

# Module 1

## Understanding and Exploring Genome Assemblies

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## Genome assembly generation

- The Genome Reference Consortium
- Generating Assemblies
- Working With Assemblies

## Browsing genome assemblies

- Genome browsing
- The Ensembl gene set
- Guided examples
- [Make your own data visible: BED files]

## **Genome assembly generation**

- The Genome Reference Consortium
- Generating Assemblies
- Working With Assemblies

# Genome Reference Consortium

[genomereference.org](http://genomereference.org)



International consortium looking after  
human, mouse and zebrafish reference assemblies

- maintaining reference assemblies
- improving reference assemblies
- adding variation
- All issues documented on website

**GRCz10** released August 2014

**GRCz11** released May 2017

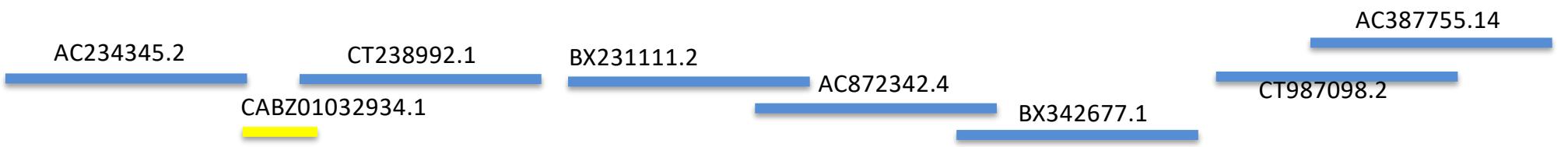
Within GRC:

- Handover from Sanger Institute to ZFIN after GRCz11
- Curation now only in reaction to user enquiries!

# Generating zebrafish assemblies

- Restriction analysis (Fingerprint) and clone contig building (FPC map)
- Meiotic and RH maps
- Fill in WGS contigs
- Check and adjust with additional data (e.g. BioNano maps, Strandseq)

## Individual components



## Scaffolds



## chromosomes

# Module 1: Understanding and Exploring Genome Assemblies

## Another layer: ALT\_REF\_LOCI

- Representation of variation extracted from surplus clone sequence
- > 5kb indel compared to reference

The screenshot shows the NCBI Assembly page for the Genome Reference Consortium Zebrafish Build 11 (GRCz11). The top navigation bar includes links for NCBI Resources, How To, Help, Log In, My NCBI, and Sign Out. The main content area displays assembly details for GRCz11, including its description as the Genome Reference Consortium Zebrafish Build 11, organism name (Danio rerio (Zebrafish)), infraspecific name (Brain Tübingen), BioSample ID (SAMN08332108), submitter (Genome Reference Consortium), date (2011/05/09), assembly type (haploid-with-altloc), assembly level (Chromosome), genome representation (full), RefSeq category (reference genome), GenBank assembly accession (GCA\_000002035.4 (blast)), RefSeq assembly accession (n/a), and RefSeq assembly and GenBank assembly identical (n/a). The ID is listed as NC\_000921 [JRC:4452479] (GenBank). A 'History' link is also present.

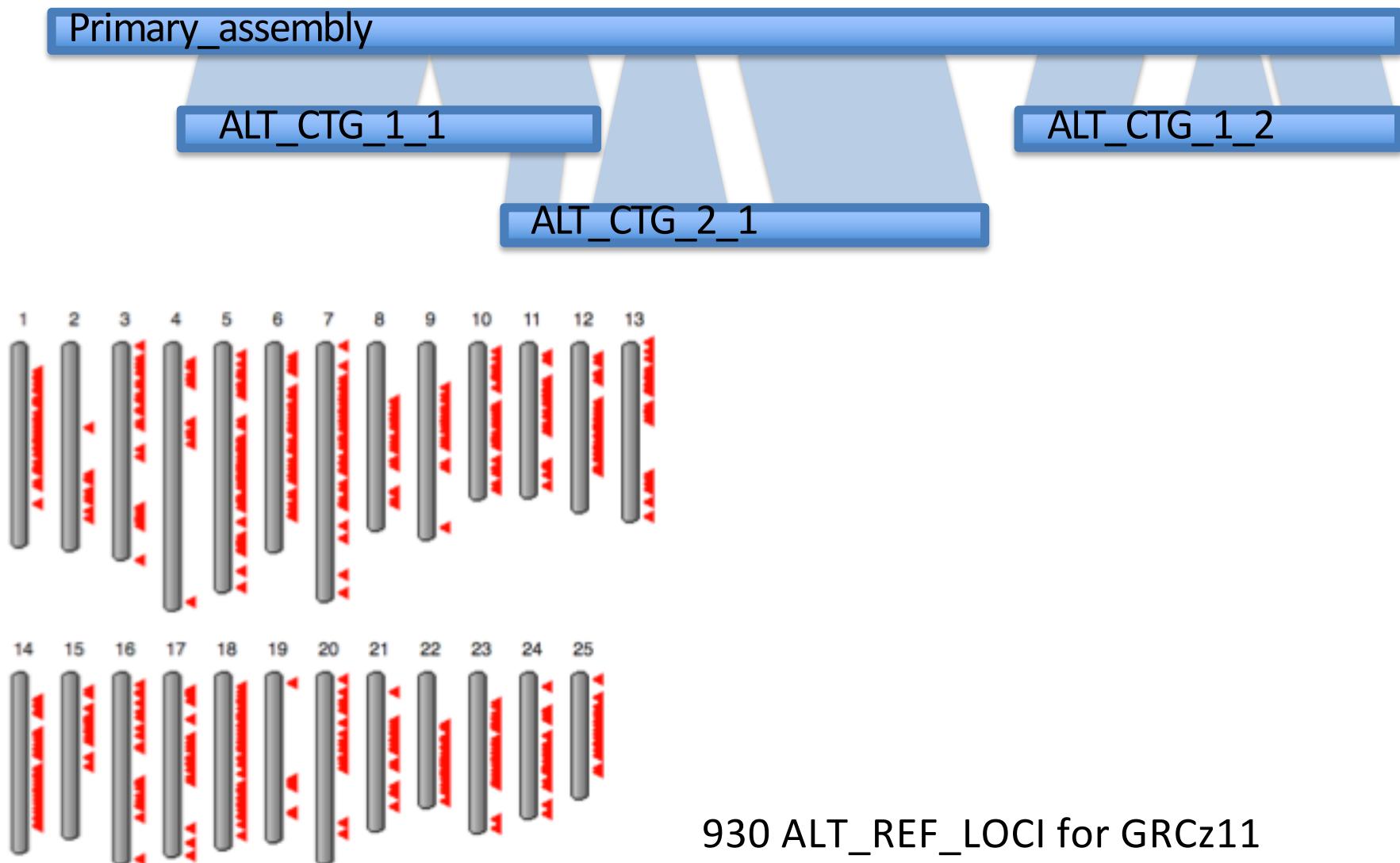
On the right side, there are sections for 'Access the data' (Download the GenBank assembly, BLAST search the assembly, Download the full sequence report, Download the statistics report, Download the regions report), 'Assembly Information' (Assembly Help, Assembly Basics, NCBI Assembly Data Model), 'Related Information' (BioProject, BioSample, Nucleotide PRSO, PubMed, Taxonomy), and 'PubMed articles for this assembly' (link to a search result for 'Zebrafish genome sequence and a human genome').

The bottom section shows two tables: 'Global assembly definition' and 'Assembly Statistics'. The 'Global assembly definition' table lists assembly units with their names and primary assembly status. The 'Assembly Statistics' table provides global statistics for the assembly, including the number of regions with alternate loci or patches (607), total sequence length (1,879,186,873), and total assembly gap length (4,691,662).

Specific assembly unit details are shown in a modal window for ALT\_DRER\_TU\_1 (GCA\_002119155.1). It lists scaffold names, chromosome assignments, GenBank IDs, and RefSeq IDs. All scaffolds are assigned to chromosome 1 and have GenBank IDs starting with KZ114997.1, with RefSeq IDs marked as n/a.

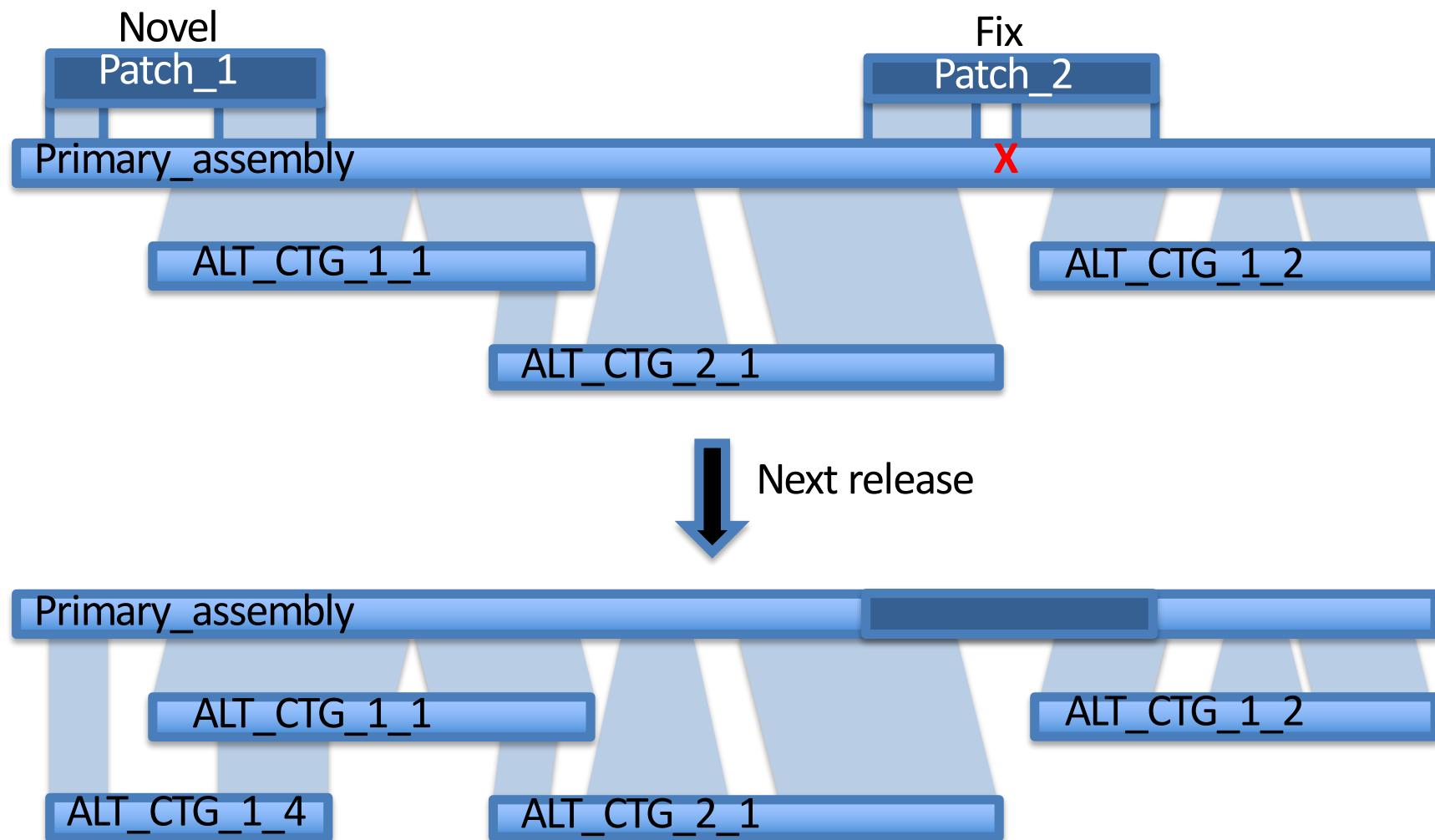
Scaffold name	Chromosome assignment	GenBank ID	RefSeq ID
ALT_CTG1_1_1	1	KZ114997.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_2	1	KZ114998.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_3	1	KZ114999.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_4	1	KZ115000.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_5	1	KZ115001.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_6	1	KZ115002.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_7	1	KZ115003.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_8	1	KZ115004.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_9	1	KZ115005.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_10	1	KZ115006.1	n/a
ALT_CTG1_1_11	1	KZ115007.1	n/a

## ALT\_REF\_LOCI



# Generating Assemblies

...and another layer: Patches



# Working With Assemblies

You might want to

- Find a clone that covers a feature
- Confirm that a region is correctly positioned
- Find out whether a gap could be closed
- Check whether a gene is really duplicated

**Help is at hand**

- zfish-help@sanger.ac.uk
- Ensembl
-  gEVAL [geval.sanger.ac.uk](http://geval.sanger.ac.uk)



[geval.sanger.ac.uk](http://geval.sanger.ac.uk)

- genome evaluation browser
- Numerous assembly versions
- alignments of BAC/FOS ends, markers, optical maps, cDNAs, other genome assemblies, etc. to check consistency in the assembly
- reports GRC investigations
- offers ‘punchlists’ denoting issues with an assembly
- extensive documentation
- featured **GRCz11** from release date

# Module 1: Understanding and Exploring Genome Assemblies

geval.sanger.ac.uk

**gEVAL** Tools | Help & Documentation | Blog | About us  Search gEVAL...

**gEVAL: Genome Evaluation Browser**  
The gEVAL Browser allows the evaluation of genome assemblies through its tools and pre-computed analyses.  
The strength of this browser is the ability to navigate an up to date assembly and identify problematic regions and assist in strategizing potential solutions for these issues.  
This facilitates the improvement of overall assemblies to a "gold" standard for release as reference genomes.

**Commonly viewed genomes**

Zebrafish GRCh38.p11	Mouse GRCh38.p11
Human GRCh38.p11	Pig Sscrofa11.1

A red arrow points to the Human icon.

**Browse a Genome**

<a href="#">Browse Human Genome Assemblies</a> 	<a href="#">Browse Mouse Genome Assemblies</a> 
<a href="#">Browse Zebrafish Genome Assemblies</a> 	<a href="#">Browse Rat Assemblies</a> 
<a href="#">Browse Pig Assemblies</a> 	<a href="#">Browse Parasitic Helminth Assemblies</a> 
<a href="#">Browse Tasmanian Devil Assemblies</a> 	<a href="#">Browse Chicken Assemblies</a> 

**New to gEVAL?**

A walkthrough and FAQ of the gEVAL Browser is available, as well as links to videos on navigating genome browsers.

- [Help & Documentation](#)
- [Walkthrough](#)
- [FAQs](#)

**Introduction to gEVAL** By William Chow

[Introduction to gEVAL tutorial \(Prezi\)](#)

**About the Project**  
gEVAL utilizes the Ensembl framework and is maintained by the Genome Reference Informatics Team at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.  
The team is part of the Genome Reference Consortium (GRC), a multi-centre collaboration tasked with providing improved reference assemblies that better represent complex diversity.

**Genome Reference Consortium**  
For more information about the teams activities please visit this [link](#).

**How to Cite**  
gEVAL - A web based browser for evaluating genome assemblies  
Chow W, Brugger K, Caccamo M, Sealy I, Tomancak J, Howe K, Bioinformatics 2016 Apr 7; p1b1r159;  
PMID: 27153597

**Tweets** by @geval\_browser

**gEVAL** Retweeted  
 **Genome Reference** @GenomeRef  
Getting better all the time...improvements to the 5s rRNA region in GRCh38.p11:  
[genomeref.blogspot.com/2017/06/improv...](#)

28 Jun

**Are you interested in adding your assembly into the list above?**  
**Or like to incorporate your dataset into gEVAL?**

**Contact us**

**gEVAL**   
Latest News from the Blog

## Browsing genome assemblies

- Genome browsing
- The Ensembl gene set
- Guided examples
- [Make your own data visible: BED files]

## Genome Browsers

- NCBI Map Viewer <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mapview/>
- UCSC Genome Browser <http://genome.ucsc.edu/>
- Ensembl Genome Browser <http://www.ensembl.org/>

The screenshot shows the Ensembl genome browser homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for BLAST/BLAT, VEP, Tools, BioMart, Downloads, Help & Docs, and Blog. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the header, there are three main tool sections: BioMart, BLAST/BLAT, and Variant Effect Predictor. The BioMart section has a link to "Export custom databases from Ensembl with this data-mining tool". The BLAST/BLAT section has a link to "Search our genomes for your DNA or protein sequence". The Variant Effect Predictor section has a link to "Analyse your own variants and predict the functional consequences of known and unknown variants". The main content area features a search bar with placeholder text "All species" and "for", and a query example "e.g. BRCA2 or ref S-632797383-63627669 or rs699 or coronary heart disease". To the left, there's a sidebar for "All genomes" with a dropdown menu for "Select a species" and links to "View full list of all Ensembl species" and "Edit your favourites". To the right, there's a sidebar for "Favourite genomes" showing icons for Human (GRCh38.p12), Mouse (GRCh38.p12), and Zebrafish (GRCh11). Below these are several tool boxes: "Compare genes across species" (with a DNA helix icon), "Find SNPs and other variants for my gene" (with a DNA sequence icon), "Gene expression in different tissues" (with a tissue sample icon), "Refine gene sequence" (with a magnifying glass icon), "Find a Data Display" (with a bar chart icon), and "Use my own data in Ensembl" (with a DNA helix icon). At the bottom, there's a footer with the text "ENSL-ENSL creates, integrates and distributes reference datasets and analysis tools that enable genomics. We are based at EMBL-EBI and our software and data are freely available. Our acknowledgements page includes a list of current and previous funding bodies. How to cite Ensembl in your own publications." and the EMBL-EBI logo.

**Caveat:  
check the  
assembly  
version!**

# Ensembl : What annotation is available?

- **Genes** **protein coding genes**  
**gene/transcript/peptide models (coding and non-coding)**
- **Comparative data** **orthologues and paralogues, gene trees**  
**protein families**  
**whole genome alignments**  
**syntenic regions**
- **Variation data** **Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs), indels, phenotypes, population frequencies, variant effect prediction (VEP), etc.**
- **Regulatory data** **e.g. regulatory elements from ENCODE**
- **IDs** **crossreferences to other databases**
- **aligned data** **cDNAs, RNAseq, peptides, micro array probes, BAC clones, etc.**
- **Cytogenetic bands, markers, repeats etc.**
- **External resources** **e.g. GRC trackhub, mapped next-gen reads**

# The Ensembl gene set

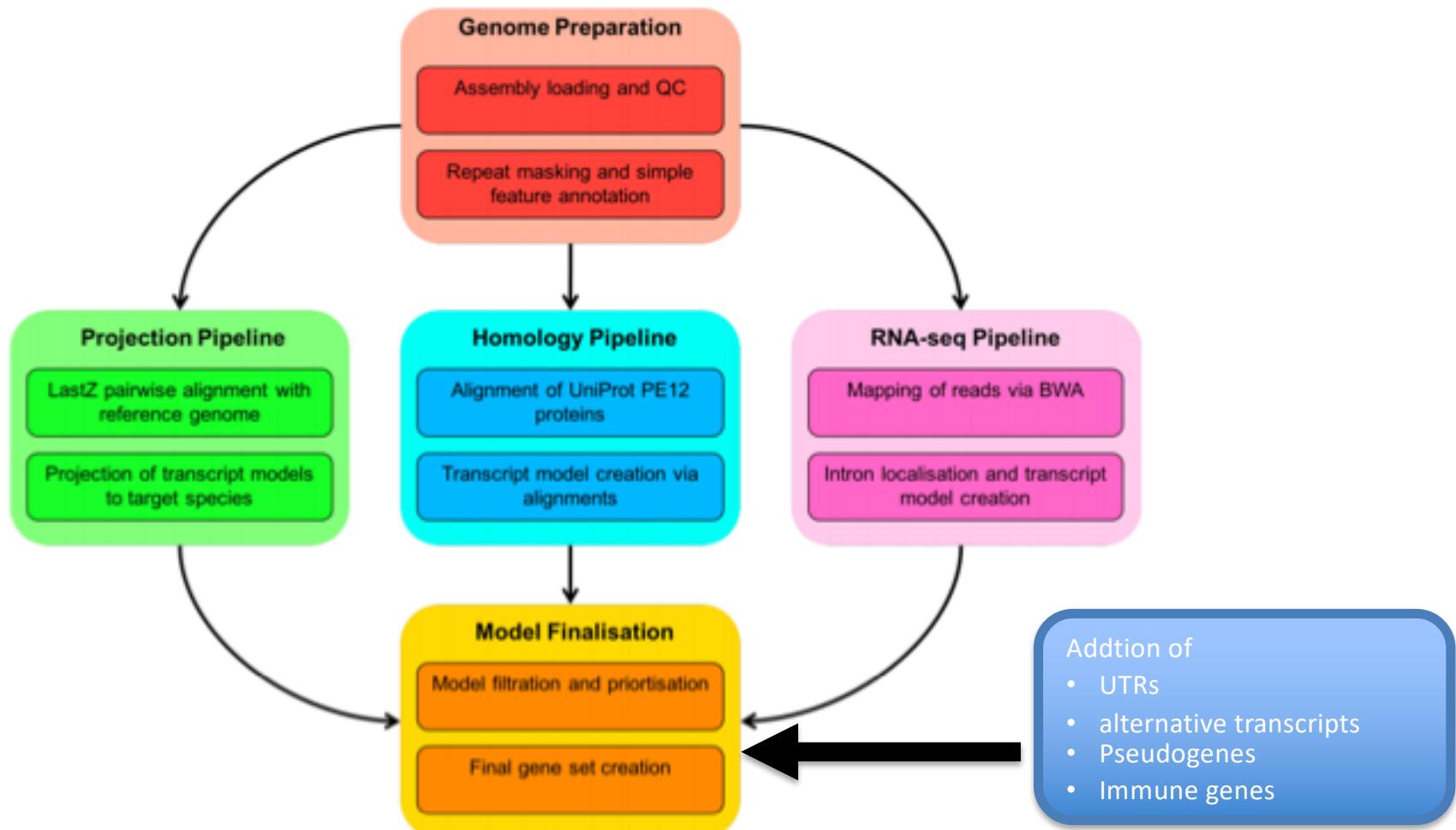
- **Bimonthly releases, updated gene set ~ every 6 months**
- **New ‘Genebuild’ with every new assembly**

The following archives are available for this page:

- [Ensembl 91: Dec 2017](#) (GRCz10)
- [Ensembl 90: Aug 2017](#) (GRCz10) - patched/updated gene set Jun 2017
- [Ensembl 89: May 2017](#) (GRCz10)
- [Ensembl 88: Mar 2017](#) (GRCz10)
- [Ensembl 87: Dec 2016](#) (GRCz10) - patched/updated gene set Nov 2016
- [Ensembl 86: Oct 2016](#) (GRCz10) - patched/updated gene set Jul 2016
- [Ensembl 85: Jul 2016](#) (GRCz10)
- [Ensembl 84: Mar 2016](#) (GRCz10) - patched/updated gene set Jan 2016
- [Ensembl 83: Dec 2015](#) (GRCz10)
- [Ensembl 82: Sep 2015](#) (GRCz10)
- [Ensembl 81: Jul 2015](#) (GRCz10)
- [Ensembl 80: May 2015](#) (GRCz10) - gene set updated May 2015
- [Ensembl 79: Mar 2015](#) (Zv9)
- [Ensembl 78: Dec 2014](#) (Zv9)
- [Ensembl 77: Oct 2014](#) (Zv9)
- [Ensembl 76: Aug 2014](#) (Zv9)
- [Ensembl 75: Feb 2014](#) (Zv9) - patched/updated gene set Feb 2014
- [Ensembl 74: Dec 2013](#) (Zv9) - patched/updated gene set Jul 2013
- [Ensembl 67: May 2012](#) (Zv9) - patched/updated gene set Mar 2012
- [Ensembl 54: May 2009](#) (Zv8) - gene set updated Apr 2009

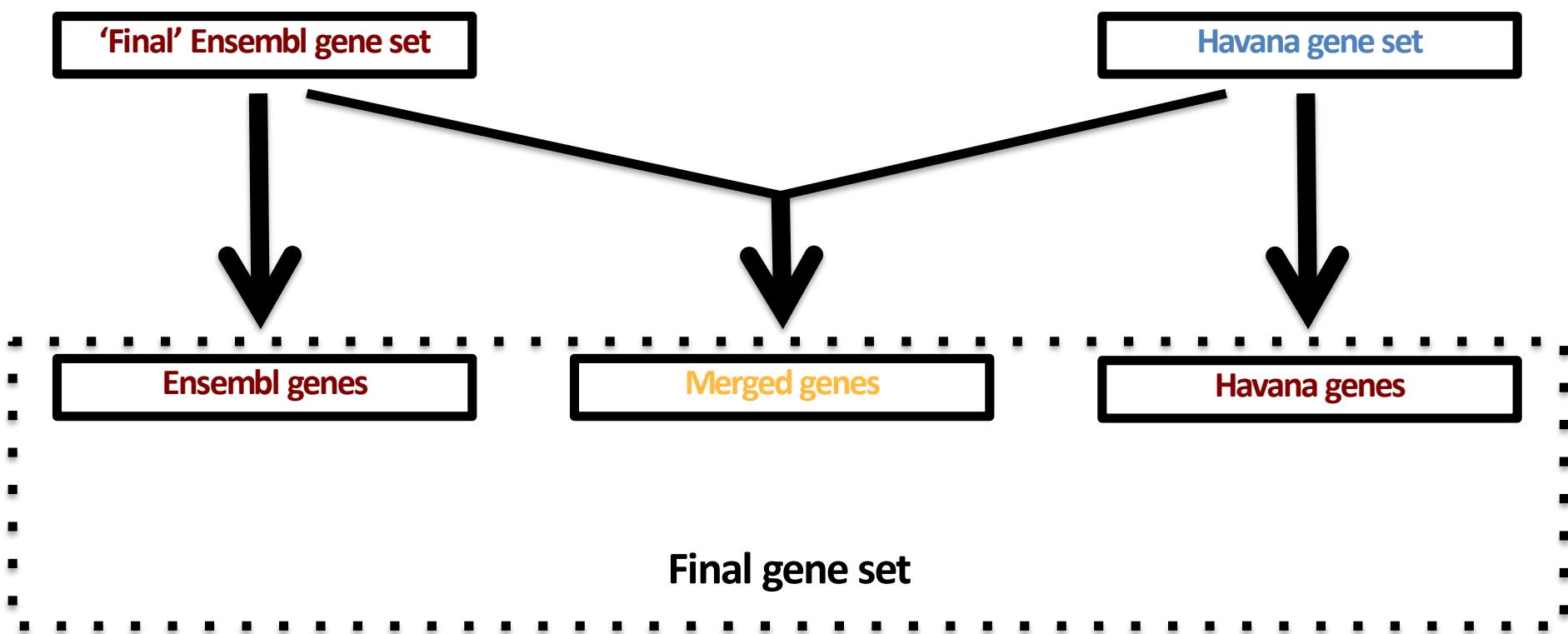
- **Genes are built on evidence, no gene is predicted on sequence alone!**

# The Ensembl gene build

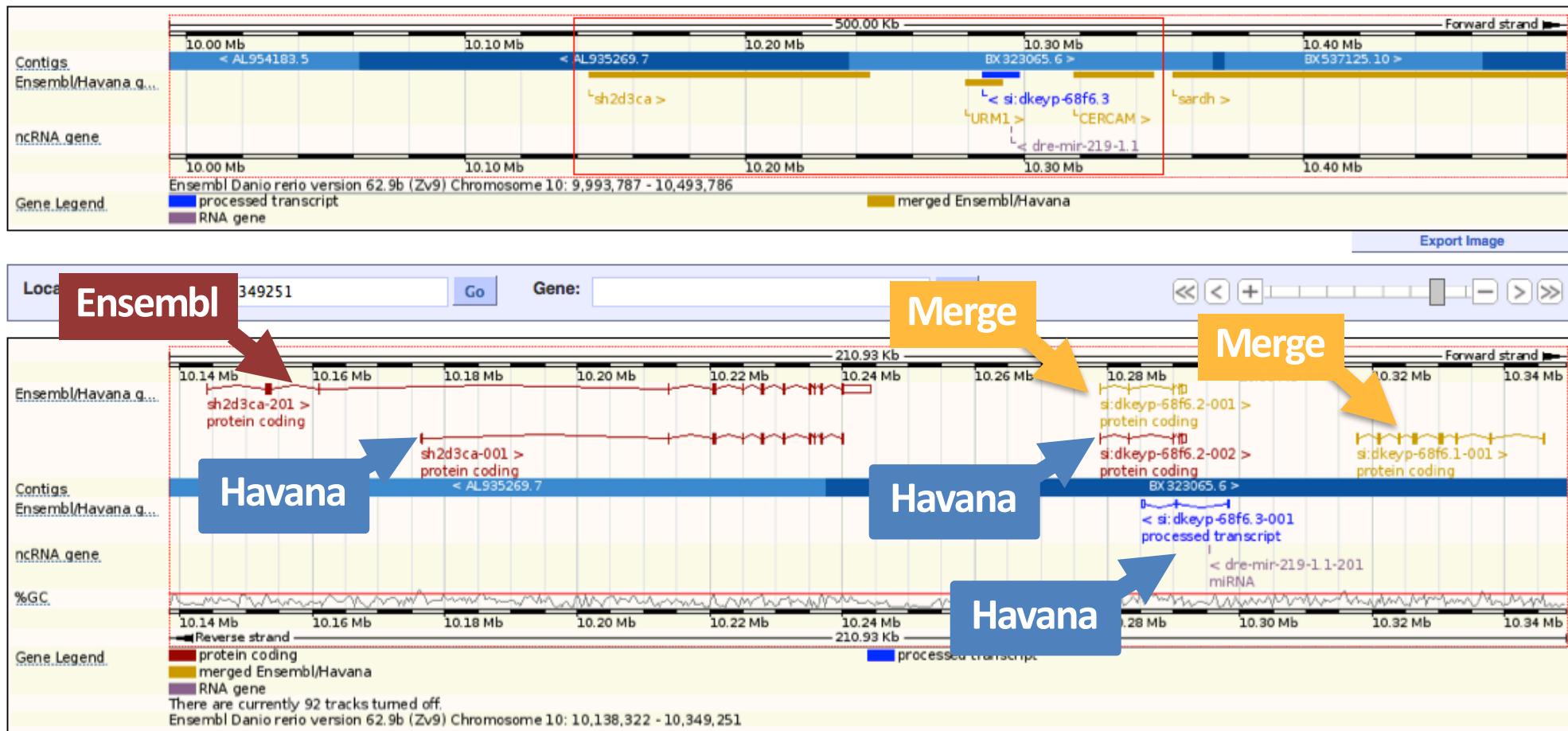


## The Ensembl gene build : Gene merge

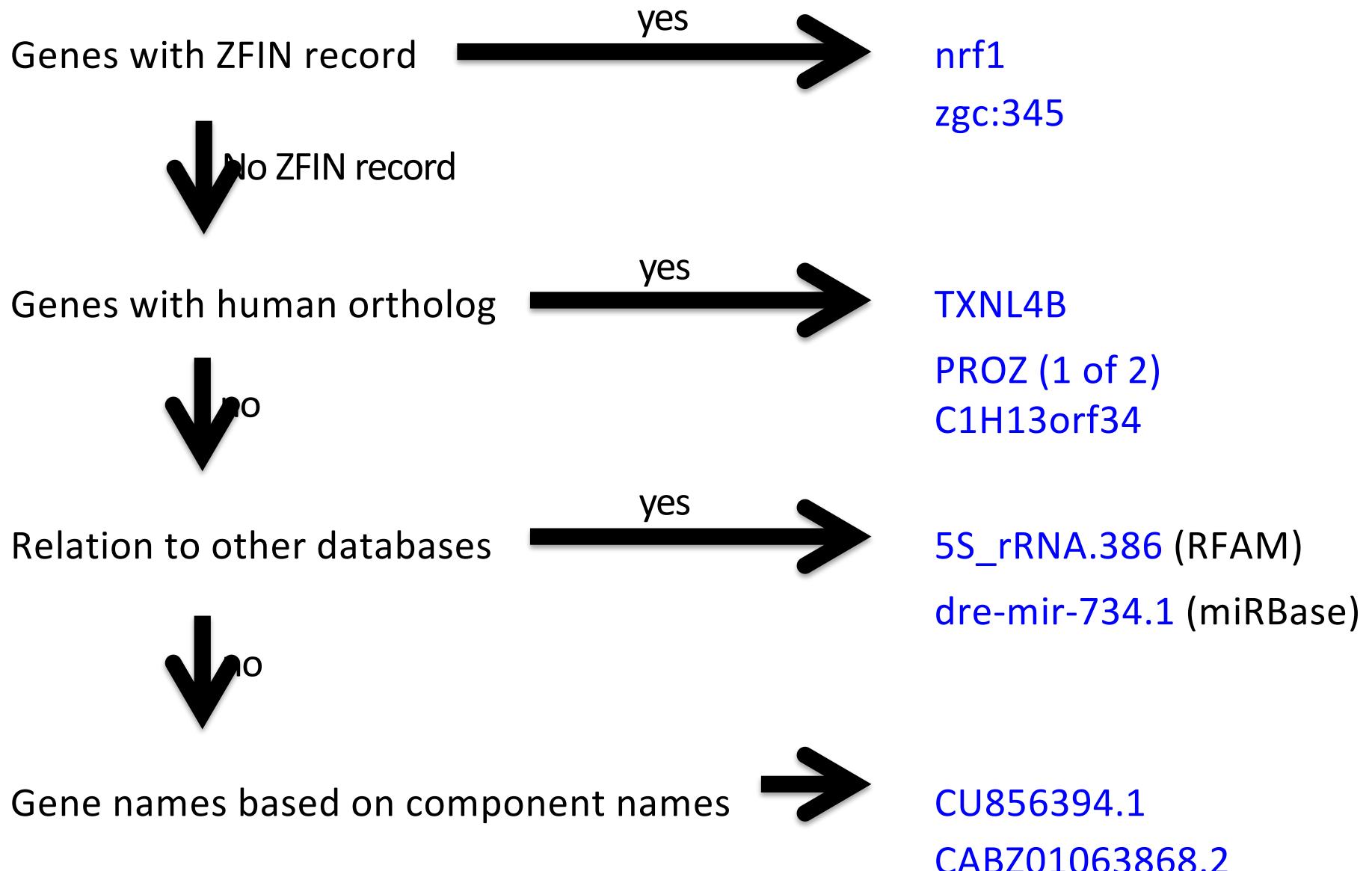
Getting the optimum gene set by combining automated and manual annotation



## The Ensembl gene build : Gene merge



## Ensembl gene names



## Access to Genome Annotation

- Release web site <http://www.ensembl.org/>
- Archive <http://archive.ensembl.org>
- BioMart <http://www.ensembl.org/biomart/martview>
- Downloads <http://www.ensembl.org/info/data/ftp/index.html>
- Perl API <http://www.ensembl.org/info/docs/index.html>
- REST API

## Help and Information

- Zebrafish specific help [zfish-help@sanger.ac.uk](mailto:zfish-help@sanger.ac.uk) / [zfinadmin@zfin.org](mailto:zfinadmin@zfin.org)
- Zebrafish genome project at Sanger Institute  
[www.sanger.ac.uk/science/data/zebrafish-genome-project](http://www.sanger.ac.uk/science/data/zebrafish-genome-project)
- Zebrafish at the GRC [genomereference.org](http://genomereference.org)
- Zebrafish genome assembly evaluation [geval.sanger.ac.uk](http://geval.sanger.ac.uk)
- Ensembl helpdesk [helpdesk@ensembl.org](mailto:helpdesk@ensembl.org)
- View animated tutorials  
[www.ensembl.org/info/website/tutorials/index.html](http://www.ensembl.org/info/website/tutorials/index.html)
- Mailing lists:  
[announce@ensembl.org](mailto:announce@ensembl.org)  
[ensembl-dev@ensembl.org](mailto:ensembl-dev@ensembl.org)

## Guided examples

- A stroll through Ensembl - abbreviated
- Introduction to BioMart - abbreviated
- Making your own data visible (in your own time)