

REVIEW

Genome-wide association and genomic selection in aquaculture

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Funding information

Alliance of international Science Organization - ANSO, Grant/Award Number: ANSO-CR-PP-2021-03; Fondo Nacional de Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico, Grant/Award Number: 1211761; National Natural Science Foundation of China, Grant/Award Number: U21A20264

Abstract

Recent advancements in genomic technologies have led to the discovery and application of DNA-markers [e.g. single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)] for the genetic improvement of several aquaculture species. The identification of specific genomic regions associated with economically important traits, using, for example, genome-wide association studies (GWAS), has allowed the discovery and incorporation of markers linked to quantitative trait loci (QTL) into aquaculture breeding programs through marker-assisted selection (MAS). However, most of the traits of economic relevance are expected to be controlled by many QTLs, each one explaining only a small proportion of the genetic variation. For traits under polygenic control, prediction of the genetic merit of animals based on the sum of effects at positions across the entire genome (i.e. genomic estimated breeding values, GEBV, which are used for what has become known as genomic selection), has been demonstrated to speed the rate of genetic gain for several traits in aquaculture breeding. The aim of this review was to provide an overview of the development and application of genomic technologies in uncovering the genetic basis of complex traits and accelerating the genetic progress in aquaculture species, as well as providing future perspectives about the deployment of novel molecular technologies for selective breeding in coming years.

KEYWORDS

aquaculture, genomic selection, GWAS, quantitative trait loci, selection signature, single-nucleotide polymorphism

1 | INTRODUCTION

Rapidly expanding aquaculture production represents the potential for a fast increase in fish supply.¹ The efficiency and sustainability of fish farming will be crucial to meet the need for protein for human consumption in the near future. Selective breeding of fish and shellfish species represents an efficient way of sustainably

increasing production by means of improving traits such as rapid growth, product quality, disease resistance and tolerance to diverse environmental stressors.^{2,3} Encouragingly, annual genetic gains reported for aquatic species are in general substantially higher than those for terrestrial farm animals, and there is considerable scope for achieving significant positive economic impact via selective breeding schemes.^{2,4,5}

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In aquaculture, as in terrestrial livestock species, there is increasing interest in applying genomic information to accelerate genetic progress for traits that are difficult to measure on the selection candidates.⁶ Quantitative trait loci (QTLs; refer to Table 1 for full list of abbreviations) with a large effect on economically important traits were initially mapped using sparse molecular markers (e.g. microsatellites) and linkage analyses in several fish and shellfish species; some examples were reviewed in Yue et al.⁷ The most successful case of implementation of marker-assisted selection (MAS) in aquaculture species is related to a major QTL controlling nearly 80% of the genetic variance for resistance to infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPNV) in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*),⁸⁻¹⁰ which has been successfully implemented in commercial stocks.⁸ Moen et al.^{8,9} showed how, in the case of IPNV, haplotyping could be used to determine quantitative trait nucleotide (QTN) genotypes accurately at the population level (as opposed to within individual family groups), even with sparse microsatellite markers. However, this case is not representative, and in most cases, the practical application of QTL for selective

breeding has been limited by the low proportion of the heritability explained by marked QTLs and the inconsistency of the linkage phase among families from the same population (i.e. which marker allele is associated with the performance-increasing QTL allele).

With the emergence of genome-wide single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping panels, the genetic architecture of quantitative traits and loci controlling them have been studied with a deeper level of resolution by applying genome-wide association studies (GWAS). This approach exploits the population linkage disequilibrium (LD) to identify association between particular genetic variants and phenotypic variation for relevant traits.⁶ Furthermore, dense SNP panels can be used to implement genomic selection schemes, which can yield accurate individual estimated breeding values (EBVs), by assuming that the genetic variance for a particular trait is explained by the additive effects of thousands of loci with very small effects uniformly distributed throughout the genome.¹¹ In a common aquaculture genomic selection scheme (Figure 1), individuals genetically connected to the selection candidates (e.g. full- and half-siblings) are phenotyped and genotyped (i.e. as the 'training' population), while the selection candidates are only genotyped (i.e. as the 'testing' population). Data from training population is used to estimate the individual SNP effects, and genomic EBVs are predicted for the selection candidates using all genotyped SNPs.¹²⁻¹⁴ Thus, genomic selection has the potential to increase accuracy of selection and accelerate the genetic progress for traits which cannot be directly measured on the selection candidates (e.g. carcass quality and disease resistance traits). As an example of the impact of genomic selection in animal breeding, it is estimated that in the dairy cattle industry, more than 3 million animals have been genotyped since 2008 and genomic selection is considered to have doubled the rate of genetic progress.¹⁵ It is expected that genomic selection will be increasingly adopted by the aquaculture industry.

In this review, we cover the status of genomic resources available in fish and shellfish species with relevance for aquaculture (e.g. salmon, trout, carp, tilapia, catfish, shrimp, scallops and oysters) and how these tools are being used to (i) leverage the discovery of loci controlling economically important traits, (ii) accelerate genetic progress using genomic selection and (iii) detect the genetic variants involved in domestication and selection in aquaculture species.

2 | GENOMIC RESOURCES FOR AQUACULTURE SPECIES

Genomic resources for the most important aquaculture species globally have become more widely available in recent years. These resources include high-quality reference genome assemblies and genome-wide SNP panels for several species. The current status of reference genome sequences available for important aquaculture species is shown in Table 2. The genome biology of aquaculture species can prove highly complex. For instance, the duplication of the complete set of chromosomes has occurred in an extensive and independent manner in many groups of fish,¹⁶ such as pseudotetraploidy in

TABLE 1 List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
SNP	Single-nucleotide polymorphism
GWAS	Genome-wide association study
QTL	Quantitative trait loci
MAS	Marker-assisted selection
GEBV	Genomic estimated breeding values
IPNV	Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus
QTN	Quantitative trait nucleotide
LD	Linkage disequilibrium
EBV	Estimated breeding value
GBS	Genotyping-by-sequencing
RAD-seq	Restriction site-associated DNA sequencing
SSA	Salmon alphavirus
PMCV	Piscine myocarditis virus
qPCR	Quantitative polymerase chain reaction
BCWD	Bacterial cold-water disease
IHNV	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus
PD	Pancreas disease
CMS	Cardiomyopathy syndrome
VNN	Viral nervous necrosis
LG	Linkage group
ddRAD-seq	Double-digest restriction site-associated DNA sequencing
WSSV	White spot syndrome virus
IBD	Identity-by-descent
GO	Gene ontology
H _p	Pooled heterozygosity
XP-EHH	Cross Population Extended haplotype homozygosity
SRS	Salmon rickettsial syndrome

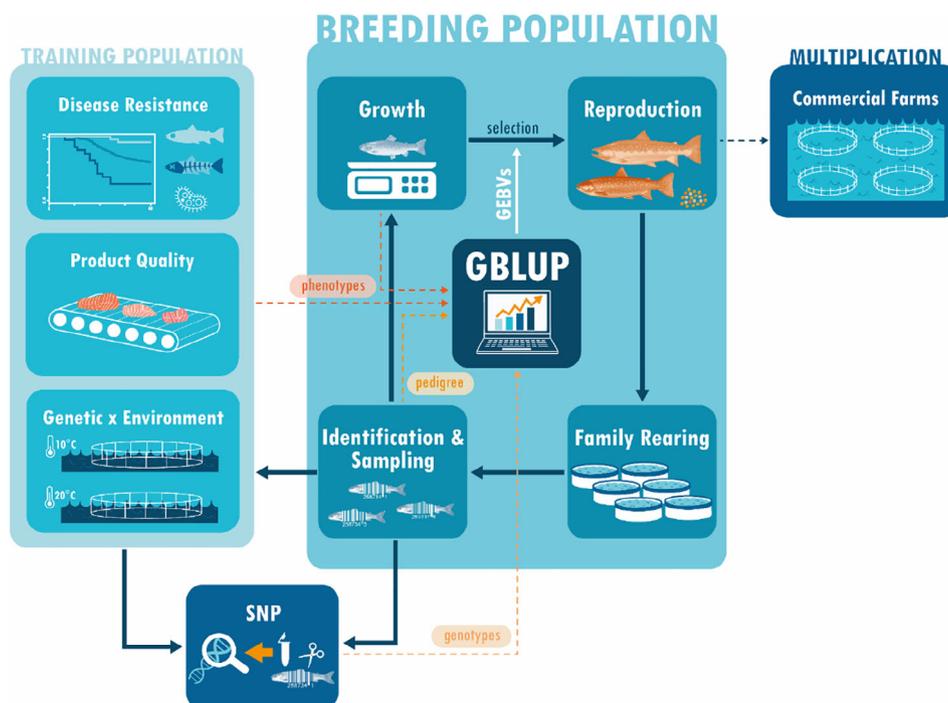


FIGURE 1 The breeding population is comprised broodstock that are spawned in the reproduction season to generate several (hundreds) of full- and half-sib families reared in separate tanks. When the individuals are large enough to be physically tagged, they are individually identified to maintain pedigree traceability during the whole cycle. Some of the tagged animals are kept as selection candidates in the breeding nucleus until they are measured at commercial weight. Other groups of tagged animals (full- and half-sibs of the selection candidates), representing all families from the breeding nucleus, are sent to genotype-by-environment, product-quality and disease-resistance testing to evaluate training genotypes with phenotypes (i.e. to become training populations). All physically tagged animals are sampled and genotyped using SNP panels. The information from pedigree, phenotypes and genotypes from the training populations and selection candidates are jointly analysed through genomic evaluation methods (e.g. GBLUP) to predict GEBVs, which in turn are used to make selection decisions for the next reproduction season and to accelerate the transfer of superior genetics to commercial farms via multiplication

TABLE 2 Current status of the reference genomes for important aquaculture species

Species	Assembly	Release date	Coverage	Number of contigs	Contig N50 (bp)	Total (GB)
Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	GCA_905237065.2	21 April 2021	70×	4222	28,058,890	2.8
Rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)	GCA_002163495.1	3 May 2017	244.0×	559,855	13,827	2.2
Coho salmon (<i>O. kisutch</i>)	GCA_002021735.1	3 May 2017	213.0×	97,074	58,118	2.4
German mirror carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	GCA_004011555.1	10 January 2019	221.74×	53,446	94,545	1.4
Yellow River carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio haematoperus</i>)	GCA_004011575.1	10 January 2019	211.94×	184,435	59,678	1.42
Hebao red carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	GCA_004011595.1	10 January 2019	186.66×	316,365	36,306	1.46
Grass carp (<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>)	http://www.ncgr.ac.cn/grasscarp	29 July 2015	132.1×	5701 scaffolds	40,781	0.87
Goldfish (<i>Carassius auratus</i>)	GCA_003368295.1	9 August 2018	71.0×	8463	821,153	1.8
Nile tilapia (<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>)	GCA_001858045.3	31 October 2016	44.0×	3010	2,923,640	1
Channel catfish (<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>)	GCA_001660625.1	9 June 2016	54.0×	34,544	77,201	0.8
Pangasius (<i>Pangasianodon hypophthalmus</i>)	GCA_003671635.1	22 October 2018	130.0×	23,339	62,522	0.7
Eastern oyster (<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>)	GCA_002022765.4	1 September 2017	87×	669	1,971,208	0.7
Large yellow croaker (<i>Larimichthys crocea</i>)	GCA_003845795.1	27 November 2018	430.50×	1576	2,833,482	0.72
Pacific white shrimp (<i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i>)	GCA_003730335.1	15 November 2018	1.0×	19,584	6600	1

TABLE 3 Dense SNP arrays available for fish and shellfish species reported in the literature

Species	Technology	Number of SNPS	References
<i>S. salar</i>	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	132K	247
	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	220K	150
	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	200K and 50K	25,246
	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	930K	245
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	57K	250
<i>C. carpio</i>	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	250K	251
<i>I. punctatus</i>	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	250K	252
	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	690K	253
<i>O. niloticus</i>	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	58K	254
	Illumina iSelect	50K	255
Tambaqui (<i>Colossoma macropomum</i>) and Pacu (<i>Piaractus mesopotamicus</i>)	Affymetrix (ThermoFisher)	30K	256
<i>L. crocea</i>	Affymetrix Axiom	600K	257
Japanese flounder (<i>Paralichthys olivaceus</i>)	Affymetrix Axiom	50K	258
Pacific oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	190K	259
	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	23K	174
	Affymetrix Axiom (ThermoFisher)	41K	260
<i>L. vannamei</i>	Illumina iSelect	9K	261

salmonids¹⁷ and allotetraploidy in carp.¹⁸ Repetitive DNA elements can be highly abundant and variable in aquatic species.¹⁹ Moreover, some species from the phylum Mollusca have a highly polymorphic genome.²⁰ Thus, the application of complementary sequencing technologies (e.g. long-read sequencing),²¹ and alternative methodologies (e.g. optical mapping, which consists of a microscopy visualization on the characteristics of DNA)²²—accounting for polyploidy, highly repetitive and polymorphic genome content—is key when generating and applying genomic tools in aquaculture species.

Reference genomes are very important resources for the design and generation of genome-wide SNP panels, which will have a significant impact on disentangling the genetic architecture of complex traits and accelerating the response to selection in aquaculture species.²³ Genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS) approaches, for example, restriction site associated DNA sequencing (RAD-seq) and double-digestion RAD-seq, have been applied in aquatic species with scarce or even null development of a reference sequence (see Robledo et al.²⁴ for a review). Although these efforts have been very important to take the first steps towards introducing genomic information into selective breeding of aquaculture species, SNP arrays are the most widespread tools for routine genomic evaluations in major farmed species. This is most likely due to comparative advantages of the SNP arrays over GBS techniques, including the simplicity of sample processing and downstream bioinformatics analysis, lower proportion of missing data, faster turn-around time for genotyping and reproducibility of results.

Next-generation DNA sequencing technologies have facilitated assessing the genetic variation of several species of interest at a genomic scale. The discovery of abundant SNP markers has been

performed together with the validation of informativeness. Thus, various SNP panels have been developed for important aquaculture species (Table 3) and their applications are increasingly being reported. As will mentioned below, these tools are being currently used to identify QTLs controlling relevant traits and to estimate the genetic merit of animals with increased accuracy in several leading breeding programs.

3 | GENETIC ARCHITECTURE OF DESIRABLE TRAITS

The aim of GWAS is to identify the genomic regions involved in determining the phenotypic variation for a particular trait. In aquaculture, the traits of interest vary across species and even within species, being defined based on the breeding objective. However, there are several traits of interest for selection across different species, including growth-related traits, host disease resistance, time to sexual maturation, carcass quality traits, and tolerance to different environmental factors.

GWAS results can be visualized by (i) plotting the additive genetic variance explained by each SNP and (ii) plotting the $-\log_{10}(p\text{-value})$ for the association of each SNP with a specific trait. In the first case, the proportion of additive genetic variance captured by the SNPs is presumed to be a function of the LD between the SNPs and the causal variants affecting the traits. The attention is focused on the size of the SNP effect, irrespective of its statistical significance. In the second case, if the p -value surpasses the significance threshold (commonly using an $\alpha = 0.05$, corrected using the false discovery rate or Bonferroni method) the SNP is considered associated with the trait at

a genome-wide level. In some cases, suggestive or chromosome-wide associations are also reported (e.g. for 50K SNPs, the suggestive p -value threshold is 10^{-6}).

3.1 | GWAS in salmonid species

The vast majority of GWAS studies in aquaculture has been performed on salmonid species, in particular, Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). For Atlantic salmon, most of the studies are related to host disease resistance. All the studies were conducted using dense SNP arrays and include resistance to diseases caused by bacteria,^{25,26} viruses^{27–30} and parasites.^{31–38}

Resistance against bacterial infections in Atlantic salmon was assessed by experimental challenges conducted by intraperitoneal injection and host resistance was defined as time-to-death and binary survival/death.^{25,26} Two genome-wide significant QTLs were found for resistance to *Piscirickettsia salmonis* on chromosomes *Ssa 01* and *Ssa 17*,²⁵ and two chromosome-wide significant SNPs were identified for host resistance to *Renibacterium salmoninarum* on chromosomes *Ssa 04* and *08*.²⁶ Nevertheless, the proportion of the genetic variance explained by each QTL was relatively low for both traits.^{25,26}

Genomic regions linked to resistance to viral disease have been identified in Atlantic salmon. For instance, two studies have shown the presence of one genome-wide significant QTL on *Ssa 03* for resistance against salmon alphavirus (SAV), the causative agent of pancreas disease, when the trait is defined as either survival or viral load.^{27,28} In addition, a QTL for survival was detected in *Ssa 07*, which together with the QTL in *Ssa 03* explained about 60% of the additive genetic variance.²⁸ These results suggest the presence of two major genes controlling SAV resistance. Several members of immunoglobulin-heavy-chain locus B (*igh-B*) and grass carp reovirus-induced gene 1 (*gig1*), both located on *Ssa 03*, and immunoglobulin-light-chain (*iglc*), located on *Ssa 07*, were proposed as candidate genes involved in SAV resistance based on GWAS results and global gene expression analyses.^{27,28} In addition, a major QTL explaining 57% of the genetic variance for viral load after an experimental infection against piscine myocarditis virus (PMCV), the causative agent of cardiomyopathy syndrome, has been found.^{29,30} The QTL is located on *Ssa 27*, and a cluster of major histocompatibility complex class I (*mhc-I*) genes is suggested to include the causative gene.³⁰

GWAS for resistance against two sea lice species, *Caligus rogercresseyi*^{31,35} and *Lepeophtheirus salmonis*,^{32,36,38} have been reported in Atlantic salmon. All the studies defined resistance as the number of lice attached to fins and body or lice density after an experimental challenge. Regarding *C. rogercresseyi* resistance, three QTL with small to moderate effects were identified and characterized on *Ssa 03*, *Ssa 08* and *Ssa 21*^{31,35}; however, only the QTL on *Ssa 03* reached genome-wide statistical significance.³⁵ In the case of resistance to *L. salmonis*, evidence from three studies indicated that this trait is polygenic in nature, with only suggestive QTLs found on *Ssa 01*, *Ssa 04*, *Ssa 14* and *Ssa 20*.^{32,36,38} Identification of genomic regions associated with resistance to amoebic gill disease,

caused by *Paramoeba perurans* and *Neoparamoeba perurans*, was assessed in three independent studies.^{33,34,37} The authors defined resistance as amoebic load (measured using qPCR) or gill injury score (ranging from 0 = healthy red gills to 5 = extensive lesions)³⁹ after either experimental challenges^{33,37} or a field test.³⁴ One genome-wide significant QTL was identified for gill injury score on *Ssa 02*,³⁴ and several suggestive QTLs were found for both amoebic gill disease resistance traits, suggesting that several genomic regions are involved in trait variation.

Genomic regions associated with growth rate have been evaluated at different time-points in *S. salar*.^{40–42} Polygenic architecture was suggested for body weight for 1-year-old fish, with no SNPs surpassing the genome-wide significance threshold. This architecture was expected given the results observed in other species. At the same age, a single SNP located on *Ssa 17* was associated with body length at a chromosome-wide significance level.⁴⁰ Using Bayesian and frequentist GWAS approaches, polygenic architecture for body weight at tagging (~13 g) and at 25 months of age (300 g),⁴¹ as well as for days to reach 5 kg,⁴² respectively, has been suggested.

Using more than 4000 animals and 45K SNPs, five different loci were identified for sex determination in a Tasmanian Atlantic salmon population.⁴³ Similar results were found in a wild Spanish Atlantic salmon population, with *Ssa 02* explaining the highest proportion of genetic variance,⁴⁴ although these authors also suggested *Ssa 21* as a candidate chromosome for sex determination. In the case of sexual maturation, two studies showed that a major QTL on *Ssa 25*, linked to the *vestigial-like protein 3 (vgll3)* gene, is controlling age-at-maturity in European Atlantic salmon.^{45,46} In addition, a single significant genomic region associated with grilling (precocious male maturation) was identified in *Ssa 21* (*Ssa 25* homeolog) in North American Atlantic salmon.⁴⁷ However, several other genomic regions have been associated with age-at-maturity in other farmed Atlantic salmon populations, including QTLs on almost all chromosomes.^{42,48,49} For instance, Sinclair-Waters et al.,⁴⁹ analysed 11K Atlantic salmon males with 512K imputed SNP genotypes (i.e. genotypes predicted using a reference population genotyped at higher SNP density). The authors suggested a mixed architecture for time-at-maturation, with several loci of small effect and a few loci of large effect, with the latter located on *Ssa 09* and *Ssa 25* and most likely linked to the *sine oculis-related homeobox 6 (six6)* and *vestigial-like protein 3 (vgll3)* genes, respectively.

Regarding carcass quality traits, Sodeland et al.⁵⁰ evaluated fillet fat content and firmness at 2 and 5 days post-mortem. These authors suggested that most of the genetic variation affecting fillet fat and firmness are located on *Ssa 09* and *Ssa 10*, and *Ssa 03* and *Ssa 11*, respectively, although no major-effect QTL was found. In addition, an important QTL on *Ssa 26* showed strong association to flesh colour in Atlantic salmon, with beta-carotene oxygenase 1 like (*bco1l*) being the most likely causative gene.⁵¹ More recently, significant QTLs on *Ssa 19* and *Ssa 21* were found to be associated with omega-3 fatty acid composition in fillets of Atlantic salmon.⁵²

For rainbow trout, most of the studies ($n = 21$) were focused on identifying genomic regions associated with resistance to infectious

diseases, similar to Atlantic salmon. Among them, four were related to the bacterium *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*, the etiological agent for bacterial cold water disease (BCWD), either using SNP arrays or RAD-seq.^{53–56} Several QTLs were found for resistance, defined as survival status or time-to-death after either experimentally or naturally induced infection. However, only one genomic region located on *Omy 08* seems to be consistently associated when using different genomic and statistical approaches, suggesting the importance of this chromosome on resistance to BCWD.^{53–55} Recently, two novel genome-wide significant QTLs for resistance to BCWD were identified in a French rainbow trout population. These QTLs were identified on *Omy 07* and *Omy 17* using 30K SNPs.⁵⁶ Because the data were collected after a natural *F. psychrophilum* field outbreak, these QTLs may be related to natural host response against infection, which may explain the differences from results of previous studies based on

experimentally induced infections by inoculum injection. Additionally, several genomic regions have been associated with resistance to other important bacterial and parasitic disease agents in rainbow trout, including *Piscirickettsia salmonis*,⁵⁷ *Yersinia ruckeri*⁵⁸ and sea lice.⁵⁹ Major QTLs have been mapped to *Omy 21* for *Vibrio anguillarum*,⁶⁰ and in *Omy 16* for *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis*⁶¹ and *Aeromonas salmonicida*⁶² resistance, respectively. In addition, growth under chronic thermal stress and cortisol response to crowding seem to be under polygenic control in this species.^{63,64}

Dissecting the genetic basis of resistance to viral diseases has been addressed in rainbow trout. Two studies identified genomic regions associated with resistance to IPNV and infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV) using Bayesian approaches, although the IHNV study also used single and a weighted single-step GBLUP approach. Brief explanations about the most-cited statistical

TABLE 4 Summary of the main BLUP and Bayesian methods employed in GWAS and genomic selection

Approach	Acronym	Definition	Method's application	References
Best linear unbiased prediction (BLUP)	PBLUP	Pedigree best linear unbiased prediction	Breeding values are predicted using only pedigree information and mixed model equations with the inverse of the numerator relationship matrix (A^{-1})	262
	rrBLUP	Ridge-regression best linear unbiased prediction	A 'penalized' BLUP method in which the estimation suffers shrinkage towards zero to avoid over-fitting and multicollinearity problems caused by the large number of markers	263
	GBLUP	Genomic best linear unbiased prediction	Genomic breeding values are estimated using genomic relationships (pedigree is unnecessary) which are based on genome-wide dense marker data to compose the G matrix	192
	ssGBLUP	Single-step genomic best linear unbiased prediction	A GBLUP method that uses all pedigree, phenotypic and genotypic available information, simultaneously combining them into the H matrix	264
	wssGBLUP	Weighted single-step genomic best linear unbiased prediction	A ssGBLUP method which allows weighting each marker according to the variance they explain using an iterative method and fitting better to oligogenic traits	66
Bayesian	BayesA	–	The prior distribution of marker effects is assumed to be identical with independent univariate- t distribution and a null mean	11
	BayesB	–	Each marker effect has a distribution with point mass at zero with probability π and a univariate- t distribution with probability $1 - \pi$ and a null mean	11
	BayesC	–	Each marker effect has a distribution with point mass at zero with probability π and a univariate-normal distribution with probability $1 - \pi$ and a null mean	265
	BLasso	Bayesian least absolute shrinkage and selection operator	A 'penalized' regression method based on the sum of absolute regression coefficients assuming an exponential prior distribution for variances of marker effects	265

approaches covered in this review for performing GWAS and genomic selection are available in Table 4. The main difference between these statistical methods is the prior distribution of SNP effects in which single-step GBLUP (ssGBLUP) fits better to polygenic traits and Bayesian methods to oligogenic (i.e. few QTLs of moderate effects) or major-effects traits.⁶⁵ However, the weighted single-step GBLUP (wssGBLUP) allows weighting each marker based on the variance they explain also fitting properly for oligogenic traits.⁶⁶ Three genomic regions were suggested a associated with IPNV resistance, although the proportion of the genetic variance explained by each QTL was smaller than 0.2%, suggesting polygenic architecture of this trait.⁶⁷ Based on evidence of 10 genomic regions with moderate effect and several loci with small effect associated with resistance to IHNV, an oligogenic architecture was suggested for this trait.⁶⁸

Regarding growth-related traits, several QTL for body weight-at-tagging and at age 18 months, explaining up to 3% of the genetic variance, were found using 20-SNP windows (i.e. the percentage of genetic variance explained by 20 adjacent SNPs was accumulated in non-overlapping windows) and the wssGBLUP approach.⁶⁹ A similar approach was used to identify a marker located on *Omy 05* associated with body weight at 10 months⁷⁰ and other regions on seven different chromosomes explaining from 2% to 6% of the genetic variance for body weight gain.⁷¹ Regarding carcass quality-related traits, two QTLs for muscle yield, located on *Omy 14* and *Omy 16*, were found using a window of 50 adjacent SNPs, together explaining up to 23% of the genetic variance for the trait.⁷² Further, the authors also found 10 QTLs of smaller effect (explaining between 1% and 3% of the genetic variance) for muscle yield, including a region located on *Omy 09*, confirming QTLs for fillet yield, fillet weight and carcass weight found in a previous study.⁷⁰ QTLs of small effect have also been associated with protein content, firmness, flesh colour, intramuscular fat and moisture content in fillet on different chromosomes of rainbow trout.⁷²⁻⁷⁴ Low-to moderate-effect QTLs have been identified for female reproductive traits (spawning date, body weight, egg size and number) and masculinization in XX females,^{75,76} respectively, in rainbow trout.

In the case of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), there have been fewer genomic studies to date compared to Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout. The recent release of a publicly available SNP chip⁷⁷ might increase the number GWAS for this species in the near future. Based on 9K SNP markers from a double-digest RAD approach, moderate-effect QTLs associated with resistance to the facultative intracellular bacterium *P. salmonis* were found.⁷⁸

A recent study in another cultured species, Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), identified a major QTL for flesh colour on *Chr 30*, explaining 66% of the variation in colour, located close to the beta-carotene oxygenase 2-like (*bco2l*) gene.⁷⁹

In the case of the most widely cultured salmonids, a handful of commercial breeding companies produce eggs of genetically improved strains used by producers worldwide. These companies are active in genomic research, with or without academic partners, and the results from their studies are not always published in the public domain. These companies perform marker-assisted selection for a number of

traits for which major QTLs have been found, for example, resistance to viral diseases (IPN; pancreas disease, PD and cardiomyopathy syndrome, CMS), resistance to bacterial diseases (BCWD, flavobacteriosis and piscirickettsiosis), fillet colour and age at maturity.

3.2 | GWAS in non-salmonid species

Studies for the detection of QTLs have been conducted in a variety of non-salmonid aquaculture species. Eight studies were found performing GWAS for ictalurid catfish (notably, channel catfish *Ictalurus punctatus*). Using 14K SNPs, only one marker, located on linkage group (LG) 07, was significantly associated with *Flavobacterium columnare* resistance at a genome-wide level, whereas three different QTLs on LG 07, 12 and 14 were suggestively associated with resistance.⁸⁰ In addition, a QTL for enteric septicemia (*Edwardsiella ictaluri*) resistance was identified in LG 1 in two independent studies using 13 and 6K SNP panels, respectively; however, several other LGs were also found to be suggestively associated, indicating polygenic architecture for the trait.^{81,82} Several genome- and chromosome-wide significant QTLs with small effects have been identified for body conformation traits in ictalurid catfish, including body weight, deheaded body length, body length, body depth, body breadth and head size.⁸³⁻⁸⁵ Three QTLs, explaining more than 10% of the genetic variance each, were found to be associated with heat stress in hybrid catfish (channel catfish × blue catfish).⁸⁶ In the same hybrid population, two significant and two suggestive small-effect QTLs for low oxygen tolerance were found using a 250K SNP chip.⁸⁷

Studies aiming to identify genomic regions associated with resistance to viral nervous necrosis (VNN) have been conducted in Asian and European sea bass, *Lates calcarifer* and *Dicentrarchus labrax*, respectively.^{88,89} Two QTLs, on LG 19 and 20, were significantly associated with resistance to VNN in *L. calcarifer*, when the trait was defined as survival/mortality and time-to-death after an experimental challenge.⁸⁹ Several QTLs with small effect were associated with resistance to VNN in different populations of *D. labrax* using both RAD sequencing⁹⁰ and SNP chip genotyping technologies,⁸⁸ with the most important QTL found in LG 12; explaining about 10% of the genetic variance for the trait.⁸⁸

QTL mapping and association analysis in common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) identified 22 QTLs for growth-related traits and seven QTLs for sexual dimorphism using a 250K SNP array. Candidate genes underlying growth-related traits, included important regulators, such as kisspeptin 2 (*kiss2*), insulin-like growth factor 1 (*igf1*), somatolactin beta (*smtlb*), neuropeptide FF receptor 1 (*npffr1*) and carboxypeptidase E (*cpe*), and sexual dimorphism-related genes, such as 3-ketosteroid reductase (*3ksr*) and mab-3-related transcription factor 2b (*dmt2b*).⁹¹ GWAS analysis identified 12 significant SNPs for head-size traits of common carp, based on 433 individuals from multiple families.⁹² Several loci were associated, at the suggestive level, with fat content in dorsal and abdominal muscle and abdominal fat weight in common carp, with only one genome-wide significant SNP associated with the latter, suggesting polygenic architecture for these traits.⁹³

Later, several markers associated with polyunsaturated fatty acid content, at both genome- and chromosome-wide significance thresholds, were identified.⁹⁴ An association study of abnormal scale pattern in 82 indigenous Yellow River carp individuals identified the causative mutation in fibroblast growth factor receptor 1 a1 (*fgfr1a1*).⁹⁵ A QTL located on LG 44 and explaining 7% of the genetic variance was found for resistance to koi herpesvirus in common carp.⁹⁶ Similarly, three significant QTLs and one suggestive QTL were identified for host resistance to koi herpesvirus in mirror carp.⁹⁷ For rohu carp (*Labeo rohita*), 10 LGs exhibited 21 SNPs significantly associated to *Aeromonas hydrophila* resistance, and several of them were homologous to genes related to immune function, such as heat shock proteins, mucins and lectins.⁹⁸

In the case of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), several loci were found to be associated with acute salinity tolerance on *Oni 05* and *Oni 18* using a ddRAD-seq genotyping approach.⁹⁹ A large-effect QTL associated with sex determination, and mapped within the anti-Mullerian hormone gene (*amh*) on *Oni 23*, was identified using whole-genome resequencing data from fish belonging to three breeding populations.¹⁰⁰ In contrast, polygenic architecture was suggested for fillet yield and harvest weight, with markers explaining 1.5%–2.0% of the genetic variance for each trait, respectively.¹⁰¹

In large yellow croaker (*Larimichthys crocea*), the sex determination region was localized within a 2.4 Mb region on *Chr 22*, based on GWAS using ddRAD sequencing in 905 individuals from a breeding population.¹⁰² Significant SNP loci related to growth and body-shape traits were identified on multiple chromosomes using the GWAS approach based on ddRAD-seq genotyping data.^{103,104} A significance peak associated with the high plant protein utilization trait was identified on *Chr 18*.¹⁰⁵ Five significant SNPs related to heat tolerance were identified on *Chr 04* based on the use of a 600K SNP array.¹⁰⁶ Similarly, seven significant QTLs, located on four chromosomes, were found for resistance against the ciliate parasite *Cryptocaryon irritans*¹⁰⁷; subsequently, a more sophisticated GWAS study revealed 15 QTLs associated with that resistance trait.¹⁰⁸

In the case of resistance of gilthead sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) to pasteurellosis (*Photobacterium damsela* subsp. *piscicida*), no genome-wide significant markers were found when using a 12K SNP panel identified through 2b-RAD.¹⁰⁹

Using whole-genome resequencing data for 505 individuals, a total of 33 SNPs located on six different chromosomes were found to be significantly associated with host resistance of half-smooth tongue sole (*Cynoglossus semilaevis*) to *Vibrio harveyi* infection.¹¹⁰

3.3 | GWAS in shellfish

Compared to salmonids and non-salmonid fish, genome-wide association studies in shellfish are considerably fewer. In Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*), a number of studies have been carried out to map genomic regions associated with nutritional traits, including glycogen, amino acid and fatty acid content, and Zn, Cu and Se accumulation, among others.^{111–113} A strong QTL associated with glycogen

content¹¹¹ was functionally characterized, and the protein phosphatase 1 regulatory subunit 3B (*ppp1r3b*) gene was suggested to be responsible for promoting glycogen synthesis.¹¹⁴ Several candidate genomic regions with small effect have been associated with heat tolerance in Pacific abalone (*Haliotis discus hannai*),¹¹⁵ and ostreid herpesvirus¹¹⁶ and *Vibrio alginolyticus*¹¹⁷ resistance in Pacific oysters. Polygenic architecture was found for resistance to herpes virus in *C. gigas*.¹¹⁶ The authors found several markers showing genome-wide association with binary survival and viral load. However, LG 06 had the most promising QTL, explaining the larger proportion of genetic variance. Similarly, no major QTLs were found for shell growth and shape.¹¹⁸ Recently, an association study was performed for survival under low salinity in eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) using RAD-seq technologies. Significant QTLs were found on LG 01 and 07.¹¹⁹

In scallops, all studies used RAD-seq technology to genotype animals. This approach is common for species that do not have extensive genomic information, in particular, a reference genome assembly.²⁴ Most of these studies were performed for the Yesso scallop (*Patinopecten yessoensis*) considering different traits, such as growth,¹²⁰ pH tolerance,¹²¹ and colour of shell¹²² and muscle.^{123,124} In the case of shell colour, genes were identified with carotenoid-related functions flanking two SNPs on LG 11.¹²² Li et al.¹²⁴ found a genomic region strongly associated with carotenoid coloration on LG 08. Through transcriptomic analysis in that region, the authors confirmed down-regulation of the beta-carotene oxygenase-like 1 (*pybcol1*) gene encoding carotenoid oxygenase, the enzyme known to catalyse carotenoid cleavage in a variety of organisms, which was differentially expressed between white and orange muscles. These results suggest that marker-assisted selection may be a feasible alternative to obtain scallops with reddish-orange shell and muscle.

A limited number of GWASs have been published for shrimp. Several genomic regions and candidate genes associated with growth have been found in Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)^{125–127} using RAD-seq or similar technologies; however, none found QTLs with large effects. For sex determination, a major QTL was reported using a 6.4K SNP panel for discovering and genotyping SNPs.¹²⁸ For the black tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*), association analysis was performed for white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) resistance and sex determination.¹²⁹ However, for WSSV resistance, only weak associations were detected; for sex, a strong association was identified on LG 30. This major association was confirmed later, in which a locus explaining 77.4% of the phenotype variance for sex determination, but in LG 23 using linkage mapping.¹³⁰ Recently, a new 50K SNP panel was described for *L. vannamei*,¹³¹ which may result in more GWAS studies for this species in the near future.

3.4 | Validation of GWAS

A recurrent issue in the application and validation of GWAS is inconsistent results across different populations. The main reasons for such inconsistency are the complex genetic architectures that drive most economically relevant traits, and the genetic background of the

TABLE 5 GWAS available for fish and shellfish species reported in the literature

Species	Trait	Number of SNPs (K)	Statistical Method	Associated chromosomes	Candidate genes	References
<i>S. salar</i>	Fillet texture	6	No mentioned	3, 9, 10 and 11	Not assessed	50
<i>S. salar</i>	Growth traits	112	GRAMMAR ^a	17	Myh9, gucy2f and gapdhs	40
<i>S. salar</i>	Growth rate and sexual maturation	4	GRAMMAR	1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 21, 25 and 28	E2f4, npm1 and magi-1	42
<i>S. salar</i>	Body weight	116	BayesC	21 and 27	Vtn, wnt1 and mrap2	41
<i>S. salar</i>	Flesh pigment content	6	MLM-GWAS ^b	26	Bco1 and bco11	51
<i>S. salar</i>	Fatty acid composition	57	EMMAX ^c	21	Elov2	52
<i>S. salar</i>	<i>P. salmonis</i> resistance	48	GRAMMAR	1 and 15	Fut10, il31ra and il6st	25
<i>S. salar</i>	<i>C. rogercresseyi</i> resistance	39	FASTA ^d	21	Col1a1	31
<i>S. salar</i>	<i>L. salmonis</i> resistance	132 and 35	GRAMMAR	1, 3, 9 and 23	Not assessed	267
<i>S. salar</i>	<i>R. salmoninarum</i> resistance	44	FASTA	4 and 8	Not assessed	26
<i>S. salar</i>	<i>N. penurans</i> resistance	7	FASTA	17 and 18	Not assessed	33
<i>S. salar</i>	<i>L. salmonis</i> resistance	7	GRAMMAR	1 and 23	Not assessed	36
<i>S. salar</i>	<i>L. salmonis</i> resistance	37	QFAM ^e	4, 14 and 20	Cptp, chrng and neu4	32
<i>S. salar</i>	<i>Piscine myocarditis</i> resistance	55	EMMAX	27 and 12	Eb-like gene, i-e beta chain and h2-ab1	29
<i>S. salar</i>	Amoebic Gill Disease Resistance	55	MLMA-LOCO ^f	4, 9 and 13	Fat4 and il-18 bp	37
<i>S. salar</i>	<i>C. rogercresseyi</i> resistance	50 ^g	sSNP ^h	3, 8 and 21	Tob1 and stk17b	35
<i>S. salar</i>	Pancreas disease resistance	54	MLMA-LOCO	3	Gig1-like, mbf2-like, tir13, glyr1 and abat	27
<i>S. salar</i>	Pancreas disease resistance	55	EMMAX	3 and 7	Igh-b and immunoglobulin-light-chain	28
<i>S. salar</i>	Sea-age variation	4	No mentioned	9, 12, 16, 27	Otub2, itpk1 and lip60	268
<i>S. salar</i>	Sexual maturation	4600	Chi-square ⁱ	25	Vgll3	46
<i>S. salar</i>	Age at maturity	220	ACPOM ^j	25	Vgll3, akap11 and six6	45
<i>S. salar</i>	Sex determination	46	Chi-square	2, 3, 5, 6, 12 and 25	Sdy	43
<i>S. salar</i>	Sex determination	36	EMMAX	2 and 21	Sdy, sox and dnd	44
<i>S. salar</i>	Age at maturity	0.08 and 50	GLMM ^k	21	Ropn1	47
<i>S. salar</i>	Sexual maturation	50	MLMA-LOCO	10 and 11	Picalm, magi2 and maguk	48
<i>S. salar</i>	Age of maturity	512	BOLT-LMM ^l	9, 25, 28 and 29	Vgll3, six6 and ndufs4	49
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Fillet yield, carcass and body weight	38	wssGBLUP ^m	5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 22, 23 and 27	Sox2, capn2 and ksr1	70
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Muscle yield	35	wssGBLUP	14 and 16	Sic26a9, cd34a and mcts1	72
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Fillet firmness and protein content	35	wssGBLUP	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 21 and 28	Nucb1, kcna1 and actc1	73
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Body weight	35	wssGBLUP	15 and 24	Fam60a, wnt16 and bpm2	69

(Continues)

TABLE 5 (Continued)

Species	Trait	Number of SNPs (K)	Statistical Method	Associated chromosomes	Candidate genes	References
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Body weight	50	wssGBLUP	2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 18	Cav-1, tes, eif4g2, slc6a15, Ap-1, prrc2c, myoc, prdx6, plpp6, acss2 and peccr	71
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Growth under chronic thermal stress	1400 [§]	wssGBLUP	3 and 7	Stat5b, stat3 and cish	64
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Body weight, carcass traits, total fat, percentage of fat in flesh, flesh colour	57	BayesC	8, 13, 17 and 22	Htr1, gnpat, ephx1, bcmo1, and cyp2x	74
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>F. psychrophilum</i> resistance	5	GRAMMAR	8, 11, 13, 17 and 21	Socs6, jak1 and tlr-13	54
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>F. psychrophilum</i> resistance	5	GRAMMAR	2, 8, 15, 19, 22, 26 and 28	Not assessed	53
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>F. psychrophilum</i> resistance	24, 41 and 48	wssGBLUP and BayesB	3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 25	Il1r-like-1 and tnfrsf1a-like-a	55
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>F. psychrophilum</i> resistance	30	MLMA-LOCO, ssGBLUP ⁿ and wssGBLUP	3, 7, 10 and 17	Not assessed	56
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus resistance	38	BayesC	5, 13 and 23	Senp5, ccr7 and itga11	67
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus resistance	42	ssGBLUP and BayesB	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 16, 17, 21, 25, 26 and 28	Drd4, cadps2 and plekha7	68
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>P. salmonis</i> resistance	26	ssGBLUP	3, 5, 14, 24, 27 and 29	Usp2, nlr3 and tap	57
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> resistance	50	MLMA-LOCO	3, 12, 20 and 22	Not assessed	58
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>Vibrio anguillarum</i> resistance	57	MLMA-LOCO	21	Ppp1c and ig	60
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>Ichthyophthirius multifiliis</i> resistance	57	MLMA-LOCO	16 and 17	Igm, igt, t-cell receptor β , complement factor c3, lysozyme, cathelicidins 1 and 2 and saa	61
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>C. rogercresseyi</i> resistance	57	wssGBLUP	15 and 26	Tbx21, fgf11, fgf13, ifng2, frs1 and tr161	59
<i>O. mykiss</i>	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> resistance	57	MLMA-LOCO	16	Pra1 family protein 3	62
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Female reproduction traits	57	GBLUP ^o and BayesC	1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 27	Ipo11, arhgef4, nr2e1, mprd, phc1, prkg2 and wapla	76
<i>O. mykiss</i>	Sex determination	57 and 275 [§]	MLMA-LOCO and BayesC	1, 12 and 20	Fgf8, cyp17a1 and (LOC11052793)	75
<i>O. kisutch</i>	<i>P. salmonis</i> resistance	9	wssGBLUP	11 and 29	Pik3ap1, phpt1 and tial1	78
<i>O. tshawytscha</i>	Flesh colour	10	MLM ^p	4, 12 and 30	Bco2-1	79
<i>I. punctatus</i>	Head length, head width and head depth	218	EMMAX and QFAM	5, 7, 9 and 16	Cad22l, cyp24a1 and snx25	83
<i>I. punctatus</i>	Deheaded body length, body depth and body breadth	250	EMMAX	2, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 24 and 25	Snx8, col17a1, anln, macf1, bmp8a, col21a1, mmmp16b, rab3a and fgf12a	84
<i>I. punctatus</i>	Deheaded body length, body depth and body breadth	218	EMMAX and QFAM	2, 5, 7, 13, 14, 18, 24, 26	Rab8a, ddr2l and arngap22	85
<i>I. punctatus</i>	<i>F. columnare</i> resistance	14	EMMAX	7, 12 and 14	Pik3r3b, cyld-like and adcyap1r1	80
<i>I. punctatus</i>	Heat stress	5	EMMAX	14 and 16	Traf2, fbxw5 and anapc2	86
<i>I. punctatus</i>	Resistance to enteric septicemia	6	EMMAX and QFAM	1, 12 and 16	Nlr3, nck1 and agr1b	82

TABLE 5 (Continued)

Species	Trait	Number of SNPs (K)	Statistical Method	Associated chromosomes	Candidate genes	References
<i>I. punctatus</i>	Low Oxygen tolerance	25	EMMAX	2, 4, 23 and 29	Dmbx1a, cyp1a1 and klhl5	87
<i>I. punctatus</i>	Resistance to enteric septicemia	13	EMMAX and QFAM	1, 3, 21 and 26	Nlr3, nlrp12 and uba5	81
<i>C. carpio</i>	Muscle fat content and abdominal fat-related traits	85	GLMM	9, 17, 21, 23, 33, 34, 35 and 40	Ankrd10a, tanc2 and zfand5a	93
<i>C. carpio</i>	Growth-related and sex dimorphism	250	Chi-square	1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 20, 27, 37, 43	Kiss2, igf1, smtlb, npffr1, cpe3ksr and dmrt2b	91
<i>C. carpio</i>	Polyunsaturated fatty acid content	108	GLMM	20, 21, 22, 35 and 50	Duox2 and trh	94
<i>C. carpio</i>	Head-size related traits	250	GLMM	6, 24, 27, 35, 46, 50	Srpk2, fsrp5, igf1, igf3, grb10, igf1r, notch2 and sfrp2	92
<i>C. carpio</i>	Resistance to Koi herpesvirus	12	wssGBLUP	34, 42 and 44	Trim25	96
<i>C. carpio</i>	Koi herpesvirus resistance	250	Chi-square, GLMM	17, 33, 39, 41, 43	Tnfa, hif1a, galectin-8, rootletin and palladin	97
<i>C. carpio</i>	abnormal scattered scale patterns	250	GLMM	15, 16	Fgr1a1	95
<i>L. rohita</i>	Resistance to <i>A. hydrophila</i>	6	QFAM, FASTA and GRAMMAR	4, 7, 14, 15, 18-21, 23, 24	Hsp60, dse, cd22, tcr, shsps, tbt, muc5b and dpp7	98
<i>L. crocea</i>	Growth and body-shape-related traits	28	GLMM	2, 7, 16, 19, 21, 22, 23	Fgf18, fgf1, nr3c1, cyp8b1, fabp2, cyp2r1, ppara and ccm21	103
<i>L. crocea</i>	Body shape-related traits	23	GLMM	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 14, 16, 18, 19	Fabp1, acrv1, bcor, mstn, bambi and neo1	104
<i>L. crocea</i>	Resistance to <i>Cryptocaryon irritans</i>	5	GLMM	5, 6, 7, 19	ifnar1, ifngr2, ikbke and cd112	107
<i>L. crocea</i>	Sex determination and gonadosomatic index	23	MLM	18, 22	Dmrt1, dmrt3, piwil2, fam102a and odft2	102
<i>O. niloticus</i>	Harvest weight and fillet yield	50	wssGBLUP	4, 16, 18 and 23	Utp6, rab31 and npr1	101
<i>O. niloticus</i>	Salt tolerance	2	MLM	5 and 18	Epc1, denn4c and pla2	99
<i>O. niloticus</i>	Sex determination	2400	MLM	23	Amh	100
<i>Cynoglossus semilaevis</i>	Resistance to vibrio harveyi	1000	Chi-square	5, 7, 12, 14, 17	Fbx19, plekha7, nucb2 and fgfr2	110
<i>S. aurata</i>	<i>Pasteurellosis</i> resistance	12	GBLUP	1, 2, 3, 10, 7, 20 and 21	Not assessed	109
<i>D. labrax</i>	Viral nervous necrosis resistance	9	GBLUP and wssGBLUP	3, 20 and 25 (unassigned scaffold)	Not assessed	90
<i>D. labrax</i>	Viral nervous necrosis resistance	57	GBLUP and BayesC	12 and 8	Not assessed	88
<i>L. calcarifer</i>	Viral nervous necrosis resistance	45	MLM	1, 8, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 21	Ube2g2, kdm2a and map3k11	89
<i>C. gigas</i>	Glycogen, protein and amino acid contents	52,143	MLM	6, 8 and 9	Yp17a, pepck and g6pase	111
<i>C. gigas</i>	Fatty acids composition, glycogen, Zn and Se	8	MLM	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9	Osbp11, mc5r, klf3, adamts, insig2, pccr, acsl1, lipe and agpat6	113

(Continues)

TABLE 5 (Continued)

Species	Trait	Number of SNPs (K)	Statistical Method	Associated chromosomes	Candidate genes	References
<i>C. gigas</i>	Shell growth and shape-related traits	52,143	MLM	unassigned scaffolds	Rpsa, trim3, tnn, ky, fndc2, slc7a9 and ankrd44	118
<i>C. gigas</i>	Ostreid Herpesvirus resistance	16	FASTA and EMIMAX	6 and 8	Fbne, ranbpm and b3galnt2	116
<i>C. gigas</i>	Zn and Cu accumulation	190	MLM	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 11	Cnr3, cav1, donson and t4 dna ligase	112
<i>C. gigas</i>	<i>Vibrio alginolyticus</i> resistance	48	BLINK ^a	3, 5, 6, 9 and 10	Tlr6, scarf1, mdm2, hacc1, cyld, laccase-19, spidr, pgg1b, gpcr161 and rbbp6	117
<i>C. virginica</i>	Acute low salinity tolerance	29	Linkage QTL mapping	1 and 7	Ubr5, slco4a1 and ncoa-2	119
<i>Patinopecten yessoensis</i>	Shell colour	62	Chi-square	11	Ldlr, fris and friy	122
<i>P. yessoensis</i>	shell length, shell width, shell height, body weight, soft tissue weight and adductor muscle weight	9	MLM	17 and 18	E2f3	120
<i>P. yessoensis</i>	Muscle coloration	30	Chi-square	8	Pybco-like 1	124
<i>P. yessoensis</i>	Muscle coloration	9	Chi-square	7	Parp and cyp2j6	123
<i>Haliotis discus hannai</i>	Heat tolerance	1431	EMMAX	1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 and 18	Mdhc, achβ3, ach92, cah2 and cah7	269
<i>L. vannamei</i>	Body weight	23	GRAMMAR	11, 15, 18, 21, 28 and 44	Lvsr	126
<i>L. vannamei</i>	Body weight	4	GRAMMAR	7, 27, 33, and 38	Prkcd and rap2a	125
<i>L. vannamei</i>	Body weight	94	sSNP	19 and 39	Dcnpd and nptk	127
<i>L. vannamei</i>	Sex determination	5	MLMA-LOCO	42 and 44	Pvfem-1	128
<i>Penaeus monodon</i>	White spot syndrome virus resistance and sex determination	6	sSNP	2, 3, 5, 6, 17, 18, 19, 22, 27, 30 and 43	Pai-rbp1, tap26, abra, flik and ubfd1	129

^aGenome-wide rapid association using mixed model and regression.

^bMixed linear model.

^cEfficient mixed-model association eXpedited.

^dFast score test for association.

^eFamily-based association test for quantitative traits.

^fMixed linear model-based association analysis leaving-one-chromosome-out.

^gImputed genotypes.

^hSingle-SNP Genome-Wide Association Study.

ⁱChi-square allelic test.

^jAdditive cumulative proportional odds model.

^kGeneral linear mixed model.

^lBayesian mixture of normal prior with linear mixed model association.

^mWeighted single-step genomic best linear unbiased prediction.

ⁿSingle-step genomic best linear unbiased prediction.

^oGenomic best linear unbiased prediction.

^pMixed linear model.

^qBayesian-informative and linkage-disequilibrium iteratively nested keyway.

studied populations. Ideally, the target population should present a homogenous background (i.e. lack of population stratification); otherwise, the discrepant allele frequencies among subpopulations may cause confounding effects.¹³² This is advantageous for aquaculture species due to the family structure in which homogeneity may be obtained by mating few animals to generate large progenies.¹³³ Nevertheless, the number of animals in founder populations may limit the power for detecting causal variants. Thus, the recommendation is to have a target population with an homogenous genetic background and enough phenotypic variation to increase mapping resolution.

Another issue related to GWAS results is related to sample size. False discovery rate is inversely proportional to the sample size, but given costs associated with phenotyping and genotyping, it is difficult to have a very large sample size (i.e. several thousand animals). Alternative strategies, such as genotype imputation, genotyping of individuals with extreme phenotypes and meta-analysis of GWAS results of the same trait may be adopted to amend the low sample size problem, but they may also lead to overestimation of the markers effect.¹³⁴ We found a diverse number of methods being adopted for GWAS in aquaculture species (Table 5), some of them based on fitting each marker at a time (e.g. GRAMMAR and EMMAX methods) and others assuming a prior distribution of SNP effects fitting them simultaneously (e.g. GBLUP and BayesB). There is no consensus on which method is the most accurate and statistically powerful. However, previous knowledge on the genetic architecture of traits of interest might be relevant, as some methods may fit better to traits controlled by major effect QTL (e.g. BayesC and wssGBLUP) while others may be more suitable for polygenic traits (e.g. GBLUP and ssGBLUP).⁶⁵ The adoption of multiple statistical methods and overlapping of results may be a viable option to decrease the number of false positives as well.¹³⁵

4 | GENOMIC SELECTION

The genomic selection approach refers to making selection decisions based on GEBV, first proposed by Meuwissen et al.¹¹ Genomic selection uses dense marker genotypes and phenotypic data to predict genomic breeding values and has been proven to improve accuracy of selection when compared to pedigree-based EBV. The implementation of genomic selection depends on the LD between markers and QTLs affecting the trait. If the level of LD is enough to capture the effects of these QTLs, a prediction equation to estimate GEBV can be fitted using genotypes and phenotypes of animals from a reference population. Finally, the GEBVs of selection candidates can be estimated using only genotypic data based on the prediction equation calculated in the previous step.^{136,137} However, in some species, including aquaculture species, recorded phenotypes in animals related to the selection is continuously needed for updating the prediction equation and avoiding the decrease of GEBV accuracy.^{14,138}

The main benefits of applying genomic selection in the aquaculture sector are related to the evaluation of difficult-to-measure traits, higher accuracy in the estimation of additive genetic variance and GEBVs, and reduction in the generation interval.¹³⁹ The strategy of

genomic selection may be relevant for traits that are difficult or impossible to be measured directly on selection candidates, such as resistance to diseases, carcass traits, sex-limited traits and when a genotype-by-environment interaction is present.^{12,14,140,141} Another advantage of genomic selection is the more accurate estimate of relationship among animals than using pedigree records only.¹⁴² The pedigree matrix expresses only the expected relationship between individuals, while the genomic matrix captures the actual genomic relatedness shared between relatives. For example, Forneris et al.¹⁴³ found from 5% to 15% variation in the relationship among relatives when comparing marker and pedigree kinship matrices. Meuwissen et al.¹⁴⁴ suggested that, in principle, the pedigree information must be omitted, considering that the markers may capture the genetic relationship. Further, in genomic selection, the genomic information may be used to estimate the effect of several loci at same time (e.g. Bayesian methods) or by estimating the average genomic relationship (e.g. GBLUP methods). However, for MAS, only a small number of loci is considered as significant loci linked to the trait of interest. In addition, most economic traits are influenced by several genes with several SNPs explaining a small proportion of genetic variance, highlighting that in this situation, MAS could not be successfully implemented.¹³⁶

4.1 | Genomic selection in salmonid species

The highest number of genomic selection studies has been reported for salmonids, followed by non-salmonid fish and shellfish species (Table 6). We found 22 studies covering three salmonid species (*Salmo salar*, *Oncorhynchus mykiss* and *O. kisutch*) applying different SNP densities and statistical methods to evaluate the use of genomic information for genomic selection. Further, the accuracy of genomic selection was most often reported for growth and disease resistance traits.

Values of relative increase in accuracy compared to pedigree-based BLUP ranged from 9% to 52% for resistance to *L. salmonis*, *C. rogercresseyi*, *P. salmonis* and *N. perurans* in *S. salar*.^{33,34,145-150} For growth traits (body weight and length), fillet colour and uniformity of growth, higher variation in the increase in accuracy was reported, with values ranging from 0% to 78%.^{40,145,150-152}

Few studies were found evaluating the realized benefits of genomic selection in aquaculture species. For Tasmanian Atlantic salmon, a cumulative effect in the rate of genetic gain was observed after 2-years of genomic selection was implemented for improvement of amoebic gill disease resistance, fillet colour, maturation and growth traits.¹⁵³ This realized prediction accuracy was estimated by comparing the GEBVs at two different timepoints: before (at spawning) and after progeny information was available, which produced more robust and reliable validation of the prediction equation. Likewise, Vallejo et al.¹⁵⁴ showed that, using genomic selection, the accuracy of GEBVs for BCWD resistance in rainbow trout was 50% higher than pedigree-based methods. The authors used a progeny-test validation scheme which estimates more accurately the impact of genomic selection on commercial breeding. More modest figures (0%-15%) were also

TABLE 6 Genomic prediction assessment for fish and shellfish species reported in the literature

Species	Genotype technique	Number of markers (K)	Trait	Statistical Method	Range accuracy increase (%) ^a	References
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	0.5, 1, 5, 10, 20, 33 and 112	Weight and length at 1 year	GBLUP ^b	0–20	40
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	31	Body weight and uniformity of growth	ssGBLUP ^c	0.19–0.78 ^d	151
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	50 ^e	Body weight	GBLUP	11	152
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array ^f	1, 4, 22, 55 and 220	<i>L. salmonis</i> resistance and fillet colour	IBD-GS ^g and GBLUP	15–52	150
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	0.25 and 25 ^e	<i>C. rogercesseyi</i> resistance and body weight	GBLUP	19–21	145
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	0.5, 1, 3, 10, 20 and 50	<i>P. salmonis</i> resistance	GBLUP, BayesC and BLasso ^h	8–30	146
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	0.5, 1, 5, 10, 25 and 37	<i>C. rogercesseyi</i> resistance	GBLUP, BayesC and BLasso	19–22	147
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	0.5, 0.9, 1.8, 2.7, 3.5, 4.4, 5.3, 6.1, 6.8 and 7.1	<i>N. perurans</i> resistance	GBLUP	17–22	33
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	57	<i>N. perurans</i> resistance	GBLUP and ssGBLUP	9–17	34
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	215 and 750	<i>L. salmonis</i> resistance	GBLUP, BayesC and BayesGC ⁱ	38–50	148
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	3 ^e	Amoebic gill disease resistance, fillet colour, sexual maturation and harvest weight	ssGBLUP	6–30 ^d	153
<i>S. salar</i>	SNP array	0.1, 0.5, 1, 5, 10 and 50 ^e	<i>C. rogercesseyi</i> resistance	GBLUP	0.49–0.78 ^j	149
<i>O. mykiss</i>	SNP array	50	Fillet yield and firmness	ssGBLUP	35–42	270
<i>O. mykiss</i>	SNP array	57	Fatty acid composition	GBLUP	12–120	271
<i>O. mykiss</i>	RAD-Seq ^k and SNP array	24 and 57	<i>F. psychrophilum</i> resistance	ssGBLUP and wssGBLUP ^l	26–50	272
<i>O. mykiss</i>	SNP array	57	<i>F. psychrophilum</i> resistance	ssGBLUP, wssGBLUP and BayesB	83–109	154
<i>O. mykiss</i>	SNP array	0.5, 3, 10, 20 and 27	<i>P. salmonis</i> resistance	GBLUP, ssGBLUP, BLasso and BayesC	28–41	156
<i>O. mykiss</i>	SNP array	57	Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus resistance	ssGBLUP	7–11	186
<i>O. mykiss</i>	SNP array	57	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis resistance	ssGBLUP and wssGBLUP	42–154	68
<i>O. mykiss</i>	SNP array	57	<i>F. columnare</i> resistance	ssGBLUP and wssGBLUP	37–46	273
<i>O. mykiss</i>	SNP array	32 and 7	Bacterial cold water disease resistance	ssGBLUP, wssGBLUP, ssBMR-BayesB ^m	10–35	274
<i>O. mykiss</i>	SNP array	57	Female reproduction	GBLUP	10–35	76
<i>O. kisutch</i>	ddRAD-Seq ⁿ	9	<i>P. salmonis</i> resistance	GBLUP, ssGBLUP, wssGBLUP and BayesC	6–155	78
<i>D. labrax</i>	SNP array	57	Body weight, cortisol level, glucose level, lactate level and lysozyme level	GBLUP	0–28	166

TABLE 6 (Continued)

Species	Genotype technique	Number of markers (K)	Trait	Statistical Method	Range accuracy increase (%) ^a	References
<i>D. labrax</i>	RAD-Seq	9	Viral nervous necrosis resistance	rrBLUP ^o , BayesA, BayesB and BayesC	8–13	90
<i>L. crocea</i>	ddRAD-Seq	35	Body weight gain rate, body length and survival rate	GBLUP and BayesB	0.10–0.11 ^d	105
<i>L. crocea</i>	ddRAD-Seq	17	<i>Cryptocaryon irritans</i> resistance	GBLUP	0.31 ^d	158
<i>Paralichthys olivaceus</i>	Genome-resequencing	5000	<i>Edwardsiella tarda</i> resistance	BayesB, ssGBLUP and wssGBLUP	8–22	159
<i>O. niloticus</i>	SNP array	0.5, 1, 3 and 32 ^e	Harvest weight and fillet yield	ssGBLUP	4–27	101
<i>O. niloticus</i>	SNP array	50	Body weight, fillet weight and fillet yield	GBLUP	20–75	167
<i>O. niloticus</i>	SNP array	65	Feed conversion ratio, body weight gain, residual feed intake and feed intake	GBLUP and ssGBLUP	5–34	171
<i>O. niloticus</i>	Genome-resequencing	50 and 1000	<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> resistance	GBLUP, wGBLUP and BayesCr	129–155	160
<i>O. niloticus</i>	SNP array	50	<i>Francisella orientalis</i> resistance and body weight	GBLUP, BayesB, BayesC and BayesS	0–217	274
<i>C. carpio</i>	GBS ^p	22	Body length	GBLUP	18	165
<i>C. carpio</i>	SNP array	0.1, 0.5, 1, 2.5, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 75	Body weight, body length, body thick, gonad weight, carcass weight and morphological traits	GBLUP	0–38	168
<i>C. carpio</i>	RAD-Seq	15	Koi herpesvirus resistance	rrBLUP, BayesA, BayesB and BayesC	8–18	157
<i>I. punctatus</i>	SNP array	57	Harvest and carcass weight	ssGBLUP	28–36	164
<i>I. punctatus</i>	SNP array	250	<i>Flavobacterium columnare</i> resistance	GBLUP, ENGBLUP ^q	0.49–0.73 ^d	162
<i>Lates calcarifer</i>	GBS	25	Body weight, body length, fillet weight and fillet yield	GBLUP	5–76	170
<i>L. calcarifer</i>	SNP array	70	Body weight, body length, body depth, body shape index, Fulton's condition factor and fillet weight	GBLUP	10–49	169
<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>	Genome-resequencing	0.005, 0.05, 0.1, 0.5, 1, 5, 10, 50, 200, 500, 800 and 2000 ^e	Ammonia tolerance	rrBLUP, BayesA, BayesB and BayesC	0.72–0.74 ^d	163
<i>Oplegnathus fasciatus</i>	ddRAD-Seq	16	Body weight, body length and body depth	GBLUP, BLasso, BayesRR ^r , BayesA, BayesB and BayesC	0.23–0.31 ^d	172
<i>C. farreri</i>	2b-RAD-Seq ^s	31	Shell length, shell height, shell width, and whole weight	GBLUP, BayesB, RKHS ^t and SNN ^u	41–60	173
<i>C. gigas</i>	SNP array	23	Shell height, shell length, and wet weight	GBLUP	25–30	174
<i>C. gigas</i>	SNP array	23	Ostreid herpesvirus resistance	GBLUP	6–19	175

(Continues)

TABLE 6 (Continued)

Species	Genotype technique	Number of markers (K)	Trait	Statistical Method	Range accuracy increase (%) ^a	References
<i>C. angulata</i>	GBS	19	Shell length, shell width, shell depth, tenderness, taste, polychaete infestation and presence of <i>Marteilioides chungmuensis</i>	GBLUP, BayesA, BayesC,	15–200	177
<i>C. angulata</i>	GBS	19	Whole weight, body shape, meat yield and colour	GBLUP	12–171	176
<i>C. virginica</i>	ddRAD-Seq	29	Acute low salinity tolerance	BayesRR, BayesA, RKHS	0.48–0.57 ^d	119
<i>L. vannahmei</i>	2b-RAD-Seq	0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8, 1.6, 3.2, 6.4, 12.8, 20, 23	Body weight and body length	rrBLUP, BayesA and BLasso	0.50–0.62 ^j	178
<i>L. vannahmei</i>	2b-RAD-Seq	23	<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> resistance	GBLUP	3–7	179
<i>L. vannahmei</i>	SNP array	18	White spot syndrome virus resistance	GBLUP	0.64–0.69 ^d	180
<i>Fenneropenaeus merguensis</i>	GBS	10	Hepatopancreatic parvovirus resistance, growth traits	GBLUP	11–567	181

^aCompared to pedigree-based best linear unbiased prediction.

^bGenomic best linear unbiased prediction.

^cSingle-step genomic best linear unbiased prediction.

^dIn terms of ability of prediction.

^eGenotype imputed.

^fSingle-nucleotide polymorphism array.

^gIdentity-by-descent genomic selection.

^hBayesian least absolute shrinkage and selection operator.

ⁱModel combines a polygenic term and a BayesC term.

^jIn terms of accuracy of GEBVs.

^kRestriction site associated DNA sequencing.

^lWeight single-step genomic best linear unbiased prediction.

^mSingle Bayesian multiple regression BayesB.

ⁿDouble digest restriction associated DNA sequencing.

^oRidge regression genomic best linear unbiased prediction.

^pGenotyping by sequencing.

^qElastic net genomic best linear unbiased prediction.

^rBayesian ridge-regression.

^sRestriction site-associated DNA sequencing.

^tHilbert spaces regression.

^uDeep neural networks.

obtained for rainbow trout using the same progeny evaluation scheme for IHNV resistance.¹⁵⁵

A common strategy to evaluate the possibility of cost-effective use of genomic information in genomic selection is to estimate GEBVs using different SNP densities (e.g. from 0.5 to 220K^{31,33,38,145,146,150,154,156}). This strategy may help to determine the SNP-density threshold needed to obtain GEBVs without reduction in accuracy. Different statistical methods have been tested for salmonid species; among them, the most used were the genomic best linear unbiased prediction (GBLUP) and single-step GBLUP (ssGBLUP), reported in 64% and 50% of the genomic selection studies for salmonids, respectively.

4.2 | Genomic selection in non-salmonid fish

Reports of genomic selection in non-salmonid fish species include 19 studies in nine different species: European sea bass (*D. labrax*), Nile tilapia (*O. niloticus*), common carp (*C. carpio*), large yellow croaker (*L. crocea*), Japanese flounder (*Paralichthys olivaceus*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), Asian sea bass (*L. calcarifer*), grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*) and striped knifejaw (*Oplegnathus fasciatus*). Palaiokostas et al.⁹⁰ found relative increases in genomic selection accuracy ranging from 8% to 13% for resistance against viral nervous necrosis in *D. labrax*. For resistance to koi herpes virus disease in *C. carpio*, the values ranged from 8% to 18%.¹⁵⁷ Zhao et al.¹⁵⁸ reported successful genomic selection in large yellow croaker (*Larimichthys crocea*) for resistance against *Cryptocaryon irritans*, a parasitic ciliate which causes huge economic losses to the aquaculture industry. The survival rate was significantly improved after one generation of genomic selection.¹⁵⁸ Lu et al.¹⁵⁹ found that genomic prediction of resistance against *Edwardsiella tarda* in Japanese flounder with 50K SNPs was better than pedigree-based prediction, and the accuracy of genomic breeding values were similar using ssGBLUP, wssGBLUP and BayesB (refer to Table 4 for acronyms) methods for prediction. In Nile tilapia, genomic selection for resistance against *Streptococcus agalactiae* and *Francisella orientalis*, resulted in both more than twice the ability of prediction over pedigree-based methods.^{160,161} For *I. punctatus*, genomic selection demonstrated satisfactory results for *Flavobacterium columnare* resistance, but no pedigree was available, precluding comparison with genomic methods.¹⁶² For ammonia tolerance in *E. coioides*, in which different SNP densities (5–2000K) were evaluated using different methods (rrBLUP, BayesA, BayesB and BayesC), significant improvement in prediction ability was revealed when using SNPs found significant in previous GWAS (i.e. the use of informative SNPs offered higher prediction accuracy in comparison to randomly selected SNPs).¹⁶³ Increase in growth (body weight and body length) and carcass quality (carcass weight and fillet yield) traits increased from 4% to 76% comparing the accuracy of GEBVs using genomic information and pedigree-based BLUP (EBVs) for *D. labrax*, *O. niloticus*, *C. carpio*, *I. punctatus* and *L. calcarifer*.^{101,164–170} Joshi et al.¹⁶⁷ found the highest values (20%, 43% and 75%) for fillet yield, body weight and fillet weight, respectively, for *O. niloticus* using a high-

density chip (50K), whereas Yoshida et al.¹⁰¹ found values ranging from 4% to 27% using different SNP densities (0.5, 1, 3, and 32K) with true and imputed genotypes for harvest weight and fillet yield in the same species. Only one study was found for feed efficiency traits, with substantial improvement in accuracy of genomic prediction compared to pedigree breeding (up to 34%) in Nile tilapia.¹⁷¹

A number of genomic selection studies for *D. labrax*,⁹⁰ *L. crocea*,¹⁰⁵ *P. olivaceus*,¹⁵⁹ *O. niloticus*,^{160,161} *C. carpio*,¹⁵⁷ *E. coioides*¹⁶³ and *O. fasciatus*¹⁷² compared the performance of different genomic selection methods to estimate the GEBVs, including Bayesian (rrBLUP, BayesA, BayesB, BayesC and BLasso) and GBLUP (GBLUP, ssGBLUP and wssGBLUP) approaches. Although some methods outperformed others in terms of genomic prediction ability (e.g. higher prediction accuracy of Bayesian methods over GBLUP for *Streptococcus agalactiae* resistance in Nile tilapia¹⁶¹), the performance of each method may vary according to the architecture of the trait, heritability, reference population size and SNP density, among others factors, and no ideal method may be indicated without further investigation about breeding program design and determination of quantitative traits.

4.3 | Genomic selection in shellfish

Studies of genomic selection are scarce for shellfish. Until recently there have been studies only for Zhikong scallop (*Chlamys farreri*),¹⁷³ Pacific oyster (*C. gigas*),^{174,175} Portuguese oyster (*C. angulata*),^{176,177} eastern oyster (*C. virginica*),¹¹⁹ Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*),^{178–180} and banana shrimp (*Fenneropenaeus merguensis*)¹⁸¹ in the literature.

For scallops (*C. farreri*) and oysters (*C. gigas*, *C. angulata* and *C. virginica*), most of the studies are related to shell traits. Vu et al.^{176,177} found an advantage of including genomic information in breeding programs evaluating colour of shell and mantle in *C. angulata*, doubling the prediction accuracy relative to only pedigree information. For *C. gigas*, genomic prediction increase was also positive for growth (up to 30%) and ostreid herpesvirus resistance (up to 19%) traits.^{174,175}

In shrimp, the GEBVs were estimated mostly for growth and disease resistance traits. Significant benefit of genomic selection was found for body weight in *L. vannamei* (up to 62%) and more modest results for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* resistance (up to 7%) using 2b-RAD-Seq technology to genotype animals.^{178,179} For the same species, the application of a low-density SNP array was used for genomic selection purposes and, in spite of pedigree not being available to perform a direct comparison, there was a high realized genetic gain (up to 58%) observed for white spot syndrome virus resistance.¹⁸⁰ In *Fenneropenaeus merguensis*, 12%–38% increase in accuracy using genomic selection was reported for growth traits. Accuracy was six times higher for *Hepatopancreatic parvovirus* resistance compared to applying only pedigree information.¹⁸¹

Most of the studies in shellfish used GBLUP. Four studies also applied Bayesian methods to estimate the GEBVs, with no significant difference respective approaches.^{119,173,177,178}

4.4 | General discussion for genomic selection

Genomic selection has been successfully applied in some livestock species and for different economic traits.^{15,182,183} In aquaculture, most of the genomic selection applications were evaluated for salmonids (43% of studies) and more limited numbers of studies for other freshwater (26%) and saltwater (11%) fish species, molluscs (11%), and crustaceans (6%; Table 6). The targeted traits were mostly growth-related (e.g. body weight and body length), carcass qualities (e.g. fillet yield and fillet colour) and resistance against diseases (e.g. *P. salmonis*, *C. rogercresseyi* and *F. psychrophilum*). The accuracies and advantages over conventional selection or MAS were dependent upon the trait involved, as well as the selection schemes and phenotyping strategies. Results showed that particular attention to the population structure and the traits included for genetic evaluation should be paid if multiple-traits are considered. It is important to mention that genomic selection including more than one trait simultaneously may be computationally challenging if the effect of each locus is considered in the evaluation.¹⁸⁴

The first genomic selection study for aquaculture species was reported by Ødegård et al.¹⁵⁰ in an admixed *S. salar* population evaluated for fillet colour and resistance against *L. salmonis*. The authors evaluated different subsets of low-density markers (1, 2, 4, 22 and 55K) from a 220K SNP panel and used identity-by-descent genomic selection (IBS-GS) and GBLUP models to compare the accuracy of genomic selection to that of a pedigree-based model. The results of using genomic information outperformed the pedigree-based model independent of panel density and the model used for both traits, with relative increase in accuracy ranging from 15% to 52%. Further, increasing the number of markers from 22 to 220K only marginally improved the reliability (~1%). Similar studies for Atlantic salmon,^{33,40,147} rainbow-trout¹⁵⁶ and Nile tilapia¹⁰¹ also reported that low-density panels ranging from 0.5 to 20K were sufficient to obtain an accuracy close to the maximum value compared to a high-density panel. The population background (e.g. effective population size and admixture) could result in long-range linkage disequilibrium that may increase the accuracy of genomic selection even when using low-density panels.^{24,77,185}

To estimate the accuracy of genomic prediction, it is common to use cross-validation strategies. In practical terms, the individuals in both validation and training data are related to some degree, resulting in accuracy of GEBVs higher than zero. In addition, family-based population structures are commonly used in cross-validation designs for aquaculture species, meaning that all animals can be related to some degree.^{38,146,147,152,186} This close relationship between validation and training animals could increase the accuracy of genomic selection,¹⁸⁷ and eventually, overestimates GEBVs (e.g. when the markers are not in linkage disequilibrium with QTL¹⁴²). It is important to highlight that the true potential of implementing genomic selection should be assessed using full evaluation methodologies comprising both predicted and realized genetic gains.¹³ Further, the accuracy of genomic selection is affected by other factors, such as the number of individuals used in the reference population, number of markers, effective

population size, degree of LD and architecture and heritability of traits.^{188,189} Additionally, the accuracy of GEBV may be influenced using statistical methods, which mainly differ with respect to the prior assumption of marker distribution effects (Table 4) and the calculation of the genetic relationship matrix (e.g. ssGBLUP proposed by Aguilar et al.¹⁹⁰ as an alternative approach to GBLUP).

The genomic selection model generally outperformed the PBLUP models for all traits studied in aquaculture species (Table 6). For *S. salar*, for example, the improvement in accuracies ranged from 0% to 20% and from 8% to 52% for growth and resistance against disease traits, respectively, whereas the reliabilities for *O. kisutch* and *O. mykiss* for resistance against BCWD and *P. salmonis*, respectively, were up to 100% compared to PBLUP models.^{78,155} The reliability of GEBV was marginally different between genomic selection models,^{146,147,156,157,178} whereas Barría et al.⁷⁸ suggested superior accuracy for GBLUP and BayesC models compared to ssGBLUP and wssGBLUP. In agreement, Vallejo et al.¹⁵⁴ reported higher predictability for a Bayesian model (Bayes B) than ssGBLUP or wssGBLUP models.

The performance of genomic selection models is strongly dependent on the genetic architecture of the trait.¹⁹¹ The GBLUP model, for example, assumes that the effect at all markers has a normal distribution,^{11,192} which fits better for traits with polygenic inheritance, as for example, resistance against *P. salmonis* for Atlantic salmon,²⁵ and is more efficient using closely related individuals.^{146,150,156} In contrast, the Bayesian models, such as BayesC and BayesB, presented better results for moderate- to large-effect QTLs controlling the trait,¹⁹³ similarly to marker-assisted selection methods, for instance, for fillet colour in Atlantic salmon.¹⁵⁰ Additionally, statistical models, such as ssGBLUP and wsGBLUP, have been commonly used for genomic selection in aquaculture species^{78,151,186} (Table 6). Despite ssGBLUP having the same normal distribution of marker effects as GBLUP, the advantages are due to the use of additional phenotypes from related animals that have no genomic information but may be connected with genotyped animals via pedigree information.¹⁹⁰ In wssGBLUP, the marker variances are updated on each iteration and used as weights for the next iteration round,¹⁹⁴ emulating shrinkage Bayesian models, such as BayesC. More accurate results are expected for ssGBLUP compared to the GBLUP model as in Yoshida et al.,¹⁵⁶ whereas for oligogenic traits, better results are expected with wssGBLUP over ssGBLUP, as observed by Vallejo et al.¹⁵⁴ Some authors reported that the GEBVs estimated for different models were highly correlated, resulting in values up to 0.80 and some correlations close or equal to one as BayesB versus BayesC (correlation = 0.99, Vallejo et al.¹⁵⁴) and BayesC versus ssGBLUP (correlation = 1.00, Bangera et al.¹⁴⁶). However, both studies reported correlation between PBLUP and genomic selection models from 0.60 to 0.81, suggesting higher differences of predicted genetic merit between EBVs and GEBVs than between GEBVs estimated using different models. Despite several statistical methods being available for estimation of SNP effects, most BLUP studies are related to the simple replacement of the A matrix (pedigree) by the G matrix (genomic). Instead of modelling each SNP individually, the animal's effect is fitted

based on a genomic relationship matrix, a more efficient strategy in terms of computation time and demand.¹⁹⁵

Previously, it was suggested that the high number of markers and the genotyping cost were the major limitations to the implementation of genomic selection.¹³⁶ However, the advances in molecular techniques and the continuous reduction in the cost per unit to genotype the individuals has changed the cost-effectiveness of implementing genomic selection.¹⁹⁶ Further, alternative strategies have been tested for reducing the cost to genotype the individuals, such as the use of low-density panels^{24,40,146,147,150,156} and genotype imputation.^{145,152,197} Genotype imputation consists of genotyping at high density (or sequencing) a few animals as reference to infer and impute non-genotyped markers of many target animals that were genotyped using lower-density SNP panels.¹⁹⁸

The choice of panel density may represent a cost-effective strategy for genomic selection when a high number of selection candidates must be genotyped, as in the case of aquaculture species. Therefore, the combination of genotyping the selection candidates using low-density panels and a small proportion of highly related individuals (e.g. parents) using a high-density panel followed by genotypic imputation¹⁹⁹ could be a cost-effective strategy with little or no loss in accuracy of GEBV, in comparison to using all animals genotyped with high-density SNP panels.^{101,145,152,197} Tsai et al.¹⁴⁵ imputed genotypes of *S. salar* from 0.25 to ~25K markers and found marginally lower values (~3% for both resistance to sea lice and body weight) of prediction accuracy than using true genotypes. Also in Atlantic salmon, Yoshida et al.¹⁵² found identical values (0.73) of prediction accuracy for body weight using genotype imputation (from 0.5K to 50K) and true 50K genotypes. In Nile tilapia, the increase in GEBV value ranged from 8% to 25% using genotype imputation, and it was suggested that directed savings of 69% could be achieved by genotyping fewer animals using a high-density panel and proceeding with genotyping imputation.¹⁰¹

5 | SIGNATURES OF DOMESTICATION AND SELECTION

Domestication and selective breeding have resulted in important phenotypic changes in aquaculture species.²⁰⁰ Intense selective breeding and adaptation to local environments have given rise to different strains of Atlantic salmon, Nile tilapia, rainbow trout and other species. Further, when positive selection pressures occur in a population undergoing domestication and artificial breeding, changes in allele frequencies, linkage disequilibrium and haplotype patterns will arise.²⁰¹ Characterizing genomic regions that are affected by selection may allow inferences about genomic regions, functionality and genes underlying the expression of specific traits²⁰²; thus, selection signature studies have been carried out in several species, in both wild and domestic populations. Selection signature studies performed on aquaculture species will be described below.

5.1 | Selection signatures in salmonids

In aquaculture species, the study of selection signatures has focused mostly on salmonids, especially Atlantic salmon. Some studies have concentrated on describing genetic differences between hatchery strains and wild populations to evaluate the effect of farmed salmon escaping into nature.^{203,204} Posterior studies have been applied to investigate genomic regions underlying traits of importance to production and the effect of domestication in farmed Atlantic salmon. Gutierrez et al.²⁰⁵ performed a study using a 6.5K SNP array and three methods based on genetic differentiation (F_{ST}) between populations to detect selection signatures in the Cermaq population, a Mowi strain, originated from wild Norwegian populations. They found 44 loci showing evidence of selection signatures, associated with molecular functions that could be related to traits such as growth, response to pathogens and environmental stressors. Interestingly, they found evidence of markers previously associated with early sexual maturation in Atlantic salmon.⁴² Liu et al.²⁰⁶ performed a study comparing a domestic population with its presumed wild founder population, finding several F_{ST} outlier loci putatively under selection near genes and quantitative trait loci (QTLs) for growth (somatostatin receptor 5, *sstr5*), appetite (melanocortin 4 receptor-like, *mc4r*), maturity (*vgll3* and thyrotropin receptor, *tshr*) and disease resistance (major histocompatibility complex, *mhc class2*). Likewise, López et al.²⁰⁷ performed a study with two independent pairs of domesticated/wild populations to evaluate the effect of domestication and artificial selection. They found evidence of both nonparallel and parallel signatures of selection upon genes with molecular functions that might be associated with traits under domestication, such as growth (e.g. supervillin, *svil* and plexin-b2, *plxnb2*), behaviour (e.g. autism susceptibility candidate 2, *auts2* and bromodomain- and wd repeat-containing protein 3, *brwd3*), immune response (e.g. collagen alpha-1XIII chain, *coda1* and ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme E2F putative, *ube2f*), response to environmental stimuli (e.g. melanopsins, *opn4x1b2*) and reproduction (e.g. *myopalladin*, *mypn* and zona pellucida sperm-binding protein 3-like, *zp3*). In a different study, four farmed populations of Atlantic salmon with a common geographical origin, all of them derived from the Mowi strain, were used to assess how selective pressures have affected populations cultivated in different production environments.²⁰⁸ They found potential candidate genes for traits with both biological and economic importance for Atlantic salmon, such as growth (e.g. kinase non-catalytic c-lobe domain containing 1, *kind1* and calcineurin like EF-hand protein 2, *chp2*), immune system function (e.g. potassium voltage-gated channel subfamily b member 2, *kcnb2*; zinc finger protein, *r1f*; Synergin gamma, *synrg*; sorting nexin 14, *snx14*; f-box and leucine-rich repeat protein 5, *fbxl5*; e2f transcription factor 4, *e2f4* and Bloom syndrome gene, *blm*) and behaviour (e.g. gamma-aminobutyric acid type a receptor subunit beta1, *gabbr1*; s-phase cyclin-a associated protein in the er, *scaper*; calyntenin 3 *clstn3* and peroxisomal biogenesis factor 5, *pex5*). Additionally, using whole-genome sequencing, Bertolotti et al.²⁰⁹ investigated changes in structural variant allele frequencies between wild and farmed Atlantic salmon, finding evidence of

polygenic selection upon behaviour, immunity, circadian control of metabolism and other traits.

Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*) were studied to identify genomic signatures of domestication; by genotyping 137K SNPs in two different lines selectively bred to improve growth rate for approximately eight generations in Chile. Several genomic regions that contain genes potentially involved in growth, immune system, behaviour and maturation traits showed evidence of selection.²¹⁰ Finally, in rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*), using a commercial population of 749 individuals genotyped with 36K SNPs, Cadiz et al.²¹¹ reported approximately 100 SNPs under selection, including markers within autosomal inversions on *Omy 05* and *Omy 20*.

5.2 | Selection signatures in other species

Tilapia are a group of cichlid fish native to the Middle East and Africa²¹² and include some of the most important warmwater fish species used in aquaculture.²¹³ The main species of tilapia used for cultivation are Nile tilapia, blue tilapia (*O. aureus*), Mozambique tilapia (*O. mossambicus*) and several species of *Sarotherodon*.²¹³ Many breeding programs for these species have been established at universities, small businesses, large multinational companies and consortia of combinations of these entities since the 1980s, which have led to the existence of many strains and phenotypic differences.²¹⁴ In comparison to salmonid species, fewer studies have been done on tilapia; to date, only two studies of signatures of selection have been carried out. Hong Xia et al.²¹⁴ sequenced the genome of 47 tilapia individuals, belonging to Mozambique, Nile and red tilapia species and strains; they detected over a hundred regions harbouring selection signatures in each evaluated tilapia strain. Candidate genes in these regions were mapped into five gene ontology (GO) categories of which the *wnt* signalling, *gnrh* (gonadotropin-releasing hormone) and *integrin* signalling pathways overlapped all populations evaluated. These pathways have important roles in animal growth, development and disease resistance.²¹⁵ Cádiz et al.²¹⁶ performed whole-genome re-sequencing of 326 individuals belonging to three strains of farmed Nile tilapia cultivated in Brazil and Costa Rica. They applied two haplotype-based tests (integrated haplotype score, iHS; and extended haplotype homozygosity between pairs of populations, Rsb) to detect selection signatures within the genomes of these populations and detected 16, 174, and 96 candidate genes subjected to selection, in the three evaluated strains, respectively. Enrichment analysis of these genes revealed associations with growth, immune system, reproduction, behaviour, adaptation to environmental conditions and nervous system. In a more recent study performed using whole-genome sequences from 20 individuals from the Sukamandi Indonesian strain, several selection signatures were found, revealing eight potential genes related to salinity tolerance (cell cycle-associated protein 1a, *caprin1a*; nucleobindin 2; ATP binding cassette subfamily; solute carrier family 12 member 1; calcium channel; unc-51 like autophagy activating kinase; solute carrier and cadherin-1, *cdh1*).²¹⁷ The authors also found that the Sukamandi strain is approximately 10% derived from blue tilapia (*O.*

aureus), indicating a past hybridization event with Nile tilapia (*O. niloticus*). These results may be important to better understand the effect of artificial selection and domestication within the genome of Nile tilapia as well as informing future selective breeding.

Channel catfish (*I. punctatus*), native to North America, is an important species for freshwater cultivation.²¹⁸ Changes in morphological, behavioural and growth traits have been found in channel catfish during domestication^{219,220}; however, the molecular bases of such changes are unknown. Sun et al.,²²¹ by sequencing 150 individuals belonging to four domestic and one wild populations, identified genomic regions harbouring selection signatures using the pooled heterozygosity (H_p) test. They detected 23 genomic regions with putative selective sweeps, spanning 11 genes. Some of these genes play roles related to aquaculture performance traits, such as hypoxia-inducible factor 1 β (*hif1 β*), which is involved in response to hypoxia and tolerance of low dissolved oxygen levels.

Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is one of the four major Chinese carp of important economic value, used as both food fish and for aquatic vegetation control, and has been cultured for over 1300 years in China.²²² Using 43K SNPs, scored by GBS, Shen et al.²²³ conducted a study to infer population structure and evidence of local adaptation. They found evidence of both positive and balancing selection. Genes associated with loci under selection were involved in many biological functions, such as anatomical structure and function, developmental process, metabolic process, reproduction and immune system, among others.

Red sea bream (*Pagrus major*) is a species in the family Sparidae. Due to its rapid growth and easy adaptation to environmental conditions, red sea bream is one of the most important species cultivated in Japan, Korea and China.²²⁴ In Japan and Korea, it has been cultivated since the 1960s and 1980s, respectively,^{225,226} where breeding programs have been established to improve growth rate. Nam et al.²²⁷ conducted a study by whole-genome re-sequencing in one wild and three farmed populations from Japan and Korea to study the effect of artificial selection. They applied the cross-population extended haplotype homozygosity (XP-EHH) and relative nucleotide diversity tests to perform comparisons between wild and farmed populations. They detected 420, 549 and 325 genes in each of three farmed populations with significantly enriched GO terms related to metabolic processes, such as fatty acid and monocarboxylic acid metabolic processes. Enrichment of metabolic processes has also been observed in other farmed fish species selected for faster growth rate.²²⁸ Apart from metabolic processes, they found GO terms related to developmental processes, among them neuron development and positive regulation of neuron projection development that are related to central nervous system development.²²⁹ The authors related these GO terms to behaviour traits, since change of behavioural traits has been observed in other domesticated fish species.^{230,231} Nam et al.²²⁷ discovered different genes under selection between these farmed populations, although all the breeding programs were aimed at improving growth, showing that artificial selection acted on different genomic regions, many independent breeding programs.

Finally, tambaqui or cachama (*Colossoma macropomum*), one of the most important neotropical freshwater fish used for aquaculture in South America, was investigated using the ddRAD sequencing approach in farmed populations from Brazil, Colombia and Peru to study the effects of recent artificial selection and domestication. Agudelo et al.²³² identified several genomic regions potentially associated with stress tolerance and immunity, suggesting local adaptation to the culture environment.

For non-fish species, only two studies were found evaluating selection signatures, and both for the mollusc phylum. A total of 371 greenlip abalones (*Haliotis laevigata*) from 13 different coastal sites were genotyped with approximately 9K SNPs.²³³ The sample sites were located close to commercial farms, in order to investigate the effect of the seascape upon selection signatures. Geographical mapping of the sample sites and oceanographic variables were also included in the analysis making it possible to associate several genes, to environmental heterogeneity in oxygen concentrations and minimum temperatures such as cytochrome c oxidase (*cox*), heme α -synthase and Pumilio homologue (*pum1*). Another study performed using whole-genome sequences from 30 individuals from two different strains and natural populations of Yesso scallop (*M. yessoensis*) found several genes potentially associated with growth and disease resistance traits, among them the lysophosphatidylcholine acyltransferase 1 (*lpcat1*) and tumour necrosis factor receptor-associated factor (*traf*), related to carotenoid accumulation in the muscle and immune response in molluscs, respectively.²³⁴

6 | INCORPORATING WHOLE-GENOME RESEQUENCING

The availability of genome sequences for many individuals would be useful for searching for rare genetic variants associated with economic traits for aquaculture. Recent advances in next-generation sequencing technologies are contributing to reduced cost of sequencing and have made it possible to apply genomic selection using WGS data. The potential advantage of genomic selection using WGS was first suggested because WGS provides a large proportion of genome coverage, thus including most of the causal mutations. Therefore, the accuracy attributed to LD between SNPs and causative mutations is not as relevant for WGS as it is for screening on SNP chips, given that the causal mutations are mostly present in the WGS data.^{15,235} However, previous genomic selection studies in *Drosophila melanogaster*, cattle, poultry or simulated data suggested little or no increase in prediction accuracy comparing the use of WGS over dense SNP chips.²³⁵⁻²⁴¹ The main reason for these results is the high number of rare SNPs present in WGS data. These rare SNPs most likely will not be represented in both validation and reference populations, decreasing the percentage of variance captured by them.²³⁸ So far, studies to evaluate the accuracy of genomic selection with WGS data in aquaculture species are few, as was recently reported by Liu et al.²⁴² for resistance to *E. tarda* in Japanese flounder (*Paralichthys olivaceus*). The authors used information from whole-genome resequencing of 1052

Japanese flounder and reported predicted accuracy values of 0.60 and 0.61 through cross-validation strategies for GBLUP and BayesC, respectively, with high Pearson correlation between methods (0.95). Unfortunately, in this study pedigree information was not available to compare the accuracies of GEBV and EBV, and neither did they test different chip densities to evaluate the benefits in terms of accuracy of WGS using a high-density chip. Yoshida and Yáñez⁶⁴ performed a GWAS using WGS-imputed genotypes and selected a subset of 50K SNPs which were more important for growth under chronic thermal stress in rainbow trout. The authors found that prioritizing significant SNPs selected from GWAS produced better prediction accuracy (1.2%–13.3% higher accuracy in comparison to the pedigree-based scenario).

7 | OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Scientific papers published in the public domain do not tell the full story of applying genomics in aquaculture. Genomic- and marker-assisted selection are also employed by commercial breeding companies, providing the aquaculture industries with genetically selected broodstock. The work done by these companies is sometimes reported in the public domain, other times not.

The Atlantic salmon breeding sector is a good example of such 'private' use of genomic selection and GWAS, as Atlantic salmon breeding companies were the first to employ these techniques in commercial breeding. The above-mentioned identification of a major QTL for resistance to the viral disease IPNV^{9,10} raised the salmonid breeding sector's awareness of what marker-assisted selection can offer on top of established methods of selective breeding. In addition to the obvious benefit of faster genetic gain,⁸ marker-assisted selection offered new opportunities for product diversification; genetic material with increased IPNV resistance could be sold at a premium, so that the costs of performing marker-assisted selection could be recovered.⁸ In the following years, breeding companies working on Atlantic salmon added an increasing number of value-added products to their portfolio, all of which were based on one or more major or moderate QTLs. In particular, eggs could be sold which were particularly resistant to the viral diseases cardiomyopathy syndrome or pancreas disease,^{28,243} resistant to the bacterial disease salmon rickettsial syndrome, or had a particularly red fillet colour.²⁴⁴

Many traits, however, turned out to be highly polygenic, controlled by many genes with small individual effects. Genomic selection became a realistic option with the advent of affordable high-throughput SNP genotyping systems, and from 2013 onwards, genomic selection was implemented in several breeding programs. Breeding companies often chose a policy of limited collaboration, meaning that SNP-chips were produced that were often tailor-made to suit one or a few populations, rather than being generic and based on wide collaborative consortia. Thus, the five published SNP-arrays for Atlantic salmon^{25,150,245-247} are mirrored by a handful of arrays developed (and continuously updated) by breeding companies for private use. The most extensive collection of validated SNPs originated from

two ~450K Affymetrix Axiom arrays which were put into the public domain. A condensed version of these two arrays was later used for identifying a major QTL for age-at-maturity in Atlantic salmon, implying *vestigial-like protein 3 (vgl3)* as the causative gene.⁴⁶

Currently, commercial Atlantic salmon breeding programs typically employ genomic selection on polygenic traits such as growth rate and resistance to the ectoparasites salmon louse (*L. salmonis*) and *C. rogercresseyi*, as well as to disease resistance traits. Genomic selection has boosted genetic gain in aquaculture breeding, not least because most traits of importance cannot be measured directly upon the breeding candidates. Prior to the introduction of genomic selection, disease resistance traits, fillet quality traits, and so forth could be selected for only using family selection, which exploits only the between-family component of genetic variation (~50% of the total genetic variance). Genomic selection facilitates exploitation also of the within-family component.

8 | CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

In only two decades, the application of genomics in aquaculture breeding has gone from 'none' to 'common'. Today, many breeding programs in aquaculture employ marker-assisted or genomic selection in some form for propagating their stocks or for producing eggs. However, it is the lowest-hanging fruits which have been gathered: some major genes with very large effects on specific traits have been selected for and brought close to fixation. Genomic selection has been applied, but mostly in situations where training data has been available from close relatives of the breeding candidates. The exploitation of genomics in aquaculture breeding has thus just begun. Further focus is needed and expected for the future, particularly within these areas:

- Fine mapping and identification of causative variation: In aquaculture as in other species, a typical GWAS currently is performed using a SNP-chip harbouring ~50K SNPs. Likewise, genomic selection is done by genotyping breeding candidates and reference animals on a chip of similar density. This choice of marker density is often motivated more by practical and cost-related issues than by scientific needs, and one could argue whether 50K SNPs is 'high-density' considering that a genome is likely to harbour millions of SNPs in addition to more cryptic variations. If marker densities were higher, or if causative mutations could be assayed rather than (more or less) random SNPs, genetic testing would become more precise and more generic, that is, less reliant on continuous updating of reference data sets. Using causative mutations instead of using high-density SNP panels ($\geq 50K$ SNPs) for genomic prediction is desirable, given that it has been shown that accuracy of selection can be maximized when accounting for all loci controlling a particular trait, which in turn may relax the need for updating prediction equations every generation.²³⁸

- Gene editing to introduce 'novel' traits or to fast-track genetic improvement: More so than land-based species, aquaculture species may potentially benefit from extant wild-living relatives as well as a plethora of related species, from which they often differ phenotypically.²⁴⁸ For example, while Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout are susceptible to sea lice infestations, coho salmon and pink salmon are not. Future and ongoing projects will aim to identify the genetic factors which create resistance in some species and not in others, by comparing the genomes, transcriptomes and so forth, of the different species. If technology and policy allow,²⁴⁹ these variants could be applied from one species to another using gene editing. Gene editing could be used to increase the frequency of beneficial, but minor, alleles without risking inbreeding.

These steps will be crucial for the utilization of more advanced genomic technologies in aquaculture species, allowing more effective utilization of genetic variation in production traits via precision breeding, which can be considered paramount to the continued successful development, efficiency and sustainability of aquaculture.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

José Manuel Yáñez: Conceptualization; data curation; project administration; supervision; writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Agustín Barriá:** Data curation; writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **María Eugenia López:** Data curation; writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Thomas Moen:** Data curation; writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Baltasar Fernandes Garcia:** Data curation; writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Grazyella Yoshida:** Data curation; writing – original draft; writing – review and editing. **Peng Xu:** Conceptualization; data curation; writing – original draft; writing – review and editing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

José M. Yáñez acknowledges funding from FONDECYT regular grant (No. 1211761). José M. Yáñez and Peng Xu acknowledge funding from the ANSO grant (No. ANSO-CR-PP-2021-03). Peng Xu acknowledges funding from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (U21A20264).

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no new data were created or analyzed in this study.

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How to cite this article: Yáñez JM, Barria A, López ME, et al. Genome-wide association and genomic selection in aquaculture. *Rev Aquac*. 2023;15(2):645-675. doi:[10.1111/raq.12750](https://doi.org/10.1111/raq.12750)