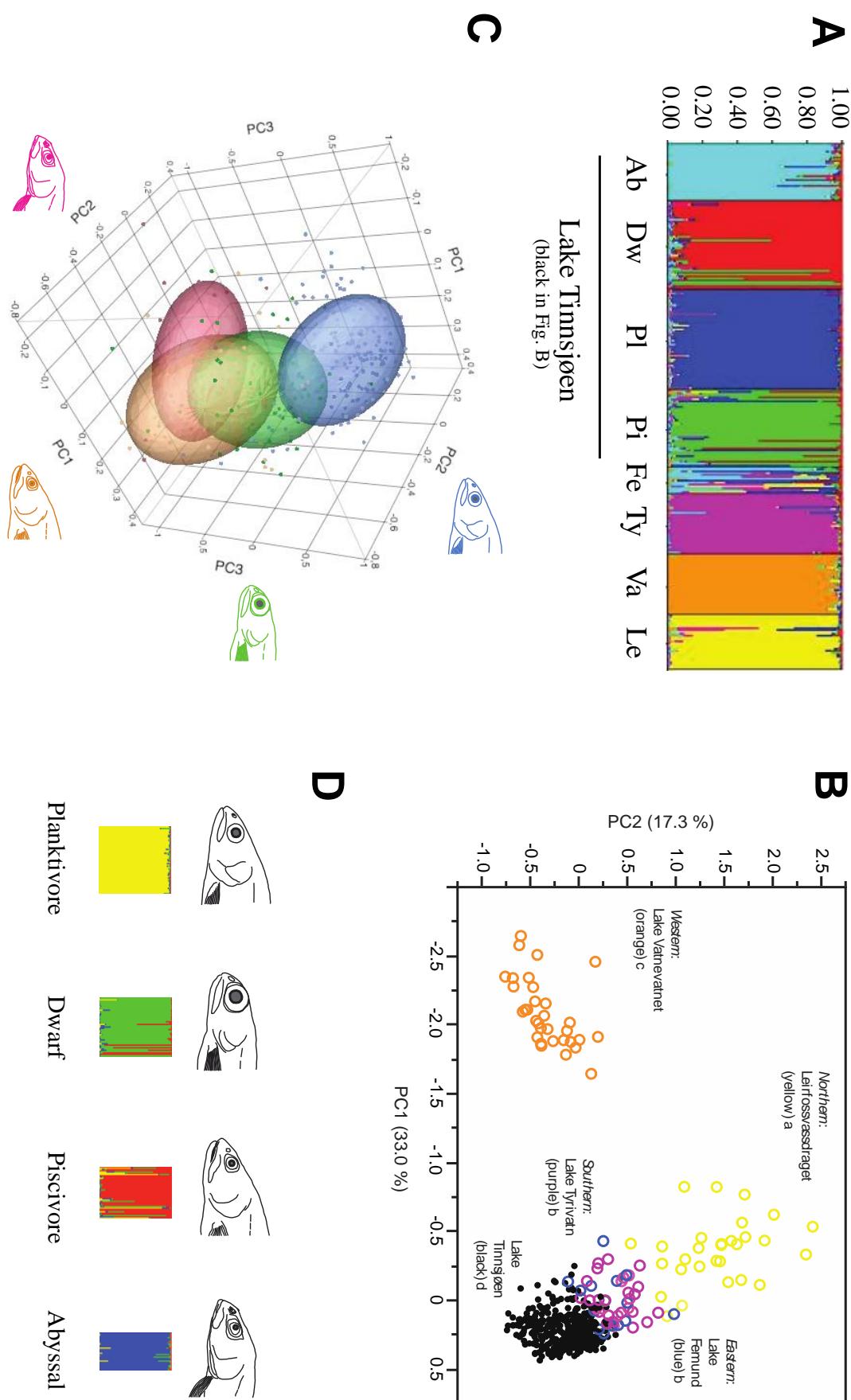


1853

1854

1855 **Fig. 3.**





1862 **Additional files summary**

1863

1864 **Additional file: Table S1.** Summary table for the number of arctic char in different analyses.

1865

1866 **Additional file: Table S2a.** The 88 Cytochrome B - mtDNA haplotypes compared in

1867 Holarctic *Salvelinus* sp. including Lake Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroups and

1868 similar sequences in GenBank. **This is a separate excel file not yet released.**

1869

1870 **Additional file: Table S2b.** Description of 10 microsatellites used in arctic char in Lake

1871 Tinnsjøen and in four Norwegian outgroups.

1872

1873 **Additional file: Table S2c.** Raw data of the 10 microsatellites used in arctic char in Lake

1874 Tinnsjøen and the 4 Norwegian outgroups. **This is a separate excel file not yet released.**

1875

1876 **Additional file: Table S3:** The best substitution model selection in IQ-Tree with the best five

1877 models for the combined dataset of 88 haplotypes (13 Norwegian haplotypes

1878 and the 75 haplotypes found in Genbank).

1879

1880 **Additional file: Table S4.** Pairwise distance in mtDNA Cytochrome B FST values among the

1881 four FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen.

1882

1883 **Additional file: Table S5.** Summary statistics for genetic-demographic analyses in DNAsp

1884 for the three clades in Lake Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroup lakes.

1885

1886 **Additional file: Table S6.** Association between genetically assigned morphs (GA-morphs)

1887 and their catch in the four lake habitats.

1888

1889 **Additional file: Table S7.** Assignment percentage based on discriminant analysis of PC-axis

1890 1-5 for body shape in four FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen compared a putative ancestor in

1891 Lake Tyrivann.

1892

1893 **Additional file: Table S8.** Genetic diversity measures for microsatellites summarized for the

1894 four Lake Tinnsjøen morphs and four outgroup lakes.

1895

1896 **Additional file: Table S9.** Output of hierarchical STRUCTURE analyses regarding the most

1897 likely K clusters in Lake Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroup lakes.

1898

1899 **Additional file: Table S10.** FST values for FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen and four outgroup

1900 lakes.

1901

1902 **Additional file: Table S11.** FST values for the five lakes studied combining four FA-morphs

1903 in Lake Tinnsjøen into one group.

1904

1905 **Additional file: Table S12.** FST values for “genetically pure” (i.e.  $q > 0.7$ ) GA-morphs in

1906 Lake Tinnsjøen.

1907

1908 **Additional file: Figure S1.** Hierarchical STRUCTURE plot using the four morphs in Lake

1909 Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroup lakes.

1910

1911 **ADDITIONAL FILE INFORMATION**

1912

1913 **Additional file: Table S1.** Summary table for the different number of arctic char used in  
1914 different analyses.

1915

Lake/source	FA-morph	Sampled - N	Body shape - N	MtDNA - N	Microsatellites - N	Weigh FA	Weigh GA	Age FA	Age GA
Tinnsjøen	Planktivore	282	266	22	185	282	166	85	55
	Dwarf	81	78	20	73	81	74	34	30
	Piscivore	62	55	22	57	62	41	37	35
	Abyssal	32	32	22	30	32	29	26	25
	Hybrids	-	-	-	-	-	34	-	10
Tyrvann	-	32	26	6	32	-	-	-	-
Vatnevatn	-	64	-	9	32	-	-	-	-
Leirfoss	-	?	-	5	29	-	-	-	-
Femund	-	14	-	9	14	-	-	-	-
Genbank	-	-	-	77	-	-	-	-	-
Sum		567	457	192	452	457	344	182	155

1916

1917 **Additional file: Table S2a.** The 88 Cytochrome B - mtDNA haplotypes compared in  
1918 Holarctic *Salvelinus* sp. including Lake Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroups and  
1919 similar sequences in GenBank. **This is a separate excel file not yet released.**  
1920  
1921

1922  
1923  
1924  
1925

**Additional file: Table S2b.** Description of 10 microsatellites that was used in arctic char in Lake Tinnsjøen and in four Norwegian outgroups.

Locus	Range base pair (bp) in our study	Sequence repeat motif (see the reference in last column)	Initially described motif	GenBank accesession number	Reference for microsatellite markers
OMM1105 <sup>1</sup>	112-194	(AGAC) <sub>23</sub> (GATA) <sub>16</sub>	Not defined	AF352768	Rexroad et al. (2001)
SalF56SFU <sup>2</sup>	183-211	(TG) <sub>25</sub>	Dinucleotide	AF537307	McGowan et al. (2004)
SalP61SFU <sup>3</sup>	108-164	(CA) <sub>18</sub>	Dinucleotide	AF537312	McGowan et al. (2004)
Sco204 <sup>*</sup>	not given	(TCTA) <sub>29</sub>	Tetranucleotide	AY88873	DeHaan and Arden (2005)
Sco212 <sup>4</sup>	226-382	(ATCT) <sub>18</sub>	Tetranucleotide	AY88881	DeHaan and Arden (2005)
Sco218 <sup>5</sup>	161-245	(GATA) <sub>31</sub>	Tetranucleotide	AY88887	DeHaan and Arden (2005)
Sco220 <sup>6</sup>	239-367	(ATAG) <sub>5</sub> (ATAC) <sub>2</sub> (ATAG) <sub>15</sub> -	Tetranucleotide	AY88889	DeHaan and Arden (2005)
SMM17 <sup>7</sup>	105-135	(CA) <sub>29</sub>	Dinucleotide	AY327127	Crane et al. (2004)
SMM22 <sup>8</sup>	155-271	(TAGA) <sub>19</sub>	Tetranucleotide	AY327129	Crane et al. (2004)
SalJ81SFU <sup>9</sup>	101-159	(GT) <sub>33</sub>	Dinucleotide	AF537304	McGowan et al. (2004)
Sco215 <sup>10</sup>	275-283	(GAAA) <sub>16</sub> (GA) <sub>6</sub> -	Tetranucleotide	AY88884	DeHaan and Arden (2005)

1926

1927 References:

1928

1929 Crane PA, Lewis CJ, Kretschmer EJ, Miller SJ, Spearman WJ, DeCicco AL, Lisac MJ, Wenburg JK.  
1930 2004. Characterization and inheritance of seven microsatellite loci from Dolly Varden, *Salvelinus*  
1931 *malma*, and cross-species amplification in Arctic char, *S. alpinus*. *Conservation Genetics* 5:737-741.  
1932

1933 DeHaan PW, Ardren WR. 2005. Characterization of 20 highly variable tetranucleotide microsatellite  
1934 loci for bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and cross amplification in other *Salvelinus* species.  
1935 Molecular Ecology Notes 5:582- 585.

1936

1937 McGowan CR, Davidson EA, Woram RA, Danzmann RG, Ferguson MM, Davidson WS.  
1938 2004. Ten polymorphic microsatellite markers from Arctic charr (*Salvelinus alpinus*): linkage  
1939 analysis and amplification in other salmonids. *Anim. Gen.* 35:462-504.

1940

1941 Rexroad III CE, Coleman RL, Herschberger WK, Killefer J. 2012. Rapid communication:  
1942 Thirty-eight polymorphic microsatellite markers for mapping in rainbow trout. *J. Anim. Sci.*  
1943 80:541-542.

1944

1945 \* This locus was not used in our analysis as it was in LD with another locus, thus no range in  
basepairs have been provided.

1946

1947 **Additional file: Table S2c.** The 10 microsatellites used in arctic char in Lake Tinnsjøen and  
1948 the 4 Norwegian outgroups. **This is a separate excel file not yet released.**  
1949

1950 **Additional file: Table S3:** The best substitution model selection in IQ-Tree  
1951 (<http://www.iqtree.org/>) [73-75; Nguyen et al. 2015, Kalyaanamoorthy et al. 2017, Hoang et  
1952 al. 2018] with the best five models for the combined dataset of 88 haplotypes (13 Norwegian  
1953 haplotypes and the 75 haplotypes found in Genbank). The best models selected was based on  
1954 BIC in bold.

1955

Model	LogL	AIC	w-AIC	AICcc	w-AICc	BIC	w-BIC
<b>TN+F+I</b>	<b>-1986.5</b>	<b>4331.1</b>	<b>+0.1323</b>	<b>4427.1</b>	<b>+0.2382</b>	<b>5180.7</b>	<b>+0.5160</b>
TN+F+G4	-1987.1	4332.1	+0.0765	4428.2	+0.1377	5181.8	+0.2982
TN+F+I+G4	-1985.3	4330.7	+0.1599	4427.9	+0.1566	5185.0	+0.0581
TIM2+F+I	-1985.8	4331.7	+0.0969	4428.9	+0.0949	5186.0	-0.0352
TIM3+F+I	-1986.3	4332.7	+0.0589	4429.9	+0.0577	5187.0	-0.0214

1956

1957

1958 **References:**

1959

1960 73. Nguyen L-T, Schmidt HA, von Haeseler A, Minh BQ. IQ-TREE: A fast and effective  
1961 stochastic algorithm for estimating maximum likelihood phylogenies. Mol Biol Evol.  
1962 2015;32:268-274. doi: 10.1093/molbev/msu300

1963 74. Hoang DT, Chernomor O, von Haseler A, Minh BQ, Vinh LS. UFBoot2: Improving  
1964 the ultrafast bootstrap approximation. Mol Biol Evol. 2018;35:518-522.

1965 75. Kalyaanamoorthy S, Minh BQ, Wong TKF, von Haeseler A, Jermiin LS.  
1966 ModelFinder: Fast model selection for accurate phylogenetic estimates. Nature  
1967 Methods. 2017;14:587-589.

1968

1969

1970

1971 **Additional file: Table S4.** Pairwise distance mtDNA Cytochrome B  
1972 FST values among the four FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen. In the  
1973 lower diagonal is given FST values while in the upper diagonal is  
1974 presented p-values. Significant FST values are highlighted in bold.  
1975  
1976

Morph	Planktivore	Dwarf	Piscivore	Abyssal
Planktivore		<0.001	0.144	<0.001
Dwarf	<b>0.382</b>		0.027	0.009
Piscivore	0.042	<b>0.208</b>		<0.001
Abyssal	<b>0.320</b>	<b>0.119</b>	<b>0.226</b>	

1977

1978 **Additional file: Table S5.** Summary statistics for genetic-demographic analyses in DNAsp  
1979 for the three clades that occur in Lake Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroup lakes.  
1980 These clades have been selected based on the bootstrap support (>85%) (see Fig. 2b).  
1981 Values in bold denote a significant test with regard to population expansion events.  
1982

Parameter	Clade I	Clade II	Clade III
N basepairs	851	851	851
N sequences	48	29	38
N haplotypes	4	7	2
Variable sites/singleton sites	3/3	6/6	1/1
Parsimony informative sites	0	0	0
Haplotype diversity	0.122	0.377	0.053
Nucleotide diversity (Pi)	0.00015	0.00049	0.00006
Mean pairwise differences k	0.12500	0.41379	0.05263
Theta per site from S, Theta-W	0.00079	0.00180	0.00028
Theta per sequence from S, Theta-W	0.67599	1.52782	0.23801
Raggedness r	0.5882	0.1734	0.8033
Ramos-Onsins & Rozas R <sup>2</sup>	0.0807	0.0675	0.1601
Theta initial	0.000	0.000	0.000
Tau	0.125	0.414	0.053
Tajima's D	-1.70014	-2.09841	-1.12863
Tajima's D, P-value	> 0.05	<b>&lt; 0.05</b>	> 0.10
Fu and Li's D	-2.99741	-3.39754	-1.75813
Fu and Li's D, P-value	<b>&lt; 0.05</b>	<b>&lt; 0.02</b>	> 0.10

1983

1984 **Additional file: Table S6.** Association between genetically assigned morphs (GA-morphs)  
1985 based on STRUCTURE where “pure” morphs have  $q < 0.7$  and hybrids have  $q > 0.7$  and their  
1986 catch in the four lake habitats. Values are percentages within morphs (rows) while the bottom  
1987 row summarize overall percentage of catch in the four lake habitats. The last column  
1988 summarize the overall percentage in the field catches with regard to relative percentage of  
1989 GA-morphs.

1990

GA-morphs	Individuals	PEL	LIT	SDP	ABY	% of catch
Planktivore	166	19.3	33.1	47.6	-	48.3
Dwarf	74	-	5.4	93.2	1.4	21.5
Piscivore	41	-	-	100.0	-	11.9
Abyssal	29	-	-	-	100.0	8.4
Hybrids	34	-	2.9	94.1	2.9	9.9
% in habitats	344	9.3	17.4	64.3	9.0	100.0

1991

1992   **Additional file: Table S7.** Assignment percentage based on discriminant analysis of PC-axis  
1993   1-5 for body shape in four FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen compared a putative ancestor in  
1994   Lake Tyrvann. The bold values denote “correct” back assignment to the original population  
1995   or morph categories.

1996

Unit compared	Fish#	Lake Tyrvann	Planktivore	Dwarf	Piscivore	Abyssal
Lake Tyrvann	32	<b>71.9</b>	18.8	6.3	3.1	-
Planktivore	282	13.8	<b>66.3</b>	12.8	1.4	-
Dwarf	81	14.8	16.0	<b>44.4</b>	14.8	6.2
Piscivore	62	3.2	3.2	21.0	<b>51.6</b>	9.7
Abyssal	32	-	-	3.1	12.5	<b>65.6</b>

1997

1998    **Additional file: Table S8.** Genetic diversity measures for microsatellites summarized for the  
1999    four Lake Tinnsjøen morphs and four outgroup lakes.  
2000

Morph/ population	Number of alleles	Private allele richness	Allelic richness	$F_{IS}$	Heterozygosity	Gene diversity
Lake Tinnsjøen	163	0.29	8.09	0.020	0.560	0.750
<i>Planktivore</i>	185	0.38	8.63	-0.006	0.802	0.690
<i>Dwarf</i>	73	0.22	8.23	0.020	0.674	0.677
<i>Piscivore</i>	57	0.13	7.46	0.035	0.128	0.602
<i>Abyssal</i>	30	0.41	8.03	0.048	0.653	0.683
Lake Tyrivann	32	0.52	7.56	-0.012	0.820	0.683
Lake Vatnevatn	32	0.68	6.02	0.024	0.160	0.567
Lake Leirfoss	29	0.69	7.53	0.118	0.178	0.761
Lake Femund	14	0.52	7.56	-0.012	0.820	0.683

2001

2002   **Additional file: Table S9.** Output of hierarchical STRUCTURE runs using STRUCTURE-HARVESTER evaluations regarding the most likely K clusters in Lake Tinnsjøen and the  
2003   four Norwegian outgroup lakes. The most likely number of K clusters were interpreted to be  
2004   K=8 based on these hierarchical analyses.  
2005  
2006

	K	LnP(K)	Stdev LnP(K)	Ln'(K)	Ln"(K)	DeltaK
Run 1	5	-16833,62	2,2533	425,38	719,34	319,239317
Run 2	6	-15537,47	106,8824	481,33	926,71	8,670372
Run 3	4	-14525,71	3,8748	471,5	360,12	92,938191
Run 4	5	-16833,62	2,2533	425,38	719,34	319,239317
Run 5	4	-12521,01	85,8263	118,74	NA	NA

2007

2008    **Additional file: Table S10.** FST values for FA-morphs in Lake Tinnsjøen and four outgroup  
2009    lakes. Lower diagonal; using conventional methods and upper diagonal: using ENA  
2010    corrections. All comparisons are significant.  
2011

	Abyssal	Dwarf	Planktivore	Piscivore	Femund	Tyrvatnet	Vatnevatnet	Leirfoss
Abyssal		0.130	0.144	0.158	0.117	0.174	0.251	0.170
Dwarf	0.136		0.119	0.132	0.127	0.107	0.265	0.179
Planktivore	0.149	0.119		0.195	0.085	0.147	0.257	0.140
Piscivore	0.160	0.133	0.196		0.165	0.208	0.286	0.217
Femund	0.119	0.128	0.080	0.168		0.117	0.247	0.109
Tyrvatnet	0.179	0.109	0.147	0.210	0.117		0.269	0.159
Vatnevatnet	0.259	0.268	0.261	0.291	0.251	0.272		0.233
Leirfoss	0.175	0.183	0.142	0.218	0.108	0.160	0.234	

2012

2013 **Additional file: Table S11.**  $F_{ST}$  values for the five lakes studied combining four FA-morphs  
2014 in Lake Tinnsjøen into one group. Lower diagonal; using conventional methods and  
2015 upper diagonal: using ENA corrections. All the comparisons are significant.  
2016

	Tinnsjøen	Femund	Tyrvatnet	Vatnevatnet	Leirfoss
Tinnsjøen		0.057	0.101	0.199	0.113
Femund	0.057		0.117	0.247	0.109
Tyrvatnet	0.100	0.117		0.269	0.159
Vatnevatnet	0.203	0.251	0.272		0.233
Leirfoss	0.117	0.108	0.160	0.234	

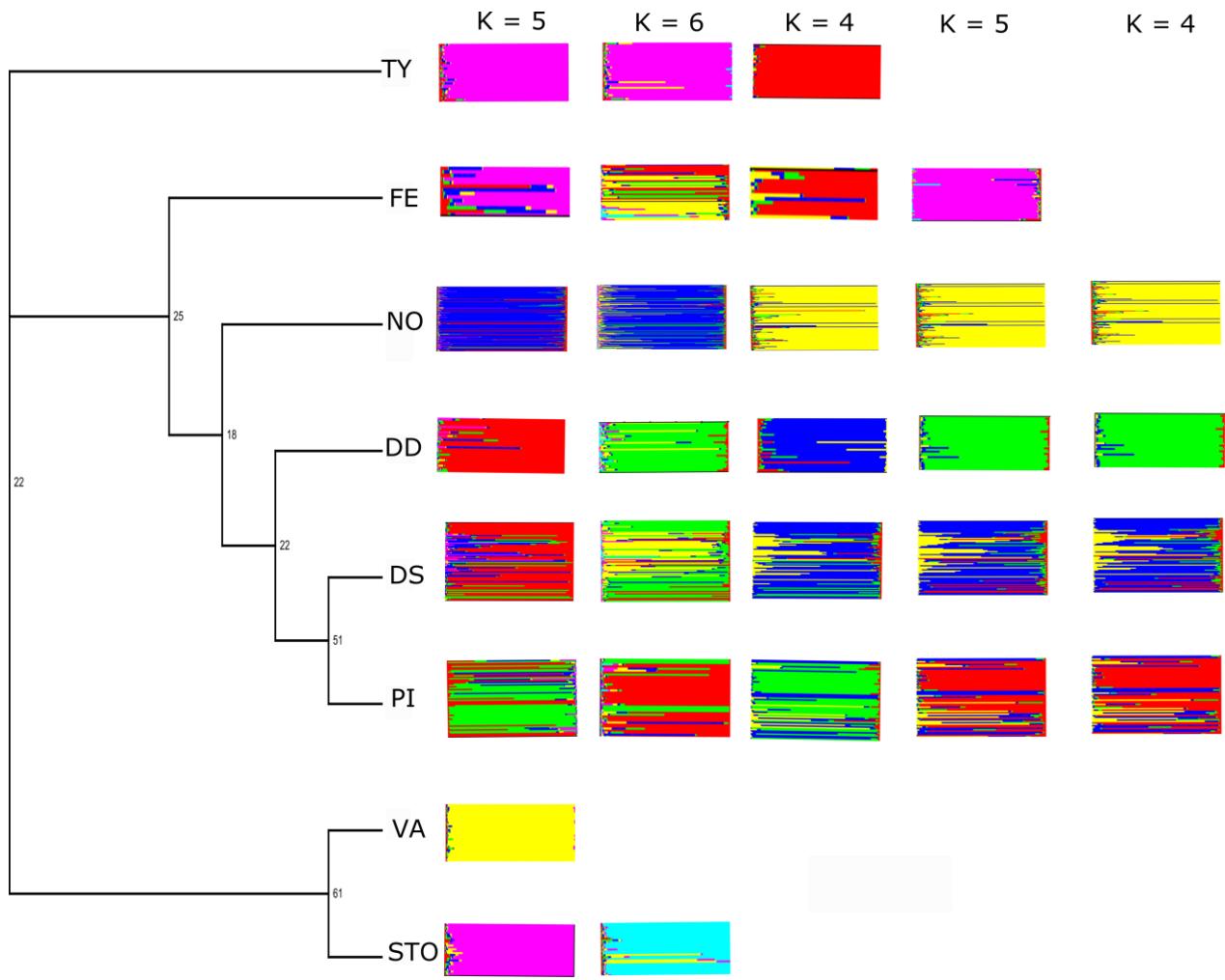
2017

2018    **Additional file: Table S12.**  $F_{ST}$  values for “genetically pure” (i.e.  $q > 0.7$ ) GA-morphs in  
2019    Lake Tinnsjøen. Lower diagonal; using conventional methods and upper diagonal:  
2020    using ENA corrections. All the comparisons are significant.  
2021

	Planktivore	Dwarf	Piscivore	Abyssal
Planktivore		0.087	0.212	0.130
Dwarf	0.088		0.185	0.126
Piscivore	0.212	0.185		0.201
Abyssal	0.135	0.131	0.201	

2022

2023 **Additional file: Figure S1.** Hierarchical STRUCTURE plot using the four morphs in Lake  
2024 Tinnsjøen and the four Norwegian outgroup lakes. NO=plantivore morph, DD=abyssal morph,  
2025 DS=dwarf, PI=piscivore morph, while TY, FE, VA and STO are outgroup lakes in Norway.  
2026  
2027



2028  
2029