

EIFAAC INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM & 33RD DELEGATE SESSION

5-9 October 2026 | Riga, Latvia

Managing and Conserving Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources in a Changing World

Location of the Symposium: Park Inn by Radisson Riga Valdemara (Krogus street 1, Riga, LV-1048)

Sunday, 4th of October:

16:00-18:30 Registration

19:00-20:00 Ice-breaking event

DAY 1 - MONDAY, 5th OF OCTOBER

TIME	Room BC	TIME	Room A
08:00-09:00	Registration		
09:00-09:45	Welcome and opening address		
09:50	Robert Arlinghaus: The relative performance of minimum-size limits vs. harvest slots in managing recreational fisheries		
10:20	Christian Skov: Citizen science and management of recreational fisheries: Challenges and opportunities		
10:55-11:30	Coffee break		
11:30	Scientific and Technical Advances in Freshwater Aquaculture: Contributing to Sustainable Development and Food Security CHAIR: Ana Gavrilović CO-CHAIR: Daniel Zarski	11:30	Climate Change and Habitat Conservation: Impacts, Challenges and Trends CHAIR: Bärbel Müller-Karulis CO-CHAIR: Elvita Eglīte
11:35	Bettina Dieken: One legal framework, different outcomes? Regulatory governance of inland aquaculture in Germany	11:35	Bärbel Müller-Karulis: Climate change in the Baltic Sea Region: current knowledge and research trends
11:55	Radka Symonová: Transition to piscivory in juvenile pikeperch (<i>Sander lucioperca</i>): insights from brain transcriptomics, otolith chronobiology, and implications for aquaculture	11:55	Ian Cowx: Are we building resilience to extreme climate events for inland fish and fisheries in Europe?
12:15	Ana Gavrilović: Possible solutions for European inland pond aquaculture improvement	12:15	Jolanta Jėkabsonė: Impacts of climate change on ecological flows in Latvia: a fish-based case study
12:35	Dimitar Taskov: Digital technologies for sustainable aquaculture	12:35	Meruyert Zhumasseit: Maternal effects modulate perch early-life phenotypes upon pH and dissolved organic carbon (DOC) exposure
13:00-14:00	Lunch break		
14:00	From Hatchery to Habitat: Ensuring Fish Welfare and Restocking Success CHAIR: Marina Piria CO-CHAIR: Inta Dimante-Deimantoviča	14:00	Alfred Sandström: Restoring connectivity and population viability of a threatened fish, the Asp (<i>Leuciscus aspius</i>)
14:05	Andreas Müller-Belecke: Experiences regarding the suitability of pikeperch (<i>Sander lucioperca</i>) raised on artificial feeds for stocking natural waters	14:20	Jānis Dumpis: High-resolution bathymetric cartography for lacustrine ecosystem assessment: methodological application to Lake Kisezers environmental sustainability
14:25	Vytautas Rakauskas: Artificially hatched sea trout in natural environment: growth and fitness compared to wild specimens	14:40	Nico Alioravainen: KYMPPI - the environmental program for fisheries in Finland
14:45	Olga Revina: Outbreak of <i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i> in Baltic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) in Latvia	15:00	River-Sea Connectivity: Hydrological and Ecological Drivers and Their Impact on Migratory Species CHAIR: Reinhold Hanel CO-CHAIR: Kaspars Abersons
15:05	Kristofers Millers: Assessment of farmed salmonid quality using a fish health index model based on environmental, stock-level, and individual health indicators	15:05	Reinhold Hanel: Assessing oceanic impacts on transport and arrival of European eel larvae
15:25	Anete Niemi: Occurrence of bacterial pathogens and antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture fish in Latvia	15:25	Jokūbas Radžvilas: Changes in the population status of European river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) in the Salantas river following dam removal
15:45-16:15	Coffee break		
16:15	Nico Alioravainen: Lessons from Lake Inari: challenging the sustainability of stocking practices	16:15	Lasse Marohn: Using acoustic telemetry to resolve migratory fish connectivity and escapement uncertainty
16:35	Teppo Vehanen: Baltic sturgeon in Finnish waters - from historical occurrence to modern reintroduction	16:35	Jolanta Jėkabsonė: Strategic prioritisation of fish migration barriers for improving river connectivity under the EU Nature Restoration Regulation
16:55	Inta Dimante-Deimantoviča: Habitat suitability overrides lamprey larval stocking efforts: evidence from the Mazā Jugla River	16:55	Dushica Ilikj-Boeva: Challenges and Conservation Strategies for the European Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) in the Drim River Basin: A national Management Framework for North Macedonia
17:20-19:00	Poster session		

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DAY 2 - TUESDAY, 6th OF OCTOBER

TIME	Room BC	TIME	Room A
08:00-09:00	Registration		
09:00	Anti Vasemägi: Managing fish populations in a changing world: what can('t) genomics really tell us?	09:00-13:00	Workshop on Ecological and Economic Effects of Predators on Freshwater Fish Resources and Aquaculture
09:30	Tamás Bardócz: Algae aquaculture and its potential for sustainable aquafeeds		
10:00	Stakeholder Engagement and Citizen Science: Lessons Learned and Future Directions CHAIR: Christian Skov CO-CHAIR: Petra Lindholm-Lehto		MODERATORS: Prof. Ian Cowx & Dr. Raymon van Anrooy - Opening and welcome on behalf of EIFAAC; introduction of participants and adoption of the agenda - Background and objectives (Raymon van Anrooy, EIFAAC Secretary) - Cormorant population regulation vs. compensation: Latvian experience (Gita Strode, Nature Conservation Agency) - Ecological and economic effects of predators on freshwater fish resources and aquaculture in Europe (Ian Cowx, University of Hull) - Discussion of the report findings
10:05	Thilo Pagel: More for less: can citizen science support the management of recreational fisheries in the Oder River?		
10:25	Leila Neimane: Exploring barriers and drivers of inland aquaculture development in the Baltic States: a stakeholder-based approach		
10:45	Patricija Raibarte: Effective cooperation with fishermen - critically important in ensuring the sustainability of European river lamprey resources		
11:05-11:30	Coffee break	10:30-10:45	Coffee break & Group Picture
11:30	Jan Kubečka: Carefully collected angler's catch statistics tell us a lot but not all		- Outcomes of the EIFAAC/EAA/FEAP European inventory of fish damage caused by cormorant predation (Raymon van Anrooy, EIFAAC Secretary) - Understanding the cormorant-fish conflict: ProtectFish filling the gaps (Kim Birnie-Gauvin, Technical University of Denmark) - General discussion: data and information needs, data collection methods, analysis and reporting - Preparation of the workshop recommendations to EIFAAC 33
11:50	Christian Skov: Bridging data needs and community engagement in recreational fishing through citizen science platforms		
12:10	Craig McCoubrey: The re-emerging pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) population in Lough Neagh as assessed by commercial fishermen's local ecological knowledge		
12:30	Managing Aquatic Genetic Resources: Innovative and Interdisciplinary Approaches CHAIR: Petri Heinimaa CO-CHAIR: Diāna Ruska		
12:35	Andreas Müller-Belecke: Development of number and genetic diversity of salmonid breeding stocks in Germany within an observation period of 10 years		
13:00-14:00	Lunch break		Workshop ends at 13:00
14:00	Tamal Roy: Fisheries-induced evolutionary changes in the brain and cognition related to catchability in an experimentally harvested zebrafish model		
14:20	Yassine Kasmi: Environmental DNA detection of river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) in the Weser and Lesum Rivers: a comparison of eDNA approaches and conventional fishing methods		
14:25	Natalja Škute: The study of genetic structure of population is basic of managing fish resources		
14:45-15:15	Coffee break		
15:15	Stock Assessment and Sustainable Use of Freshwater Fish: Integrated Management Strategies CHAIR: Robert Arlinghaus CO-CHAIR: Ivars Putnis	15:15	Stewards of the Environment: How Recreational Fishers Support Aquatic Biodiversity and Habitat Improvements CHAIR: Jan Kubečka CO-CHAIR: Anete Niemi
15:20	Christian Vogelmann: From field measurement to data analysis: a standardized digital workflow for fisheries monitoring	15:20	Jessica Bathe-Peters: Fishing practice and Baltic sturgeon (<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>) conservation in the Szczecin Lagoon area of Poland and Germany
15:40	Tyrell DeWeber: Comparing alternative management strategies for the Lake Constance whitefish fishery	15:40	Agnese Neimane: From catch records to conservation action: how recreational fishers contribute to freshwater ecosystem stewardship through Mana Cope
16:00	Kaspars Abersons: 26 years of evolution in river lamprey larval monitoring: are we there yet?	16:00	Andi Melcher: Integrative freshwater management for a sustainable socio-ecological transition in Africa
16:20	Janis Rusko: From inland fish monitoring to safe consumption guidance: a risk-benefit assessment of Latvian lake fish	16:20	Teppo Vehanen: Long-term fish assemblage responses to instream restoration in boreal streams
16:40	Alfred Sandström: Fish and fisheries in Sweden's large lakes - status, pressures and future needs	16:40	Ruta Medne: Anglers as partners in science: the experience of Latvia
17:00	Marek Trella: The importance of lake stocking with pike (<i>Esox lucius</i> L.), illustrated by the example of 15 lakes in East-Central Europe	17:00	Seger Van Mileghem: How angling stewards raise awareness to comply with fisheries legislation and contribute to the management of the aquatic environment
17:20	Ričards Kaupužs: Developing a fish fauna "naturalness" metric for evaluating river restoration success in Latvia		
17:45-18:00	Closure of symposium		
19:00	GALA Dinner at restaurant "Osta" (Matrožu street 15, Riga, LV-1048)		

POSTER SESSION | 5th of October | 17:20 – 19:00

Authors	Poster Title
Climate change and habitat conservation: impacts, challenges and trends	
Amanda Vasule and Kaspars Abersons	From a straightened channel to a living stream: artificial riffles as a river restoration measure
Tea Tomljanović , Ivan Špelić, Marina Piria, Daniel Matulić and Tena Radočaj	Spatiotemporal dynamics and ecological status of ichthyocenoses in the Sava River (Croatia)
Elisabeth Peham , Günther Gratzl, Thomas Brunner, Matthias Konzett, Elmar Schmaltz, Florian Kainz and Christian Bauer	Utilization of fishponds as retention areas in flood risk management
Haralds Plostiņš and Edmunds Bērziņš	Occurrence of protected and rare fish and crayfish species in Latvian lakes
Marina Piria , Lidija Svečnjak, Ivan Špelić, Melissa Cabrelli, Antoine Fréret and Dragica Šalamon	Morphological and chemical characterisation of otoliths in three populations of the invasive eastern mosquitofish <i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>
Managing aquatic genetic resources: innovative and interdisciplinary approaches	
Roberts Strazdiņš , Jānis Bajinskis, Juris Ķibilds, Amanda Lazdiņa, Didzis Elferts, Amanda Vasule, Ričards Kaupužs, Haralds Plostiņš and Kaspars Abersons	Improving conservation status assessments of protected fish species in Latvia using environmental DNA
Natalja Škute , Jelena Oreha, Aleksandra Morozova, Adomas Ragauskas and Dalius Butkauskas	Hydrological connectivity versus anthropogenic fragmentation: population genetic structure of Eurasian perch across Latvian and Lithuanian river basins
River–sea connectivity: hydrological and ecological drivers and their impact on migratory species	
Andrzej Kapusta , Rafał Bernaś and Piotr Dębowski	Hydropower as a bottleneck for Baltic sturgeon restoration: survival and downstream migration of juvenile <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i> in the Vistula River basin
Scientific and technical advances in freshwater aquaculture: contributing to sustainable development and food security	
Sanita Sazonova , Sintija Vetra and Ilze Grāmatina	Sustainable utilization of sturgeon processing by-products for fish oil production
Stakeholder engagement and citizen science: lessons learned and future directions	
Māris Liepiņš	Working towards river barrier removal: river health vs. stakeholder satisfaction
Christian Bauer , Günther Gratzl and Elisabeth Peham	Aeration is the new must-have in carp pond farming in northern Austria
Arturs Skute , Oksana Nekrasova, Inta Artifa, Mihails Pupins and Volha Khvesko	Stakeholder e-Engagement and IT–AI citizen science mobile application for conservation of urban wetland ponds in Latvia
Stewards of the environment: how recreational fishers support aquatic biodiversity and habitat improvements	
Davor Zanella , David Dianežević, Perica Mustafić, Zoran Marčić, Marko Čaleta, Goran Tvrdinić, Roman Karlović, Sven Horvatić and Gordana Goreta	Krka National Park: targeted recreational fishing of invasive alien species to support native aquatic biodiversity in a protected area
Stock assessment and sustainable use of freshwater fish: integrated management strategies	
Andrzej Kapusta	Comparison of cormorant predation and commercial fisheries harvests in the Masurian Lake District (Poland): implications for inland fisheries management
Marija Obradcova , Ivars Putnis, Loreta Rozenfelde and Inta Dimante-Deimantoviča	How old are you? Evaluation of age determination methods for Prussian carp <i>Carassius gibelio</i>