



International Symposium on Conservation of Native European Freshwater Crayfish

Olot, Girona (Spain)
23 - 25 September 2015

CONCLUSIONS

Organization:



Colaboration:



Presentation

The conservation of native crayfishes is one of the major challenges in inland waters of Europa. Most species are endangered by many factors, but specifically by introduced species and pests. This symposium will focus on recent research advances, and also on management strategies and specific experiences to achieve a long term conservation of our native freshwater decapods.

Honor Committee

- Sr. Quim Pou i Rovira. Coordinador tècnic del LIFE Potamo Fauna, Consorci de l'Estany
- Sr. Ricard Casanovas. Cap de Servei de Biodiversitat i Protecció dels Animals, Generalitat de Catalunya
- Sr. Josep Berga (Primer Tinent-alcalde d'Olot)

Scientific Committee

- Dr. Javier Diéguez-Urbeondo, RJB-CSIC, Spain
- Dr. Leopold Füreder, University of Innsbruck, Austria
- Dr. Lennart Edsman, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
- Dr. Laura Aquiloni, Itinera C.E.R.T.A. scarl, Italy
- Dr. Satu Viljaus, Satu Viljamaa-Dirks, Evira Kuopio, Finland
- Dr. Japo Jussila, University of Eastern Finland, Finland
- Dr. Pavel Kozak, University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic
- Dr. Fernando Alonso, Junta de Castilla La Mancha

Organising Committee

- Sr. Miquel Campos Llach. Consorci de l'Estany
- Sr. Quim Pou-Rovira. Consorci de l'Estany
- Sr. Irenne Camós Plana. Consorci de l'Estany
- Sr. Carles Feo Quer. Consorci de l'Estany
- Sra. Dolors Nevado Ballester Consorci de l'Estany
- Sra. Raquel Xargay i Torrent. Consorci de l'Estany
- Sr. Ponç Feliu Latorre, Consorci del Ter
- Sr. Lluís Balaguer, Servei d'Espais Naturals Protegits, Generalitat de Catalunya
- Sr. Joan Montserrat, Parc Natural de la Zona Volcànica de la Garrotxa, Generalitat de Catalunya
- Sr. Miquel Macias, Forestal Catalana, Generalitat de Catalunya
- Sra. Fina Torres, Forestal Catalana, Generalitat de Catalunya
- Sra. Inès Carrillo Badosa. La bombolla

CONCLUSIONS

The International Symposium on Conservation of Native European Freshwater Crayfish organized by the Consorcy de L'ESTANY and the CSIC within the LIFE Project Potamo Fauna was held in Olot, Spain from 23 to 25 of September 2015. The symposium organisers had assembled a panel of national and international experts in a multitude of areas encompassing crayfish biology, ecology, pathology, genetics, management and conservation. As a result of the meeting presentations, discussions and analyses of the current situation of the native European species and their conservation needs were presented. The Scientific Committee and the panel of experts agreed on the following conclusions during the final workshop of the symposium:

1. The native European freshwater crayfish species are endangered throughout their habitat range and there is a need for urgent actions to prevent the negative factors affecting them and to promote the conservation of these species.
2. It has been demonstrated scientifically that there are actions and measures that will favour the restoration and conservation of native species, that have been implemented, and that have been successful. On the contrary choosing the "no-action" strategy inevitably resultst in the decline of native species.
3. Currently, the main threat is the effect of exotic invasive crayfish species, which negatively impacts not only crayfish, but also freshwater aquatic ecosystems and ecosystem services.
4. The main negative effect is the transmission of the disease named "crayfish plague". This disease is still active and is carried chronically by introduced North American species of freshwater crayfish like *Procambarus clarkii*, *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, and *Orconectes limosus*. Therefore, translocations and introductions of these crayfish species represent the main reason for the spread of the disease.
5. The constant spread of invasive species is thus causing a rapid loss of native crayfish habitat in addition to human habitat alteration. This urges decision makers to apply methods to prevent, control and eradicate these invasive species, following successful case-study examples carried out in the UK, Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden.
6. It is clear from the evidences presented that the control of invasive species by recreational and intensive fisheries do not represent a suitable method for this purpose. It instead favours the spread and the increase of these populations, as shown by case studies from Finland, Spain and Sweden. Thus, such control measures contradicts to the goals of the recently adopted EU legislation on Invasive Alien Species.