Accuracy of within-family multi-trait genomic selection models in a sib-based aquaculture breeding scheme

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19 Abstract

Genomic selection can increase genetic gain in aquaculture breeding; however, its implementation 20 is hindered by a high genotyping cost due to large individuals to genotype. Within-family genomic 21 selection, which could utilize low-density markers and pedigree information, is suggested as a 22 cost-effective way of implementing genomic selection in these species. In this study, a single trait 23 24 genomic model (STGM) is compared with a multi-trait genomic model (MTGM) for prediction of 25 within-family genomic breeding values in a simulated sib-evaluated aquaculture breeding scheme. Two traits, one with lower heritability ($h_1^2=0.05$) and another with higher heritability ($h_2^2=0.5$) 26 27 were simulated. Three genetic correlations ($r_g=0.2$, $r_g=0.5$ and $r_g=0.8$) and zero residual correlation were assumed between these two traits. Given these assumptions, genomic and phenotypic data 28 were simulated for 100 full-sib families of size 100. From each family, 10 individuals were 29 randomly selected as selection candidates and the number of tested sibs varied from 10 to 90 per 30 family. Two scenarios were investigated: in scenario I, all reference sibs were measured for both 31 32 traits, whereas in scenario II half of the reference sibs measured for trait I and the remaining half were measured for trait II. 33

34 For both STGM and MTGM, prediction accuracies increased as the number of tested sibs per 35 family increased from 10 to 90, however, the rate of increase was higher for STGM. Compared to STGM, use of MTGM increased the accuracy by up to 71% in scenario II and by up to 58% in 36 37 scenario I for the low heritability trait when the genetic correlation between the traits was 0.8. The 38 highest improvement in accuracy was observed in scenario II when only 10 sibs were genotyped per family with 10 SNP/Chr. As the magnitude of genetic correlation between the traits decreased, 39 40 the relative gain in accuracy by implementing MTGM was reduced. The relative importance of 41 MTGM also declined with the increase of number of tested sibs per family and a similar trend, but

with lesser magnitude, was observed with the increase of marker density. The results indicate that
MTGM performs better than STGM for low heritability traits that are genetically correlated with
high heritability traits. The advantage of multi-traits model was greater when both traits are not
measured on the same group of individuals.

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Keywords: aquaculture, genomic selection, within-family, single trait, multiple traits, sib-based

49 **1. Introduction**

Genomic selection (GS) is a novel method that uses genetic markers information for selecting 50 51 parents of the future generation (Meuwissen et al., 2001). Currently, it is increasingly applied in livestock breeding programs particularly in dairy cattle (Goddard et al., 2007; Hayes et al., 2009; 52 Goddard et al., 2010; Meuwissen et al., 2013). The benefits of GS are greater when traits of interest 53 54 are not measured directly on selection candidates. In this regard, it is shown to have a very big potential in aquaculture breeding schemes because breeding goals in these species include many 55 traits that are measured on sibs and not directly on the selection candidates (Sonesson, 2007; 56 Sonesson et al., 2009; Sonesson et al., 2010; Odegard et al., 2014). A typical sib-based GS scheme 57 in aquaculture involves estimation of marker effects in the sib of the candidates and the candidates 58 are selected on breeding values estimated based on marker effects (Sonesson, 2007; Sonesson et 59 al., 2009). 60

Application of conventional (full scale) GS in aquaculture species is very expensive due to the 61 62 very large number of selection candidates and test-sibs to genotype. An alternative to overcome this particular challenge is to implement a combination of traditional BLUP for pre-selection of 63 potential families and then estimate within-family genomic breeding values based on a low marker 64 65 density (Lillehammer et al., 2013). This approach, referred as within-family (WF) genomic selection, can reduce genotyping cost without significant reducing selection accuracy because the 66 67 low density markers can be used to trace inheritance within a family with a reasonable accuracy 68 (Ødegård et al., 2014). Simulation studies confirmed that within-family genomic selection 69 substantially improved prediction accuracies compared with conventional selection methods 70 (Lillehammer et al., 2013; Ødegård et al., 2014).

Genetic correlations exist among traits included in many breeding goals and are indicators of 71 measurement from one trait carries information about other correlated traits. Prediction accuracies 72 73 could be improved by jointly evaluating these genetically correlated traits (Henderson et al., 1976; Pollak et al., 1984; Schaeffer, 1984). The advantage of jointly modeling multiple traits compared 74 to analyzing each trait separately is that the inference process appropriately accounts for the 75 76 correlation among the traits, which helps to increase prediction accuracy and reduce trait selection 77 bias. In the context of genomic selection, studies reported that joint evaluation of multiple traits 78 benefits from genetic correlation between the traits and significantly improved prediction 79 accuracies (e.g. Calus and Veerkamp, 2011, Guo et al., 2014, Jiang et al., 2015). This is particularly the case for lower heritability traits that are genetically correlated with higher 80 heritability trait. Jia and Jannink (2012) also reported that when phenotypes are not available for 81 all individuals and traits, better prediction accuracy is obtained for multiple traits genomic models 82 (MTGM) than for single trait genomic models (STGM). 83

Currently, within-family genomic selection models are tested only using single phenotype trait. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to investigate the benefits of implementing multi-trait genomic model in within-family genomic selection breeding schemes. Breeding schemes with different number of tested sibs per family and different heritabilities of the traits under selection were compared using computer simulation. In addition, different genetic correlation between traits was investigated. Single and multi-trait genomic models were compared based on the accuracy of selection.

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92 **2.** Methods

93 2.1. Simulation of population and phenotypes

Datasets were simulated to compare single and multi-trait within-family genomic selection 94 methods. A genomic data was simulated assuming an effective population size of 1000 (Ne), 500 95 96 males and 500 females, and was kept for 4000 generations to achieve mutation-drift-LD balance. The simulated genome consisted of 10 chromosomes each 1M (Morgan) length and 11,000 bi-97 allelic loci across the genome. At generation 4001, ~ 1,100 marker loci and ~ 30 QTL segregated 98 99 with minor allele frequency (MAF) of above 5% at each of 10 chromosomes (i.e. a total of 1,100 per chromosome). In 4001 generation, a pedigree structure of 50 males and 100 females was used 100 101 to create 100 full-sib families of family size 100 giving 10150 individuals including the base generation. A schematic description of the simulation is presented in Figure 1. 102

103 2.2. Data structure

True breeding values were obtained as the sum of all QTL additive effects for each individual. Phenotypes were defined as the sum of true breeding values and random residuals sampled form standard normal distribution. Two traits were simulated: Trait I with heritability $h_1^2 = 0.05$ and Trait II with heritability $h_2^2 = 0.5$. Three datasets were generated assuming different genetic correlation between Trait I and Trait II. The simulated genetic correlations were $r_g = 0.2$, $r_g = 0.5$ and $r_g = 0.8$ and the residual correlation between the two traits was assumed zero.

110 2.3. Marker density

Four different marker densities containing 10, 20, 50 and 100 marker per chromosome were generated by uniformly sampling markers from the complete dataset. The within-family genomic relationship matrix (G) was constructed based on linkage analysis (Luan et al., 2012). Genotype inheritance probabilities were estimated using Linkage Disequilibrium Multi-locus Iterative Peeling (LDMIP) program (Meuwissen et al., 2010) based on information from markers and the pedigree. The output was then used to calculate the genome-wide relationship matrix.

117 2.4. Breeding value estimation

Breeding values were estimated as a combination of family breeding values and genomic withinfamily breeding values. $EBV = 1/2 a_s + 1/2 a_d + u$, where EBV was a vector of combined breeding values, a_s and a_d were vectors of conventional BLUP estimated breeding values of the sire and dam of an individual respectively, and u was the within-family genomic breeding values of individuals.

Family breeding values were estimated using conventional BLUP methodology. Two different
 models were used to estimate within-family genomic breeding values. The single trait genomic
 model (STGM) was:

$$y = \mu + Zu + e$$

Where y is a vector of phenotypes, μ is the overall mean, Z is a design matrix linking animals to 127 the observation, u is a vector of estimated within-family genomic breeding values and e is a 128 vector of random residuals. It is assumed that $u \sim N(0, \frac{1}{2}G\sigma_u^2)$, where G is a genomic relationship 129 matrix for the animals in a full-sib family and σ_u^2 is the additive genetic variance; and 130 $e \sim N(0, I\sigma_e^2)$, where I is an identity matrix and σ_e^2 is residual variance. The G was calculated 131 based on linkage analysis performed using the LDMIP program (Meuwissen et al., 2010). This 132 133 method uses an iterative peeling step for each genotype locus to account for family information. 134 The G matrix was calculated for each full-sib family.

135 The general form of the multi-trait genomic models (MTGM) was:

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$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \mu_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} Z_1 & 0 \\ 0 & Z_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

137 Where $\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix}$ is a vector of phenotypes for traits I and II, 1 is a vector of ones, $\begin{bmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \mu_2 \end{bmatrix}$ is a vector of 138 overall means for traits I and II, Z_1 and Z_2 are design matrices linking animals to the observation, 139 $\begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix}$ is a vector of estimated within-family genomic breeding values for the two traits, and $\begin{bmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \end{bmatrix}$ is 140 a vector of random residuals for the two traits. It is assumed that $\begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} \sim$

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$$N(\begin{bmatrix} 0\\0\end{bmatrix}, \frac{1}{2}\begin{bmatrix}\sigma_{u_1}^2 & \sigma_{u_{12}}\\\sigma_{u_{21}} & \sigma_{u_2}^2\end{bmatrix} \otimes G)$$
, where $\begin{bmatrix}\sigma_{u_1}^2 & \sigma_{u_{12}}\\\sigma_{u_{21}} & \sigma_{u_2}^2\end{bmatrix}$ is the additive genetic variance and covariance

142 structure; and $\begin{bmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \end{bmatrix} \sim N(\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{e_1}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{e_2}^2 \end{bmatrix} \otimes I)$, where $\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{e_1}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{e_2}^2 \end{bmatrix}$ is the residual variance and

143 covariance structure. Other model components are as defined previously. For both STGM and

144 MTGM, the within-family genomic breeding values were predicted from a single trait and multi-

trait models in WOMBAT (Meyer, 2007), respectively. The genomic relationship matrix, G,

146 calculated based on the marker and pedigree information using LDMIP was fit in WOMBAT.

147 2.5. Scenarios compared

148 Two different scenarios were compared to investigate the performance of the models to predict 149 within-family genomic breeding values. In scenario I, all tested sibs had phenotypes for both traits 150 and in scenario II, half of the tested-sibs had phenotype for trait I and the other half had phenotype 151 for the second traits. Scenario II emulates a practical situation where some group of sibs of 152 selection candidates are challenged for a certain disease and the remaining sibs are used to obtain 153 measurements for other traits. Furthermore, the effect of the number of genotyped and phenotyped 154 sibs was investigated by varying the number of tested sibs per family (animals with both genotype and phenotype). Of the 100 sibs in each family, 10 sibs were chosen randomly as selection 155 156 candidates (non-phenotype validation animals) and the number of tested sibs varied from 10 to 90. Each scenario was also tested under different marker densities. 157

158 2.6. Criteria of comparison

The predictive abilities of STGM and MTGM was investigated by masking the phenotypes of 10 randomly selected candidates from each family (validation sibs) and predict their breeding values. The evaluation was based on 30 replicates for each tested scenario and the average of the replicates was reported. The performance of STGM and MTGM were evaluated using the accuracy of prediction and the bias of the estimates. Accuracy of prediction was calculated as the Pearson's correlation between true (i.e. simulated) and estimated breeding values.

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166 **3. Results**

167 **3.1.** Effect of family size and heritability

168 The effect of family size on prediction accuracy was tested by varying the number of tested sibs 169 from 10 to 90 per family. Table 1 presents prediction accuracies of STGM and MTGM under scenarios I and II for marker density of 100 SNP/Chr (the results of the other marker densities are 170 not presented here, but similar trends are observed). For the STGM, prediction accuracies for both 171 traits are reported, however, for the MTGM, prediction accuracies for only trait I is reported for 172 173 the three genetic correlations between the two traits. Across both scenarios and heritabilities, the prediction accuracy increased as the number of tested sibs per family increased from 10 to 90 174 175 (Table 1). The table also shows the effect of family size on prediction accuracy is less pronounced 176 on the higher heritable trait compared to the lower heritable trait. The effect of number of tested sibs on accuracy was less on MTGM compared to STGM. For instance, in scenario I, for trait I, 177 the increase in accuracy was 69% under STGM as the size of tested sibs increased from 10 to 90, 178 however, for the MTGM it was 63%, 42% and 28.5% when the genetic correlation between the 179 traits was 0.2, 0.5 and 0.8 respectively. A similar trend but more pronounced effect of family size 180 was observed for trait I in scenario II (Table 1). The highest increase in accuracy was observed (up 181

to 78%) for the lower heritability trait (i.e. trait I) in scenario II for STGM when the number of
tested sibs increased from 10 to 90 (Table 1).

184 **3.2.** Effect of marker density

Four marker densities, 100, 50, 20 and 10 SNP/Chr were studied to test the effect of marker density 185 on prediction accuracies of WF breeding values. Figure 2 plots the prediction accuracies for trait 186 I ($h^2=0.05$) and trait II ($h^2=0.5$) based on STGM and MTGM for scenario I. The figure shows that 187 188 the lower heritability trait under STGM is more sensitive to the marker density and to family size 189 than the higher heritability trait (Figure 2 top right). It is also showed that compared to STGM (Figure 2 top right), the use of multi-trait model has reduced the sensitivity to marker density for 190 191 trait I (Figure 2 bottom right). However, less marker density sensitivity was observed for trait II for both STGM and MTGM (Figure 2 left top and bottom). 192

193 **3.3.** Effect of genetic correlation

194 Three genetic correlations between traits (i.e. 0.2, 0.5 and 0.8) were tested to investigate the effect of it on the prediction ability of MTGM. Figures 3 and 4 present relative gain in accuracy for using 195 196 MTGM instead of STGM for trait I under scenario I and II, respectively. In general, as the genetic 197 correlation between the two traits increased, the relative gain in accuracies also improved for the 198 lower heritability trait (Figures 3 and 4). When the genetic correlation between trait I and II was 0.2, the gain in accuracy for trait I was under 6% in scenario I (Figure 3) and under 13% in scenario 199 II (Figure 4). However, when the genetic correlation increased to 0.5, the relative gain in accuracy 200 201 increased up to 29% in scenario I (Figure 3) and up to 37% in scenario II (Figure 4). The accuracy of prediction for trait I was improved by 58% in scenario I (Figure 3) and by 71.2% in scenario II 202 203 (Figure 4) by using MTGM when the genetic correlation between trait I and II was increased to 0.8. There is little or no relative benefit in accuracy was observed by using MTGM in place of 204

STGM for trait II (results not presented). Regardless of the marker density, the relative gain in accuracy for using MTGM decreased as the number of tested sibs increased from 10 to 90 per family and the extra gain beyond family size of 60 was minimal in both scenarios.

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3.4. Effect of missing phenotype

In scenario I all the test sibs were measured for the two traits (i.e. trait I and II), whereas in scenario 209 II one half of the test sibs were measured for trait I and the remaining half of sibs were measured 210 211 for trait II. The relative importance of MTGM was greater in scenario II, where not all tested sibs are phenotyped for both traits. Up to 71.2% relative gain in accuracy was observed in scenario II 212 (Figure 4) compared to up to 58% in scenario I (Figure 3) for trait I when the genetic correlation 213 214 between the traits was 0.8. As the genetic correlation between traits decreased, the relative importance of MTGM also reduced. The highest relative gain in accuracy by using MTGM was 215 observed when marker density was 10 SNP/Chr and only 10 sibs per family were tested in scenario 216 II (Figure 4). When marker density increased from 10 SNP/Chr to 100 SNP/Chr, the relative gain 217 218 in accuracy for using MTGM decreased gradually in both scenarios. For instance, in scenario I when only 10 sibs are tested, the % gain in accuracy was 58 for 10 SNP/Chr and it reduced to 48.4 219 220 when the marker density increased to 100 SNP/Chr (Figure 3). The reduction in % of gain in 221 accuracy was from 71.2 to 55.7 in scenario II when the marker density increased to 100 SNP/Chr 222 (Figure 4). Furthermore, it is also observed that as the number of tested sibs per family increased 223 from 10 to 90, the relative importance of MTGM over STGM decreased in both scenarios (Figures 224 3 and 4).

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226 **4. Discussion**

Most of existing aquaculture breeding schemes are family-based where within-family additive 227 genetic variation is hardly exploited for selection. Thus, selection methods allowing within-family 228 selection are of importance. Within-family genomic selection is a strategy where genomic 229 information is used to account for within-family variation component (Lillehammer et al., 2013; 230 Ødegård et al., 2014). It is complementary with the existing family selection breeding schemes 231 232 where the between family component of the breeding values are estimated by pedigree based method (Lillehammer et al., 2013). Studies reported that a substantial increase in accuracy 233 234 obtained through implementation of WF genomic selection based on sparse marker density 235 (Lillehammer et al., 2013; Ødegård et al., 2014). Sparse marker densities are sufficient in WF genomic selection because of the large family sizes in fish breeding. Previous studies have 236 compared the prediction accuracies of within-family genomic breeding values using single 237 phenotypes. In the current study, we have compared the performance of STGM and MTGM to 238 predict the WF genomic breeding values. 239

240 The benefit of multi-trait models over single trait models comes from the fact that it uses an extra information from genetically correlated traits. Genetic correlation is a key factor determining the 241 advantage of multi-trait models over single trait models. The current study showed that MTGM 242 243 improved prediction accuracies for the lower heritability trait, which was genetically correlated with higher heritable trait (Table 1, Figures 3 and 4). The importance of MTGM was higher when 244 245 not all test individuals measured for the two traits studied (Figure 4). Guo et al., (2014), reported 246 that more accurate breeding values were obtained with MTGM than STGM for traits that had 247 missing data and are genetically correlated with higher heritability trait. The level of genetic correlation determined the degree of improvement obtained from MTGM. Figures 3 and 4 showed 248 249 that with lower genetic correlation (i.e. $r_g = 0.2$) the gain from MTGM was minimal (under 6% and 13% for scenario I and II respectively). This is in agreement with results reported in other studies
(Calus et al., 2011; Jia et al., 2012; Guo et al., 2014; Jiang et al., 2015).

252 The difference between scenario I and II is that in scenario I all test sibs are phenotyped for both traits, whereas in scenario II only half of the test sibs were phenotyped for trait I and the other half 253 were phenotyped for trait II. The current study showed that the benefit of MTGS was higher in 254 255 scenario II (Table 1, Figures 3 and 4). Previous studies have also reported a greater advantage of 256 multi-trait models for lower heritability traits that had missing data and are genetically correlated 257 with higher heritability traits (Hayashi et al., 2013; Guo et al., 2014). In practical aquaculture 258 breeding programs, phenotype measurements for all traits of interest are not often available for all test sibs. For example, in a typical sib-based breeding program, only subset of test sibs are 259 phenotyped for traits that are difficult or expensive to measure such as filet quality and disease 260 resistance traits. Accuracies obtained using STGM were lower for trait I especially when the 261 number of tested sibs per family was under 50 (Table 1). These accuracies have improved greatly 262 263 under MTGS by using information from the genetically correlated higher heritability trait (i.e. trait II with rg = 0.5 and rg = 0.8, Table 1). However, for the higher heritability trait, MTGS made no 264 265 substantial difference in prediction accuracy as it is also reported in (Hayashi et al., 2013; Guo et 266 al., 2014).

In aquaculture breeding, considerable weight in the breeding goal is put on disease resistance traits. These traits are, however, expensive to measure and some of them have low to medium heritability (Guy et al., 2009; Drangsholt et al., 2011; Lhorente JP, 2014) hence are challenging to improve through traditional selective breeding. On the other hand, production traits such as growth rate, carcass yield and fillet yield have higher heritability (e.g. Rye and Refstie, 1995, Powell et al., 2008) and selection is relatively more effective for these traits. Sonesson and Meuwissen (2009)

and Nielsen et al., (2009) observed that use of genomic selection could considerably increase 273 accuracy of selection in aquaculture species, particularly for traits that are difficult to measure on 274 275 selection candidates themselves, for instance, disease resistance traits. Lillehammer et al. (2013) presented WF genomic selection, a cost-effective implementation of GS in aquaculture breeding 276 using low-marker density. The current study showed that the accuracy of WF genomic selection 277 278 from single phenotype could be substantially improved by including multiple phenotypes in the 279 genetic evaluation, particularly for lowly heritable traits (Figures 3 and 4). Genetic correlations 280 exist between resistance against different diseases (e.g. in Atlantic salmon Gjøen et al., 1997) and 281 between some disease resistance traits and harvest body weight traits (e.g. in Atlantic salmon Drangsholt et al., 2012). These correlations could be exploited in multi-trait genomic models to 282 improve prediction accuracies in aquaculture breeding programs. 283

Increasing marker density is expected to increase prediction accuracy of genomic breeding values 284 (e.g., Solberg et al., 2008; Nielsen et al., 2009). The current study showed that marker density has 285 286 a small effect on WF genomic breeding values prediction accuracies (Figure 2). This is in agreement with previous reports (Lillehammer et al., 2013; Ødegård et al., 2014; Ødegård et al., 287 2015). The impact of marker density is small because genomic relationship matrices are 288 289 constructed within full sib families (i.e. equivalent to an effective population size of 2) and few markers are adequate to trace inheritance. However, the effect of marker density was stronger on 290 291 the lower heritability trait than the higher heritability trait (Figure 2). The current study also found 292 that the accuracy of selection increased as the number of genotyped sibs per family increased (Table 1). The relative gain in accuracy for using MTGM, however, decreased as the number of 293 294 tested sibs increased from 10 to 90 per family and the extra gain beyond family sizes of 60 was

295 minimal (Figures 3 and 4). Nirea et al. (2014), also reported that genotyping more than 60 per
296 family yields relatively little added value.

The economic efficiency of WF genomic selection relies on two aspects of the design; pre-297 selection of families to reduce genotyping cost and use of sparse dense marker to construct the 298 within-family genomic relationship matrix (Lillehammer et al., 2013; Ødegård et al., 2014; 299 300 Ødegård et al., 2015). However, unlike conventional genomic selection programs in other species, where reference population can be re-used, it requires re-building of reference population every 301 302 generation. Consequently, if obtaining phenotype for a trait is expensive or difficult, WF genomic 303 selection will have more challenges compared to conventional genomic selection. Hence, if phenotyping is limiting, as in the case of scenario II, analyzing genetically correlated traits together 304 is more beneficiary WF genomic selection (Figure 3). 305

The current study compared MTGS and STGS models for prediction of WF breeding values using 306 a linear model (GBLUP) under a single genetic architecture. In previous studies, linear and non-307 308 linear (Bayesian) multi-trait models were compared under a single genetic architecture (Calus et al., 2011; Jiang et al., 2015) and multiple genetic architectures (Jia et al., 2012; Montesinos-López 309 et al., 2016). They reported that GBLUP gave relatively consistent performance across different 310 311 genetic architecture and under a major QTL genetic architecture, the Bayesian models performed better than GBLUP in both single and multi-trait models. It is also reported that MTGS was 312 313 strongly beneficial under a major QTL genetic architecture than under a polygenic genetic 314 architecture (Jia et al., 2012). Hence, if a trait of interest is known to be affected by major genes, 315 for instance, resistance to infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN) in Atlantic salmon (Houston et al., 2008; Moen et al., 2009), implementation of multi-trait non-linear models could be considered. 316

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318 **5.** Conclusion

319 Results show that a MTGM can improve accuracy of within-family genomic prediction for lower heritability traits that are genetically correlated with higher heritability traits. The importance of 320 321 multi-traits models were greater when both traits are not measured on the same group of 322 individuals. On the other hand, there is little or no improvement in accuracy by choosing MTGS over STGM when the genetic correlation between traits is low. The prediction accuracy of within-323 family breeding values increased as the number of tested sibs per family increased. The relative 324 importance of MTGS over STGM, however, decreased as family size increased and was minimal 325 326 beyond test sib size 60. Thus, when resources are limiting, genotyping 60 individuals per family would obtain a substantial benefit. 327

Figures

Figure 1: A diagrammatic illustration of the simulated structure of the population

Figure 2: Prediction accuracies of the two traits with heritabilites of 0.5 and 0.05 and different marker densities in Scenario I. For the MTGM, the genetic correlation between Trait I and II was 0.8.

Figure 3: Relative gain in accuracy in percentage by using MTGM instead of STGM for prediction of within-family genomic breeding values with different marker density under Scenario I

Figure 4: Gain in prediction accuracy in percentage by using MTGM instead of STGM for prediction of within-family genomic breeding values with different marker density under Scenario II

Tables

Table 1: Prediction accuracies and standard error of STGM and MTGM under scenarios I and II. For the MTGM, prediction accuracies for only trait I is reported for the three genetic correlations between the two traits. The marker density is 100 SNPs/Chr.

CRediT author statement

Binyam Dagnachew: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing- Original draft preparation, Writing- Reviewing and Editing. **Theo Meuwissen:** Conceptualization, Supervision, Writing-Reviewing and Editing

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