



Newsletter

LIFE FOR LASCA

N. 01/2020



Young Lasca specimens born in 2020 – picture by Pietro Beretta

*LIFE for LASCA LIFE16 NAT/SI/000644 (2017-2021) aims to safeguard the **Lasca (Protochondrostoma genei)** in the Soča river basin in Slovenia, in particular in the Vipava Valley. The Lombard Park of the Ticino Valley and the FRIS (Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia), a Slovenian public research institute, participate in the project. The Lasca is a small cyprinid that frequents running waters. In the past it was widespread, but now its populations are in decline. In Slovenia, the Lasca is at risk of extinction mainly due to the introduction of the allochthonous fish **Common Nase (Chondrostoma nasus)**, with which it competes for habitat. Since the Ticino Park is able to reproduce the Lasca in captivity thanks to protocols developed with the LIFE Con.Flu.Po. project, the institution supports the FRIS in this important **conservation project**.*



FOTO DI MATTIA NOCCIOLA

The main activities of Life for Lasca are:

- **Placing of Lasca specimens** in the Vipava Valley (Slovenia). These fishes are the result of the captive reproductions of Parco Ticino and FRIS.
- **Start of a Lasca farm in Slovenia** to make the FRIS autonomous in captive breeding of Lasca and therefore in the production of youngs for use in the release into the wild.
- **Supply**, by the Ticino Park, **of adult** (breeding stock) and **young Lasca specimens** born in captivity, to FRIS to start breeding and to make the placing.
- **Reduction of the population of the Common Nase in Slovenia**, especially during the spawning when the specimens congregate in shallower waters. Activity performed in collaboration with local sport fishing associations.
- **Raising awareness of the local population, fishermen, children** to make them understand the importance of nature conservation and the danger of introducing alien species into an environment.



Isonzo/Soča river – Picture by Pietro Beretta



Site chosen for the placing of young lasca specimens, Slovenia – Pictures by FRIS

Natura 2000

In May 1992 the governments of the European Union joined the legislation for the protection of habitats and species at risk of extinction in Europe. The two reference Directives, commonly known as the **"Birds Directive" of 1979** and the **"Habitats Directive" of 1992**, aim to establish measures for the conservation of species and habitats of Community interest by establishing a European network of Sites of Community Importance (SIC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), called the Natura 2000 Network.

The Natura 2000 Network is **the largest network of protected areas** in the world and includes beyond 27,000 sites, almost a fifth of all lands and a significant portion of the EU's seas. Under the coordination of the competent Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea, over 2,700 sites of community importance have been identified in our country.

LIFE program

The LIFE program was established as well in 1992, through which the European Union provides funding for projects to protect the environment and nature. LIFE is one of a kind in fact it is the only program managed by the European Commission **totally dedicated to improving the environment.**

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LIFE for LASCA 
www.lifeforlasca.eu