Life PREDATOR

PREVENT, DETECT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF *SILURUS GLANIS* IN SOUTH EUROPEAN LAKES TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

LIFE21 NAT/IT/PREDATOR
n. 101074458

Co-funded by the European Union

NEWSLETTER LIFE PREDATOR

2025 3

LIFE PREDATOR (2022-2027) aims to combat the spread and further introduction of Wels catfish, Silurus glanis, in Italian and Portuguese lakes and throughout south-western Europe, where it is an Invasive Alien Species (IAS), thus contributing to the application of the Regulation (EU) n. 1143/2014 on exotic species.

As part of the project, it is tested in 50 lakes (23 in Italy, 25 in Portugal and 2 in the Czech Republic) and developed an early detection method based on environmental DNA, whose information is integrated by the reports collected with the initiatives of Citizen Science simultaneously activated.

In 10 selected lakes where the species is widespread and abundant, different catch methodologies are tested to select the most selective and effective method, which will then be applied to reduce the biomass by 90% in 5 small isolated lakes included in the Natura 2000 network, by at least 10% in large lakes and reservoirs, by 50% in small reservoirs. At least 130 fishermen and 100 anglers will be involved.

Massive awareness-raising campaigns are also planned specifically for fishermen but also for the general public, including at least 12,000 school children.

The project created the Southern European Wels catfish Management Group (SEMG). Protocols and Best Practices of Wels Catfish Capture will be transferred to at least 15 local authorities, to be integrated in their management plans, in particular for Natura 2000 sites.

Finally, but not at least for importance, a virtuous model of circular economy will be developed and promoted to encourage the food consumption of S. glanis and therefore the fishing catch. During the project, however, the fish removed with the containment campaigns will be entrusted to social cooperatives for the sale of meals at fair prices to at least 1,000 people in difficulty.

www.lifepredator.eu

LIFE PREDATOR

A EUROPEAN PROJECT TO STOP THE SPREAD OF WELS CATFISH IN THE LAKES OF SOUTH-WESTERN EUROPE

From September 2022 until 2027, the first European project for the contrast and containment of the diffusion of Wels catfish in lakes of south-western Europe is ongoing: LIFE PREDATOR. Launched on 1 September 2022, the project is co-funded by the European Union's LIFE programme, the EU's financial instrument for environment and climate action.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Special: meeting in Lisbon
- Local operational teams
- eDNA test and alert system
- Citizen science and reporting
- Catfish control in lakes
- From catfish to table
- Project communication

Special: Meeting in Lisbon

On June 4th (2025) Lisbon hosted the preparatory meeting of the Project's "Mid-Term Report", which was attended by representatives of the LIFE-PREDATOR partners. The occasion gave the managers the opportunity to resume the results obtained, to present them to the EU monitor, and to prepare enthusiastically for the second half of the project.
The day after, the partners were also able to appreciate the Portuguese hospitality and to taste some Wels catfish-based dishes. They attended also some of the project activities planned locally at the wonderful Lake Cedillo, on the border between Portugal and Spain. For the occasion, a catfish control campaign was performed by "Longlines" (a row of baited hooks") which led to the capture of several specimens, including a fish of 223 cm in length!
The meeting was the occasion to update the Project's main results; we will resume them in this newsletter, organized by the respective Tasks.

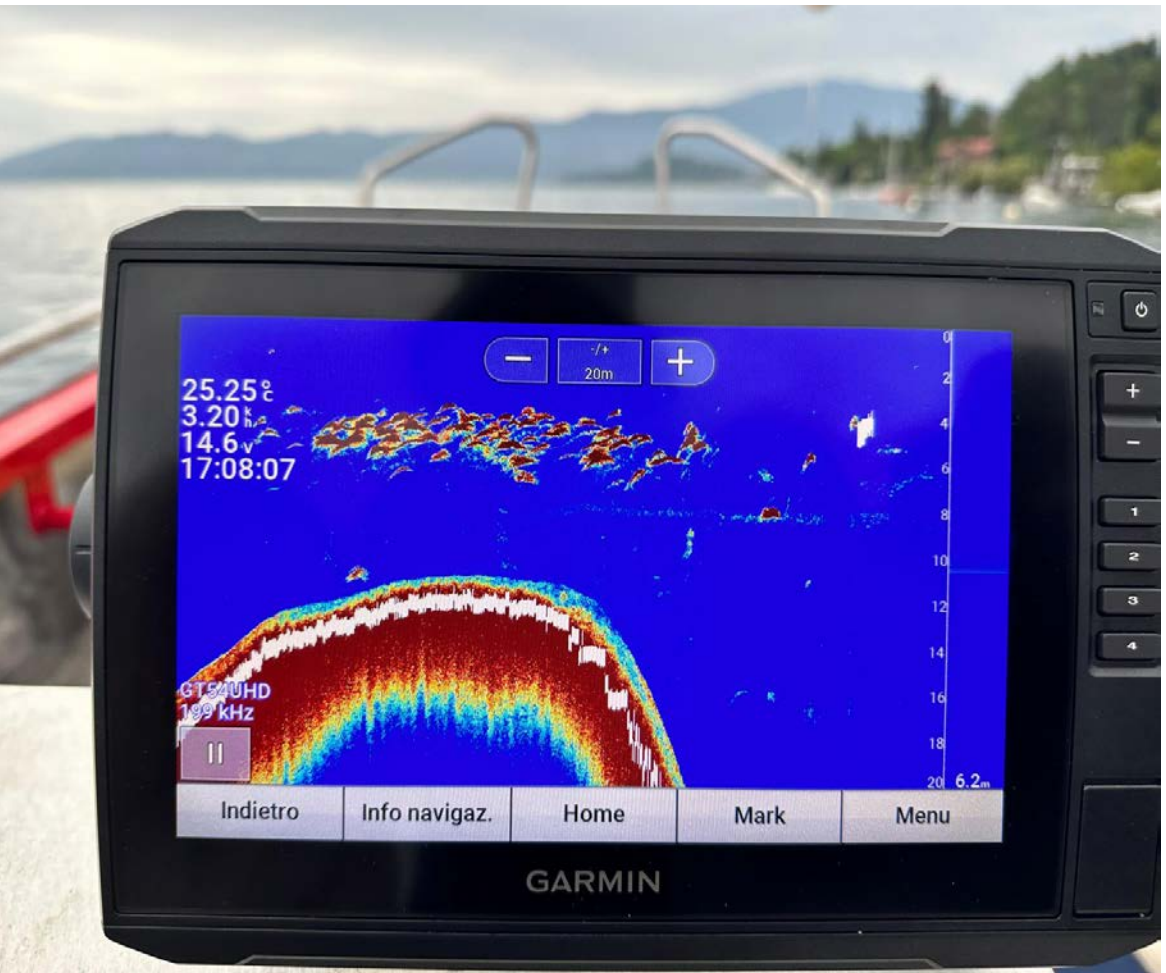
LISBONA - GIUGNO 2025

Local operational teams (T2.2)

TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES OF THE OT, WT AND ET TEAMS IN ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE LAKES.

One of the aims of the project is to establish the Operative Team (OT, for control and eradication actions) and the Warning Team (WT, to set an early detection system) both in Italy and Portugal, and the Evaluation Team (ET, for the evaluation of best methods for processing catfish for human consumption) in Italy only.
Stakeholders were identified and invited to fill out a questionnaire on Wels catfish; visit our website/ social media pages; join to the OT and WT teams, while ET members were selected among IRSA CNR and GRAIA personnel, professional fishermen, a teacher from the "E. Maggia" school, and members of local authorities/fishing management bodies.
In Italy a mobile number was spread to both OT and WT candidates, to invite them to share catches reports via WhatsApp; currently, the Italian OT team is made of 69 people, the WT is made of 74 people, and ET is made of 10 people: these groups can still be implemented in the future, since recruitment is still active.
In Portugal both anglers and professional fishermen were identified and located by CIENCIAS-FC.ID –by and in-person meetings were held with both professional fishermen (OT) and anglers (WT) along the Tagus River. Meetings with professional fishermen took place in Fratel, Belver reservoir, Caneiras, Constância, and Nisa Municipality. Meetings with anglers were conducted during fishing competitions in Tancos, Chamusca, and Ribeira de Santarém, Fratel reservoir. Several informal meetings were also held with anglers during field trips. During these activities, participants were informed about the impacts of invasive fish—particularly the European catfish—on aquatic ecosystems, and were taught the best techniques, baits, and methods for its capture, both in professional and recreational fishing. These activities will continue until the end of the project.

Some reports by OT members; a school of Wels catfish in Lake Maggiore with the specific location added, and some catches reported via Whatpp

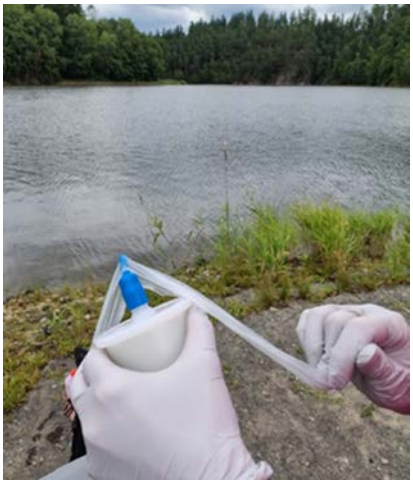


Operative Teams were defined around Cedillo/Tejo International Reservoir, Fratel Reservoir, Belver Reservoir. The WTs include professional fishermen, plus 44 key anglers committed to the project.

eDNA test and alert system (T4.1-T4.2)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOLECULAR TEST FOR CATFISH DETECTION AND FIRST FIELD APPLICATIONS.

Every organism releases its DNA in the medium where it lives. eDNA analyses of water sampled from lakes or rivers enable to detect the presence of a large number of organisms, from bacteria to algae, from invertebrates to fish. Therefore, eDNA analysis is a method to track the presence of organisms, and measure and quantify the biodiversity in a certain water body.
CIENCIAS-FC.ID (for PT), BCCAS (for CZ) and IRSA-CNR (for IT) collect water samples by filtering the lake water directly in the field, with a specific system bought within the project (eDNA filtering kit) and which is available for each partner. Samples will be sent to IRSA CNR for the laboratory processing and analyses.
In 2025, IRSA-CNR (with the support of the Czech partners of BCCAS), conducted eDNA sampling in the Římov and Žlutice reservoirs in Czech Republic.
This activity is a part of the larger activity of eDNA analyses of all project lakes in order to measures the presence/absence of catfish (WP4) and quantify the eucaryotic biodiversity (WP6; T.6.1 Impacts of catfish removal on lake biodiversity).



Entra nella squadra LIFE PREDATOR!

Per il territorio italiano stiamo reclutando:

- una Squadra di Allerta "WT" (Warning Team), inserendovi i pescatori che frequentano i laghi di progetto nei quali il Siluro non è ancora presente o segnalato. La sua presenza dovrà essere segnalata tempestivamente in caso esso venisse individuato nelle acque del L. Orta, L. Idro, L. Viverone, L. Montorfano, L. Segrino, L. Alice, L. Meugliano, L. San Michele, L. Pistono, L. Candia, L. Nero.
- una Squadra Operativa "OT" (Operative Team), inserendovi i pescatori che frequentano i laghi di progetto in cui il Siluro è già presente, e che contribuiranno al suo controllo, riportando al team di progetto la rimozione di esemplari dalle acque del L. Maggiore, L. Como, L. Iseo, L. Lugano, L. Varese, L. Comabbio, L. Endine, L. Mergozzo, L. Campagna, L. Avigliana Grande, L. Avigliana Piccolo, L. Sirio.

Ciascun pescatore potrà essere membro di entrambe le squadre al contempo, contribuendo a segnalare:
1) la presenza del Siluro nelle acque elencate al primo punto (laghi verdi);
2) la rimozione di esemplari della specie nelle acque elencate al secondo punto (laghi rossi).

Come partecipare?

1. Salva sul tuo cellulare questo contatto:
+39 3757884622
2. invia un messaggio/WhatsApp scrivendo:
• "WT" per accedere alla Squadra di Allerta (Warning Team);
• "OT" per accedere alla Squadra Operativa (Operative Team);
• "WT e OT" per accedere ad entrambi i gruppi.
3.Riceverai semplici istruzioni da seguire per dare il tuo contributo in maniera pratica e veloce.

NOTA: Solo il referente di progetto potrà identificarti, i dati personali saranno protetti da un'informativa che potrai scaricare e restituire firmata. Nessuna pubblicità! Solo messaggi di servizio con aggiornamenti e indicazioni importanti. Potrai ritirarti in qualsiasi momento annullando la tua adesione inviando il messaggio "ANNULLA ISCRIZIONE".

In order to develop a Catfish early detection system based on eDNA (T.4.2), in 2025 IRSA-CNR performed also the eDNA sampling in 15 Italian lakes. These lakes are part of the continuous monitoring program to assess the presence of the catfish in lakes where the species has not yet been reported. Water is sampled and filtered in different location of each lake, samples are properly preserved in a specific buffer medium, and then processed in the laboratory at IRSA-CNR in Verbania.
Particular attention was taken in order to avoid cross contamination among samples both during samplings and in the lab. Buckets, tubes, sieves, beakers were sterilized with bleach and gloves were worn and changed among every sampling station.

Some phases of the eDNA sampling within T4.2.

Citizen science and reporting (T4.3)

THE CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERMEN AND CITIZENS TO THE EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR CATFISH DETECTION.

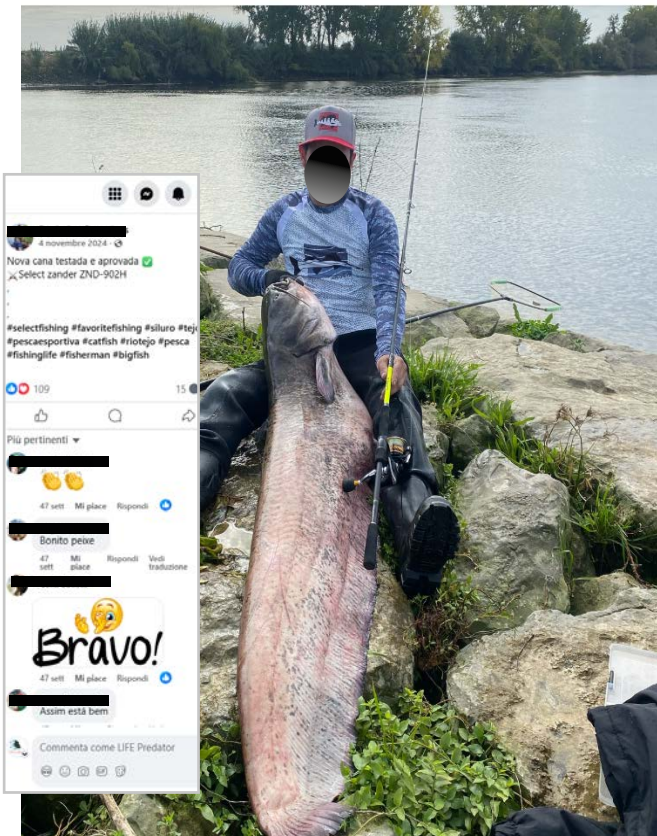
LThe goal of the task is that the WT collaborators report catches of Wels catfish in the lakes where it was never reported before ("WT lakes") by using Project social media or contacts. Since for the first half of the project no Wels catfish were reported in the WT lakes (L. Orta, L. Idro, L. Viverone, L. Montorfano, L. Segrino, L. Alice, L. Meugliano, L. San Michele, L. Pistono, L. Candia) GRAIA searched actively for them on social media; fortunately, the search led to no catches reported.
The same activity was performed in Portugal: in the last months at least 2 locations were detected in Portugal, where the Wels catfish presence was still unknown.
At the same time, all the catches identified in Italy on social media were reported by GRAIA, in regard of both OT lakes and waters outside the project, so that a map of distribution of catfish by social media reports will be draft. CIENCIAS-FC.ID matched social media records from recreational fishermen, and added data from professional fishermen and scientific records.
An online database was built, with more than 200 records collected for Portugal, and around 85 records for Italy; data will be periodically updated.

Pesca un "siluro" di 33 chili
«Mai visto nulla di simile»

Gera Lario

L'incredibile cobaccio alla foce dell'Adda «C'è voluta mezz'ora per issarlo a bordo»

Luigi Radice con il pesce siluro faticosamente issato in barca



Social media reporting from Portuguese anglers and Paper reporting in Italy, performed within T4.3.

Wels catfish control in lakes (T5.2-T5.3)

RESULTS OF CONTAINMENT ACTIONS IN SMALL AND LARGE LAKES.

Within T3.1, T3.2, T3.4 the best capture methodologies for both large and small lakes were defined; some of the first results in terms of biomass removal are included in the following description of the activities undertaken in T5.2 and T5.3.

Lake Avigliana Grande and Piccolo: ALCO (with BCCAS and IRSA-CNR) started the activities in Lago Grande in May 2024, by experimenting the use of longlines and electrofishing: a total of 27 specimens (150 kg) were caught. A second campaigns took place between December 2024 and January 2025, using electrofishing along the lake's perimeter to target shoreline shelters: 51 catfish (187 kg) were caught. Further electrofishing campaign conducted on January 2025 in Lago Piccolo, yielded no captures. Ten more campaigns by angling were performed /are foreseen in Lago Piccolo from June-November 2025, involving 25 anglers officially authorized and registered by ALCO.

Lake Campagna: with the help of a Pro (CSBA) specifically hired for fish sampling and catfish removal, CMTO started the activities in November 2024. The first campaign resulted in the removal of 58 specimens (395 kg) while an additional campaign was carried on in May 2025 (16 specimens caught; 98 kg).

Lake Sirio: in May 2024, within testing longlines and electrofishing, 46 specimens (205 kg) were removed; activities are currently (September 2025) being further implemented.

Lake Comabbio: GRAIA started the activities in October 2024; so far 40 campaigns have been performed, resulting in the removal of 319 specimens (2860 kg), reaching a removal rate greater than expected.

CIENCIAS-FC.ID started catfish removal actions in Portugal within 2024, through a joint effort with the OT, composed by professional fishermen. Control actions have been carried out in Belver, Fratel, Cedillo, and Meimão reservoirs with these results of Wels catfish removal:

Meimão Reservoir: 10 specimens (28 kg);
Belver Reservoir: 55 specimens (438 kg);
Fratel Reservoir: 2 specimens (8 kg);
Cedillo Reservoir: 430 specimens (5031 kg; 3253 kg of which were caught by OT).

Due to maintenance works in Fratel Reservoir (affecting also Belver) the 2025 removal campaigns are postponed to 2026, for safety issues.

BCCAS as technical partner in the project, took part in the catfish eradication in the Meimão and Cedillo reservoirs in April and October 2024 for an overall catch of more than 1100 Kg of biomass.

The BCCAS in cooperation with CNR-IRSA sampled catfish on the largest lake in the LIFE Predator project, Lake Maggiore, Italy, in mid-September 2025. The longlines were installed in 5 different areas of the lake, representing habitats of shallows, shelf, shelf edge, steep rocks and harbor. Altogether, 240 baits were installed overnight, with fish (particularly Italian rudd) and earthworms being installed equally. The catch was represented by catfish exclusively (i.e. no by-catch of any other predatory fish of the lake), with 18 individuals composing a total weight of 93.6 kg (the longline efficiency 7.5 %). The largest catch was represented by an exceptional individual in a size of 172 cm 38 kg. In contrast, 14 individuals caught were smaller than 90 cm. Four catfish were caught using fish (55.9 kg in total), 14 catfish using earthworms (37.7 kg). The fish bait was chosen by 5 times heavier catfish compared to earthworms.
Additional fishermen are expected to be involved in catfish control actions with the establishment of working groups and the definition of operational team (OT) targets. Further eradication actions are planned for all studied reservoirs, and professional fishermen are currently being contacted to negotiate their participation in order to achieve the proposed biomass reduction quota in each reservoir.

Experimentation of the use of longlines in Lake Maggiore (Italy) and the biggest specimen caught (172 cm, 38 Kg); an albino specimen sampled in Czech Republic.

From Wels catfish to dish (T7.1)

EXPERIMENTS ON PROCESSING TECHNIQUES AND FOOD VALORISATION.

In 2025 CIENCIAS-FC.ID participated to 4 events, engaging a total of 330 participants. These events were organized by local municipalities, such as Gavião (Belver reservoir), Alandroal (Alqueva reservoir), and Golegã (Tagus River), as well as by the CIENCIAS-FC.ID itself (Alhandra; Tagus River).
The processing of raw catfish materials will be tested soon by various operators in Italy. A collaboration has already been established with Ittiturismo Fraquelli's fishery, from which documentation on cleaning, skinning, and filleting processes will be collected. Additional partnerships are currently being negotiated. To experiment with different cooking techniques, the renowned Hotel School "E. Maggia" has joined the project. Activities are set to begin in October 2025, involving at least 60 students per year (a total of 180 students over three years). Approximately 20 kg of catfish will be removed through project activities will be supplied weekly for these culinary sessions. Additionally, a dissemination event was held at ALMA (Centro Internazionale per l'Alta Formazione in Cucina e Ospitalità), where the foundations were laid for further collaboration on catfish processing and valorisation. Agreements were also reached with Cooperativa "Il Sogno," their social restaurant "Gattabuia," and "Emporio dei Legami." As final outcome, GRAIA will compile all the various processing and cooking methods tested by these stakeholders into a publication featuring catfish recipes and preparation techniques.

Above: giant catfish paella prepared for a LIFE PREDATOR event held in Portugal (T7.1).
Below: LIFE PREDATOR event organized in Italy at ALMA, the International School of Italian Culinary Arts and Hospitality.

PROJECT COMMUNICATION

Awareness-raising events (T7.3)

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICES AMONG FISHERMEN AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

CIENCIAS-FC.ID team has organized and participated to events aimed at anglers, fishermen, law enforcement entities, and the general public. Specifically, the following events were held:
Meimão reservoir: Fish Identification training course for law enforcement agents (70), outreach session in Alfaiates reservoir (30 people);
Cedillo/Tejo Internacional reservoir: "Jornada Técnica e Científica de Peixes de Rio" (100 participants); schools (4 events, 500 children);
Fratel reservoir: Kick-Off Meeting (70 participants); schools (1 event, 124 children);
Belver reservoir: Book presentation (50 people), school (1 event, 200 children).
In Italy GRAIA has currently delivered and programmed about 22 events in order to raise awareness of the project's topics and to increase the number of collaborators within OT and WT.
"The Good Fisherman Vademecum" was and then published on the project website and printed in 1500 paper copies, to be distributed among the Italian partners. The target audience was fishing associations, members of the warning teams (WT), operative teams (OT), and general anglers who attended the meetings.
A Portuguese version was also drafted and released.

Public dissemination events (T8.3)

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS IN THE TARGET AREAS AND PARTICIPATION IN THEMATIC FAIRS.

IRSA_CNR Participated/Co-Organized more than 20 events dedicated to dissemination within the project area.
GRAIA drafted the "permanent exhibition" including posters to be positioned imminently at "Acquario e Civica Stazione Idrobiologica" of Milan, and "Museo di Storia Naturale" of

From the top: Event organized by GRAIA, held at the Municipality of Comabbio, for the stakeholders of Lake Comabbio (Italy).
CIENCIAS-FC.ID: the staff after an event held in Portugal.
Disclaimer of the event organized by CMTO (Italy).

Milan and other spots.
The “traveling exhibition” was also drafted and printed, the first event in this range was organized by GRAIA and it was held in Varano Borghi (June 2025).
The “traveling exhibition” was then transferred to CMTO, which organized the second exhibition event, which was recently held (September 2025) at Lake Sirio Rowing Centre headquarter. Lately the exhibition was moved to IRSA_CNR headquarters for the “Night of researchers” event.
CMTO organized also a presentation of the project to the five Municipalities included in the Natura 2000 site “Lake of Ivrea”; it presented also a videoclip specifically produced within “Cinemambiente” in Val Chiusella.
ALCO organized 2 dissemination events; the assignment procedure for the public outreach service is ongoing; the planned activities will include the organization of: at least 4 public events/meetings; 2 dedicated events/meetings for anglers interested in collaborating with the project; 1 conference on aquatic biodiversity and on the Wels catfish; travelling exhibitions.
In Portugal CIENCIAS-FC.ID has participated to 11 outreach activities, some co-organized, directly reaching a total of 1,100 people. CIENCIAS-FC.ID was present at the European Researchers Night with activities about the catfish invasion in Portugal. The team also organized a scientific outreach event in Alhandra about fish invasions and catfish, combined with an invasive fish lunch. They participated in the launch of the book “O Peixe-rei no Rio Tejo” in Alamal (Gavião) at the Belver reservoir, as well as book presentations in Alhandra and Constância. Finally, the CIENCIAS-FC.ID team held a public outreach session and sampling for the general public in Alfaiates (Sabugal), near the Meimoa reservoir.

Disclaimer of an event organized by CIENCIAS-FC.ID.
Interview given by Martin Cech (BCCAS) to the Portuguese media.
“Researchers’ Night” event held in Verbania and organized by CNR-IRSA. Special guest: Arturo the Catfish.

Schools and environmental education (T8.4)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES.

Le attività didattiche hanno l'obiettivo di coinvolgere
Educational activities will directly involve at least 7000 students in Italy and 5000 students in Portugal.
The Educational Kit developed in Italy consists of education proposals, 1 Educational Notebook, school lessons, 1 evaluation quiz, 12 home lessons/experiments, and games/ interactive exercises. The educational materials developed for Italy are available for download (digital version) on the official project website.
An Educational Kit was developed in Portugal on the basis of the Italian one.
in December 2022 IRSA_CNR presented the project to 140 high-school students of Gozzano (NO). From February 2023 to May 2025, presented the Project to at least 1200 students from primary to high school, within 51 visits to the partner headquarter.
School lessons held by GRAIA started in Lombardy Region within November 2024; approximately 1025 students are expected to participate before the end of 2025.
In March 2024, educational activities were carried out by ALCO with first-year classes from the linguistic high school and the social-pedagogical high school of the Berti School in Turin.
ALCO is currently assigning educational tasks, aiming to involve at least 1,500 students, respectively, in the new school year (2025-2026).
CMTO prepared a section on the Project, within the refresher course for teachers, included in the regional catalogue Ce.Se. Di (Centro Servizi Didattici) 2025/2026, "formazione docenti".
CMTO has concluded the procedure to choose the Pro for the public outreach service (assigned to "Vivere I Parchi") at the end of April 2025. For both ALCO and CMTO the education activity is currently starting (September-October 2025).
CIENCIAS-FC.ID initiated its educational program in elementary schools in May 2024, with effective activities starting in January 2025. By the end of April 2025, a total of 1600 children across 37 schools in 18 municipalities in Portugal had been reached. As time progressed, CIENCIAS-FC.ID gradually developed activities for older children, designing programs for eighth graders (approximately 14 years old). The team reached about 2800 children in 42 schools across 18 municipalities by the end of June 2025.
Moreover, the LIFE-PREDATOR project has been presented in several classes and seminars mostly held by CIENCIAS-FC. ID for undergraduate and graduate (master) students, but

Educational activities carried out by GRAIA under Task 8.4 with primary, lower secondary and preschool students in Italy.

also at Universidade de Trás-os-Montes, Escola Agrária de Coimbra, and Escola Agrária de Santarém, totalling 7 events with nearly 600 students.
BCCAS – Team members presented the problem of invasive European catfish and the LIFE-PREDATOR project to academic staff and students at Charles University, Faculty of Science, Prague (department seminar – 1x, Fish Ecology course – 2x, Advanced Limnology course – 1x, Socio-economic Conflicts in Nature Conservation course – 1x). The issue was also presented to academic staff and students at the Secondary Fish Farming School and Higher Vocational School of Water Management and Ecology, Vodňany (1x), and at the national level of the Grammar School Olympics in Ecology 2024/2025 via an online lecture (1x).

Educational activities carried out by GRAIA under Task 8.4 with primary, lower secondary and preschool students in Italy.

LIFE PREDATOR on media (T8.5)

THE PROJECT FEATURED AT FISHING FAIRS AND IN SPECIALISED MAGAZINES.

BCCAS presented the LIFE Predator project at 2 large trade fairs:
1) XIV For Fishing trade fair 2023, Prague, CR, 16-19 February 2023 – plenary lecture "LIFE Predator – a different view on the European catfish" plus four days showroom (29000 visitors);
2) VII Science trade fair 2023, Prague, CR, 8-10 June 2023 – showroom (22000 visitors).
After the presentation at Fishing trade fair, there was a tsunami of negative reactions from an influent group of Czech and Slovak anglers (face-to-face, Facebook, YouTube), including psychic terror and threats on the project and on the team members families. After the experience, BCCAS shift the activities to broad audience of people, particularly anglers and fishermen.
BCCAS provided 3 interviews for internet journals about the LIFE Predator project. Members of BCCAS have popularised the LIFE Predator project on YouTube (7 contributions).
CIENCIAS.FC-ID has participated 3 times to the largest sports fisheries fair in Portugal - MORAPESCA. This sports fisheries fair gathers anglers from all over the country, is organized by Mora Municipality and by the Federação Portuguesa de Pesca Desportiva, where the National Fishing Prizes are awarded to anglers. Additionally, CIENCIAS.FC-ID has participated to 4 events with anglers. A total of 700 anglers were directly exposed to the LIFE-PREDATOR project. A clip in English language and focused on the opinions of commercial fishermen in Portugal was launched on the YouTube LIFE-PREDATOR channel. This video got 3200 views, to be added to 2800 views in its Portuguese version.
Moreover, the CIENCIAS-FC.ID team participated in 3 fishing competition events aimed at European catfish (First Siluro Challenger) that were conducted in March and April 2025, reaching nearly 90 fishermen.
GRAIA booked a stand to display the Project rollups and noticeboard, with a table for the leaflets and the Vademecum of the good angler at "EOS 2025" in Verona (Veneto Region), which is the largest fair in Italy for Fishing-Outdoor-Hunting. Moreover, a QR code was created and displayed on the table, leading to a brief questionnaire on catfish perception. The attendance to the event was certified at 40000 visitors.
Within the Italian experience, the main opposition was observed only via social media, with insults and provocations to which the communication team answered kindly and with rational argumentations.
GRAIA control activity is mainly limited to Lake Comabbio, which is considered to be as very discrete and "safe place" in terms of opposition.
It has to be recognized that in previous Wels catfish control experiences, GRAIA faced the same threats reported by BCCAS: for this reason, activities of confrontations with anglers must be carefully organized, because in certain areas the protection of Wels catfish is clearly radicalized.

Scientific contributions (T8.6)

PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS ON PROJECT RESULTS.

IRSA-CNR has submitted 2 scientific papers, both currently under review. The first was submitted to the international journal NeoBiota, addresses the invasive traits and ecological impact of catfish in Southern Europe. It also focuses on the detection methods currently used for catfish monitoring and proposes an early warning detection system for this species. The second one, submitted to the journal Environmental DNA, focuses on the application of environmental DNA (eDNA) techniques for monitoring catfish presence.
IRSA-CNR - presented the LIFE PREDATOR project and results at 5 events (2023-2024).
In June 2025, Lidia Colombo and Beatrice Luzi from IRSA-CNR participated to the Scientific Congress of the Italian Association of Limnology and Oceanography, bringing an oral presentation with the title "Tracking Silurus glanis with eDNA tools in Italian subalpine lakes" and a poster entitled "UNMASKING THE PREDATOR: a Molecular Approach to Detect *Silurus glanis*".
BCCAS - presented the LIFE Predator project and its results at 5 conferences, both on national (Nature and conservation of Kladensko region – 2025) and international level (5th Percid Fish International Symposium – Percis V – 2022, XVII European Congress of Ichthyology – 2023, Interreg – 2024 – oral, XVIII Czech Fisheries and Ichthyological Conference - Rybikon 2024).
BCCAS has recently published 3 scientific papers in 2023-2024, and then in 2025 published:

Říha, M., Vejřík, L., Bueno, R.R., Jarić, I., Prchalová, M., Vejříková, I., Šmejkal, M., Blabolil, P., Čech, M., Draštík, V., Holubová, M., Jůza, T., Gjelland, K.Ø., Sajdlová, Z., Kočvara, L., Tušer, M., Peterka, J. (2025). Ecosystem, spatial and trophic dimensions of niche partitioning among freshwater fish predators 13: 36. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40462-025-00559-05

Sajdlová, Z., Jůza, T., Blabolil, P., Draštík, V., Čech, M. (2025). Pelagic distribution and night foraging of early juvenile European catfish (*Silurus glanis* L.). Giornale di biologia dei pesci 2: 1-6. https://doi.org/10.1111/jfb.16072

Říha, M., Bueno, R.R., Vejřík, L., Jarić, I., Prchalová, M., Šmejkal, M., Čech, M., Draštík, V., Blabolil, P., Holubová, M., Jůza, T., Gjelland, K.Ø., Sajdlová, Z., Kočvara, L., Tušer, M., Peterka, J. (2025). Hungry Catfish — Effect of Prey Availability on Movement Dynamics of a Top Predator. Freshwater Biology 70(3); 70:e70017: 1-15. https://doi.org/10.1111/fwb.70017

CIENCIAS-FC.ID in 2023-2024 participated to 11 technical-scientific congresses with 14 presentations; for about 1450 participants overall. In 2025 the partner participated to the following congress:
- Gkenas, C., et al., (2025). Características reprodutivas do peixe-gato-europeu (Silurus glanis) em Portugal. JTPCR'2025 – 2nd Jornada Técnica e Científicas de Peixes de Rio, 15 - 17 May 2025, Vila Real, Portugal (Poster Presentation).
The CIENCIAS-FC.ID team members participated in the publication of 4 scientific articles and the submission of another 2:

Vejřik, L., Vejřikova, I., Blabolil, P., Bartoň, D., Sajdlov, Z., Kočvara, L., Peterka, J., Muška, M., Duras, J., Jůza, T., Ribeiro, F., Rivaes, R., Ribeiro, D., Castro, B., Moncada, M., Čech M (2025) Long-lines for research monitoring and efficient population regulation of an invasive apex predator, European catfish (*Silurus glanis*). Heliyon, 10: 14 e34125J

Santos, G.S., Ribeiro, F., Pereira, E., Silva, A.F., Almeida, P.R., Ribeiro, D., Quintella, B.R. (2025) Behaviour of the Apex Predator European Catfish (*Silurus glanis*) on a Recently Invaded Reservoir, 34, e12817.

Gkenas, C., Sequeira, V., Ribeiro, D., Gago, J., Dias, D., Verma, C.R., Kumkar, P. e Ribeiro, F. (2025) Reproductive traits of the European catfish, *Silurus glanis*, during the early stages of invasion. Journal of Vertebrate Biology, 74, 24122.

Moreover, a scientific publication is currently under review:

Rivaes, R., Gago, J., Ribeiro, D., Anastácio, P., Dias, D., Quintella, B.S., Alexandre, C.A., Curto, M., Gkenas, C., Banha, F., Oliveira, J., Ribeiro, F. (in revisione) A long-term spatiotemporal analysis of the fish community of a large Mediterranean river facing multiple anthropogenic pressures. Scientific Reports.

Life PREDATOR

LIFE21 NAT-IT-PREDATOR
n. 101074458

2022 - 2027
PREvent, Detect and combAT the spread Of *SiluRus glanis* in south european lakes to protect biodiversity

Partnership:

CNR-IRSA
G.R.A.I.A. Srl
Città Metropolitana di Torino
Ente di Gestione Parchi Alpi Cozie

Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa
FCiências.ID - Associação para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento de Ciências

Biologicke Centrum AV CR, v. v. i.

Co-financers:
LIFE Programme

You can follow us here (Portuguese and/or English language):

OFFICIAL PROJECT WEBSITE **www.lifepredator.eu**

FACEBOOK **@lifepredator.eu**

INSTAGRAM **lifepredator.eu**

YOUTUBE **@lifepredator_eu**

MAIL **info@lifepredator.eu**

If you want to subscribe our Newsletter, please contact us by e-mail:
EMAIL**: info@lifepredator.eu**

Do you want to share your opinion with us?

Fill in the form on the section "HELP US!" in the project official website:
https://lifepredator.eu/your-reports/

Or select one of the following options:
- Are you a recreational angler? **CLICK HERE**
- Are you a commercial fisherman? **CLICK HERE**
- Are you a common citizen or do you represent another category of stakeholder? **CLICK HERE**

The Life PREDATOR Team:

The Water Research Institute of CNR (IRSA-CNR) as coordinator, in partnership with G.R.A.I.A. srl, the Protected Areas of the Cozie Alps, the Metropolitan City of Turin, the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (CIENCIAS), the Science Research and Development Association of the Sciences Faculty of the University of Lisbon - FCiencias.10 (FC.ID), and the Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences - Biologické centrum AV CR (BCCAS).