



FMCS 2018 International Meeting
EUROPE

1st Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Meeting in Europe

**Bridging the gap between freshwater
mollusk research and conservation
in the Old and New World**

Verbania, Italy, 16th-20th September 2018

Book of Abstracts

Edited by

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Overview and Oral Presentations

Abstract ID: {day}.{serial number}

17th September, Monday

Duration: 08:30 – 10:30

Abst. ID	Author(s)	Title
01.01	Invited speaker: Heidi Dunn (USA)	Introduction to the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society
01.02	Invited speaker: Mary Seddon (GBR)	Contrasts between global level threats and regional threats to Freshwater Molluscs 2008 to 2018
01.03	Invited speaker: Jürgen Geist (DEU)	Common pitfalls in freshwater mussel conservation and how to avoid them

Duration: 11:00 – 13:00

Abst. ID	Author(s)	Title
01.04	Skujienė G, Skuja J (LTU)	<i>Unio crassus</i> in Lithuania: distribution peculiarities of monitoring, conservation
01.05	Feind S, Geist J, Kuehn R (DEU)	Genetic diversity and differentiation of the endangered thick shelled river mussel (<i>Unio crassus</i> Philipsson, 1788) – conservation units and lineages from Belgium to Romania
01.06	Wengström N, von Proschwitz T (SWE)	Conservation status of freshwater mussels in Sweden
01.07	Ożgo M, Urbańska M, Marzec M, Geist J (POL)	Discovery of a mussel hotspot in NE Poland: a call for research and conservation focus on multiple species systems
01.08	Vikhrev IV, Bolotov IN, Konopleva ES, Kondakov AV, Aksenova OV, Bepalaya YV, Lunn Z, Chan N, Gofarov MYu (RUS)	Exploring the lost world: studying freshwater mussel biodiversity hotspot in Myanmar
01.09	Riccardi N, Froufe E, Teixeira A, Varandas S, Moro G, Lopes-Lima M (ITA)	Freshwater mussels in Italy: from no-name species and no-right species to useless regulation



FRESHWATER MUSSELS IN ITALY: FROM NO-NAME SPECIES AND NO-RIGHT SPECIES TO USELESS REGULATION

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Any conservation management plan requires at the very least the following information: (1) clearly defined target species, and data on the species' (2) distribution and (3) population size. For European freshwater mussels this information is missing, deficient or outdated, and unevenly distributed among the different European countries. Paradoxically, the Southern European countries, more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and water shortage, are those more poorly studied. Despite being recognized as a center of endemism and one of the major refugia of the glacial ages for several taxa, Italy is no exception.

Information deficiencies result, at least in part, from objective difficulties, ex. taxonomic uncertainties and misidentifications. These latter affect both the legislation and the allocation of funds, which are strictly interdependent. Two Italian examples will be used to illustrate a paradox that practically hinders both the acquisition of information and, a fortiori, possible conservation actions: 1) a “new” species that will not be included in the inventory or protected until the legislative bureaucratic procedure has taken its course; 2) an “old” species that will become extinct without any conservation plan, because it appears only in the Annex V of the European Directive. Unfortunately, these two examples represent only the tip of the iceberg; underneath there are many legislative inconsistencies that contribute to forming a “cultural threat”.

A scaling up from the Italian to the European level shows a further “threat”: triggered by funding limitations, the growing spread of data-sharing infrastructures amplifies “errors” (e.g. mis-identifications). Like in a vicious circle, species are going lost while the few resources still available are absorbed to “capitalize” on already existing, mostly inadequate, knowledge.