



LIFE16 NAT/SI/000644

# Newsletter

# LIFE FOR LASCA

N. 15/2021

The activities of the FRIS in Slovenia and the ones of the Ticino Park in Italy continue as regards the actions directly linked to the conservation of the target species and as regards the promotion and dissemination actions to increase awareness of projects of this type.

## ***Captive breeding 2021***

In the last issue we described how the hatcheries of Parco Ticino and FRIS were preparing for the Lasca breeding season, discovering how the breeding tanks are set up. In the past weeks the eggs laid in the specially arranged boxes have been fertilized; therefore the reproduction took place this year too!



Lasca eggs in the hatchery of the Ticino Park -Photos Marco Valenti

## ***The restockings***

As in previous years, 5,000 specimens were released in Jevšček, a small settlement in the municipality of Kobarid right on the border between Slovenia and Italy, on a tributary of the Soča river, to promote the survival rate and the increase of the Lasca populations in the Natura 2000 site. The young specimens released come from the Lasca stock of the FRIS (Kobarid hatchery). They were placed in a stretch upstream of the wild population survey site.

## ***Lasca reproduce in nature***

On 1 June 2021, during the control activities carried out at the Jovšček release site, the FRIS found specimens of Lasca. The females were full of mature eggs, the males showed the typical nuptial buttons that characterize some cyprinids during the reproductive period. These findings seem to indicate that the released fishes have adapted to natural conditions, that the site chosen for release is suitable for the species and that the fishes are capable of reproducing in the wild. Spawning in the wild is a great success and a big step towards the self-maintenance capabilities of wild populations. In particular for Lasca, which in nature risks disappearing.

Lasca with nuptial buttons-Photo FRIS



Mature Lasca specimen-Photo FRIS

## ***Online meeting with the monitor***

On 10 June 2021 the project monitor (figure who monitors the progress of the project and plays a role of liaison for communications between the partners and the EU), Mitja Kaligarič, visited the FRIS (in presence) and the Ticino Park (online). The meeting illustrated the activities carried out since the last monitoring visit, talked about the reproduction of the Lasca, the specimens transferred to Slovenia, the success of the competitions, etc. The following day the monitor was accompanied by the Slovenian staff to some project locations, where he was able to verify the actions performed.

## ***Saved from extinction***

The work and efforts that have been made so far to preserve the Lasca and prevent its extinction in Slovenia were illustrated in the documentary "Saved from extinction". Film broadcast on April 20 on Slovenian TV, where part of the shooting was dedicated to the activities carried out in Slovenia.



## ***The Motives Natura 2000 exhibition***

An interesting initiative to raise awareness of the LIFE for lasca project is the exhibition of the winners of the Slovenian photo contest "Motives Natura 2000", exhibited from 3 May to 3 June 2021 in the streets of Ljubljana.



## The Award Ceremony

In Slovenian schools, prizes were awarded to the winners of the "Richness of Natura 2000" art competition, held last year. On Monday 3 March 2021, the Slovenian FRIS team met the students of the Dornberk Milojka Štrukelj school in Nova Gorica. Due to the global health situation, the staff was forced to postpone the awards ceremony, scheduled for last year, to 2021. Despite this, the meeting between the FRIS team and the students was a step towards normality and towards the safeguard of the Lasca. The guys, with their works, are committed to promoting and making the project known.



Prize of the art contest in Slovenia-Photo FRIS



Award ceremony and winning work of the Slovenian art competition-Photo FRIS

## Promotion products

At the end of 2019, the project stamp was created and released in Slovenia. In addition to promoting the project, the purpose of the stamp is to highlight the importance of biodiversity conservation and raise awareness of the LIFE program and the Natura 2000 network. In addition to the stamp, various products were prepared, including: bottled wine (white and red), T-shirts, undershirts, bags, scarves, stickers, flyers, USB pendrives and canteens.

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[www.lifeforlasca.eu](http://www.lifeforlasca.eu)



**SLOVENIJA**

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