Chondrostoma soetta

Region: 1

Taxonomic Authority: Bonaparte, 1840

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Savetta — Italian

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

Notes on taxonomy:

General Information

Biome ☐ Terrestrial ☑ Freshwater ☐ Marine

Geographic Range of species:

Restricted to northern Italy, the southern part of Switzerland. It has been introduced in some Italian lakes. It is locally extinct in Slovenia and the Isonzo river basin in Italy due to the introduction of Chondrostoma nasus, a practice still implemented.
Introductions in rivers of central Italy was often a misidentification for C. genei. Several present records for C. soetta are probably a misidentification for C. nasus, due to similarity between these two species. As an example of how the alien species are spread now in Italy, in rivers from the Rovigo Province in eastern Italy, were C. soetta is still reported, the biomass of all native species was found to be about 22% of whole ichthyofauna.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

A deepwater lacustrine species that also inhabits large rivers. It migrates from the lake to its tributaries for spawning in spring.

Conservation Measures:

Listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive of EU and in the Appendix III of the Bern Convention.

Threats:

Dams, water pollution and extraction, and introduction of alien species as Rutilus rutilus, Silurus glanis and Chondrostoma nasus. The reduction in suitable spawning places due to pollution (agriculture) and to water extraction is of major concern.
Other threats to the species are predation by cormorants, where in several places of Italy have become a serious pest and destroyed a large amount of fishes, especially in torrents or small river were the fishes migrate to for reproduction. (Compiled by C.esare Puzzi from GRAIA, and P.G. Bianco pers comm.).

Species population information:

Very different from one locality to another. It is locally extinct in Slovenia but still thriving in other parts of its range.
This species is now becoming quite rare in the lakes of northern Italy and Switzerland (Lugano, Maggiore, Como, Iseo, Garda) mainly as result of interaction with alien species, especially Rutilus rutilus, which was introduced around 1990 and has become very common and is the subject of commercial fishing in several of these lakes. (Bianco, P. pers comm)
This species is also rarely found in rivers and has nearly disappeared in the main stretch of the Po basin, in the other rivers it forms very small populations and spawning occurs only in a few areas of each river (except in the Po).

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Italy	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐
Slovenia	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Switzerland	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

		Score
5.1	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	1
5.5	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	1

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
1	Habitat Loss/Degradation (human induced)	☑	☑	☑
1.3	Extraction	☐	☑	☑
1.3.6	Groundwater extraction	☐	☑	☑
1.4	Infrastructure development	☑	☑	☑
1.4.6	Dams	☑	☑	☑
2	Invasive alien species (directly affecting the species)	☑	☑	☑
2.1	Competitors	☑	☑	☑
6	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	☑	☑	☑
6.3	Water pollution	☑	☑	☑
7	Natural disasters	☐	☐	☑
7.1	Drought	☐	☐	☑
9	Intrinsic factors	☑	☑	☑
9.1	Limited dispersal	☑	☑	☑

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	☑	☐
1.2	Legislation	☑	☐
1.2.1	Development	☑	☐
1.2.1.1	International level	☑	☐
1.2.2	Implementation	☑	☐
1.2.2.1	International level	☑	☐
3	Research actions	☑	☑
3.1	Taxonomy	☑	☐
3.2	Population numbers and range	☐	☑
3.3	Biology and Ecology	☐	☑
3.4	Habitat status	☐	☑
3.8	Conservation measures	☐	☑
3.9	Trends/Monitoring	☐	☑
4	Habitat and site-based actions	☐	☑

4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	☐	☑
4.2	Restoration	☐	☑
4.4	Protected areas	☐	☑
4.4.3	Management	☐	☑

Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use	Subsistence	National	International	*Other purpose:*
				Stocked for sport fishing

	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50%	<25%	*Other forms removed from the wild:*
Primary forms removed from the wild						
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50%	<25%	*Other source of specimens:*

Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:

Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:

CITES:

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Endangered (EN) ☐ Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria: B2ab(i,ii,iii,iv,v)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: The lake populations have increasing difficulty in reaching the spawning places in the tributaries. Although the introduced sub-populations are thriving, the threat to the remaining severley fragmented natural population and spawning areas is high due to dam construction, pollution, water extraction and predation by cormorants and Silurus glanis. The AOO (spawning grounds) is estimated at less than 500 km2. It is locally extinct in Slovenia and the Isonzo river basin in Italy due to the introduction of Chondrostoma nasus, a practice still implemented.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing **Date of Assessment:** 31/10/2004

Assessor(s): A.J. Crivelli

Evaluator: Bianco, G. & Darwall, W.

Notes on Red listing:

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