

# LIFE Potamo Fauna



**Do not be fooled!  
The threat of invasive  
freshwater species**

**Conservation of river fauna of Community  
interest in the Natura 2000 network sites  
of the Ter, Fluvià and Muga river basins**

## LIFE Potamo Fauna (LIFE12 NAT/ES/001091)

Project co-financed by the European LIFE + Nature modality that promotes actions for protection and recovery of habitats and species of flora and fauna in protected areas of the European Union, integrated into the Natura 2000 network.

### Project duration:

1 January 2014 - 31 December 2017

### Cost total and EU contribution:

TOTAL - 1,900,262.00 euros / EU - 949,981.00 euros

### Coordinating beneficiary



CONSORCI DE  
l'estany



### Associated beneficiaries



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia,  
Pesca, Alimentació i Medi Natural



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Forestal Catalana,  
SA



Universidad del País Vasco  
Euskal Herriko  
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### Co-financers



Diputació de Girona



Ajuntament de Banyoles



Ajuntament de Porqueres



AIGÜES  
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# Beware of the invaders!

The introduction and spread of alien species is a threat to ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as a problem for the conservation of many endangered native species. With an attractive and harmless appearance, some species become invasive alien animals, establishing abundant populations and widely disseminated by the lack of natural predators or diseases that affect them directly. Invasive alien species can also cause problems for public health and economic activities.

In Catalonia, the exotic aquatic fauna represent a growing problem that affects all river basins, although varying levels of incidence.

Through LIFE Potamo Fauna –a project aimed at the recovery and long-term conservation of several endangered species of fauna of European interest in the river basins of the rivers Ter, Fluvià and Muga- is fighting to prevent the introduction of the zebra mussel, the crayfish and exotic turtles, such as Florida Pond Turtle, through population control. Other invasive species widespread in rivers and lakes in Catalonia are the Louisiana crayfish, Common carp or Pumpkinseed.



The project Exoaqua (2011 data) on exotic species have edited for the first time a comprehensive list of these in the aquatic systems of Catalonia. Of the 430 exotic species identified, 71 are invasive.

## Zebra Mussel

*(Dreissena polymorpha)*



### What is it?

Is a triangular bivalve mollusc smaller than 3 centimeters; originating in the Black and Caspian seas. In 2001 significant populations were detected in Riba-Roja and Flix reservoirs, in the Ebre River. However, it is still not present in the basins of northeastern Catalonia. Once enters a river basin, it is virtually impossible to eradicate. Some of the many notable impacts of this species include negative affect on the local shellfish naids.

### How to prevent the expansion?

The main factor is the growth of larval transport by water diversions, including small amounts accidentally transported on boats or fishing utensils. Therefore, avoid moving boats between water bodies. If not possible, follow the recommendations of cleaning and disinfection. We must also avoid the use of live bait for fishing.

## Crayfish

*(Pacifastacus leniusculus)*



### What is it?

It's a crustacean native to North America. It was observed for the first time in Catalonia in Oliana reservoir in 2000. It lives in similar habitats to those of native species, the White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), and can move and extinct their populations. It carries the Crayfish plague fungus that infects the native populations causing massive mortalities. Similar to native crab, can be differentiated because the bottom of the calipers is reddish and blue.

### How to prevent the expansion?

Controlling populations and avoiding dispersion. Avoid moving crustaceans and other aquatic fauna between different water points. The introduction of exotic species is illegal.

## Florida Pond Turtle

*(Trachemys scripta)*



### What is it?

It's a turtle native to the southern United States and northern Mexico. It competes with native turtles and move them around their habitats. Preys on amphibians, invertebrates and fish, and can transmit salmonella disease to people. Nowadays it is a species with a wide distribution in Catalonia, but is still expanding to new areas.

### How to prevent the expansion?

Mainly, not releasing them to nature and natural habitats

**If you observe any of these species:**

**Report it to the Rural Agents!**

**Phone 972 40 53 40**