

~ INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DANUBE RESEARCH ~
**AFFECT OF ALIEN FISH SPECIES TO AUTOCHTHONOUS
ICHTHYOFAUNA OF LAKE PRESPA IN MACEDONIA**
TOPIC 3, AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY AND ALIEN SPECIES - POSTER

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KEYWORDS: alien fish species, autochthonous ichthyofauna, Lake Ppespa, Macedonia.

ABSTRACT

Lake Prespa is transboundary lake between R.Macedonia, R.Greece and R.Albania. The Lake is contained of Macro and Micro Prespa. It is the second largest lake in Macedonia and is settled in the south-western part of the Republic of Macedonia.

In Lake Prespa are recognized 11 native fish species: *Alburnoides prespensis* Karaman, 1924 (Spirlin), *Alburnus belvica* Karaman, 1924 (Prespa bleak), *Anguilla anguilla* (Linnaeus, 1758) (eel), *Barbus prespensis* Karaman, 1924 (Prespa barbel), *Chondrostoma prespense* Karaman, 1924 (Prespa nase), *Cobitis meridionalis* Karaman, 1924 (Prespa loach), *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus, 1758 (Carp), *Pelagus prespensis* Karaman, 1924 (Prespa minnow), *Rutilus prespensis* Karaman, 1924 (Prespa roach), *Salmo peristericus* Karaman, 1938 (Prespa trout) and *Squalius prespensis* Fowler, 1977 (Prespa chub).

Unfortunately in the past period in Lake Prespa are introduced great number of fish species. They are: *Salmo letnica* Karaman (Ohrid trout - introduced 1950s),, 1924, *Carassius gibelio* Bloch, 1782 (Goldfish - introduced 1970s), *Ctenopharyngodon idella* Valenciennes 1844 (Grass carp - introduced 1980s), *Gambusia holbrooki* Girard, 1859 (Mosquito fish - introduced 1995-1996), *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* Valenciennes 1844 (Silver carp - introduced 1980s), *Lepomis gibbosus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Pumpkinseed - introduced 1995-1996), *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Rainbow trout - introduced 1970s), *Parabramis pekinensis* (Amur carp - introduced 1970s), *Pseudorasbora parva* Temmini &Schlegel, 1846 (False Harlequin - introduced 1970s), *Silurus glanis* Linnaeus, 1758 (Wels catfish - introduced 1986), *Rhodeus amarus* Bloch, 1782 (Bitterling - introduced 1990s) and *Tinca tinca* Linnaeus, 1758 (Tench - introduced 1980s).

Populations of the *Alburnus belvica* and *Rutilus prespensis* are very stability. Unfortunately the populations of the autochthones endemic fish species: *Barbus prespensis*, *Chondrostoma prespense*, *Squalius prespensis* and *Cyprinus carpio* are decreasing every year. Populations of the *Alburnoides prespensis*, *Cobitis meridionalis*, *Pelagus prespensis* and *Salmo peristericus* are very rarely. *Anguilla anguilla* are strongly declining in the whole Europe for many reasons, not all well understood.

Fortunately the populations of the *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *Parabramis pekinensis* and *Salmo letnica* are not reproduced in Prespa lakes and today their number is very small. Also, the populations of *Pseudorasbora parva*, *Rhodeus amarus*, *Silurus glanis* and *Tinca tinca* are not very abundant in the moment. But the populations of *Carassius gibelio* and *Lepomis gibbosus* every year are increasing and they have great percentage participation in the total commercial catches.