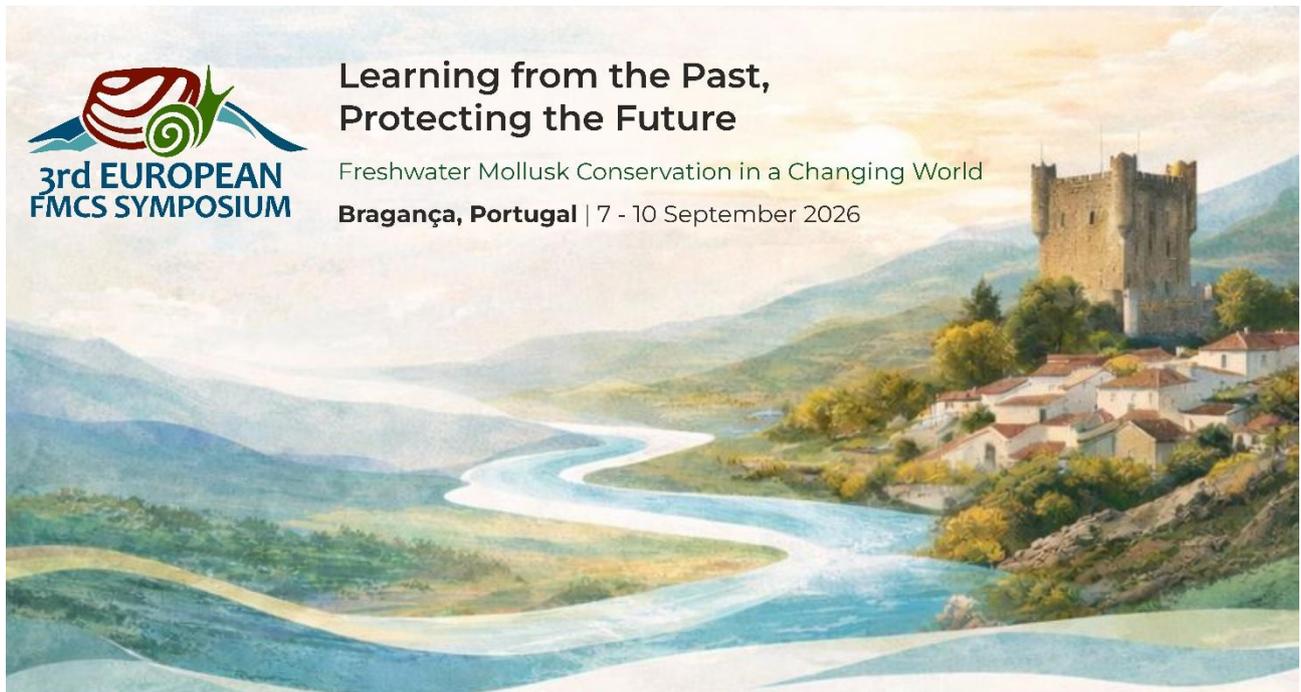




BRAGANÇA, PORTUGAL 7-10 SEPTEMBER 2026

1st CIRCULAR



LEARNING FROM THE PAST, PROTECTING THE FUTURE

Freshwater Mollusk Conservation in a Changing World

Welcome to the 3rd European Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Meeting, a forum to discuss freshwater mollusks research and conservation! Hosted by Bragança Polytechnic University in the historical city of Bragança, Portugal, we hope to bring together researchers and stimulate further collaborations!

Fourteen years after the first European meeting dedicated to the conservation of freshwater bivalves, it is time to return to the historic city of Bragança, where this collective journey began. This third meeting marks both a moment of reflection and a strategic expansion: revisiting the challenges and opportunities identified in 2012, assessing which have been successfully addressed, which remain unresolved, and redefining priorities for the coming decade, now embracing all freshwater mollusks.

Freshwater mollusks are a fundamental component of global biodiversity and are increasingly recognized for their critical ecological, economic, and social roles. Yet, they remain among the most threatened faunal groups worldwide. Over the past 14 years, research on their biology, ecology, and conservation has expanded significantly. Despite these advances, knowledge remains fragmented across regions, taxa, and disciplines, limiting the translation of science into effective conservation action. A comprehensive and integrative perspective, grounded in both successes and failures of recent efforts, is therefore more urgent than ever.

Following the successful establishment and consolidation of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society (FMCS) in Europe, demonstrated by the organization of this 3rd European meeting, this symposium also represents a key step toward internationalization. In this edition, we aim to strengthen ties with the South American BIVAAS network, fostering transcontinental collaboration and laying the groundwork for expanding FMCS activities into South America. This exchange will enrich perspectives, highlight shared challenges across biogeographic regions, and promote coordinated conservation strategies at a broader, global scale.

Through keynote lectures, contributed presentations, thematic discussions, debates, and informal social interactions, the meeting seeks to reinforce a dynamic network of shared knowledge that stimulates collaborative research, capacity building, and the development of common conservation directives for freshwater mollusks and their habitats.

We invite researchers, practitioners, conservationists, and policymakers to take part in this reflection and forward-looking dialogue by submitting an abstract to the 3rd European Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Meeting.

<https://esa.ipb.pt/mollusk/>



THEMATIC LINES

TL 01 Biology and ecology

TL 02 Conservation and threats to species and habitats

TL 03 Ecosystem functions and services

TL 04 Management, captive breeding and restoration

TL 05 Invasive species

TL 06 Phylogeny and phylogeography

TL 07 Systematics and taxonomy

TL 08 Physiology and reproduction

TL 09 Ecotoxicology

TL 10 Functional genetics and genomics

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Arthur Bogan - North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, North Carolina, United States of America

Dr. Bogan's research is focused on developing a phylogeny of the freshwater bivalves of the world. Other research interests lie in developing a handbook on freshwater gastropods of North Carolina. He is also part of a collaboration team that's been formed to produce a catalog of the nearly 1,000 named taxa in the freshwater gastropod family Pleuroceridae.



Dr. David Aldridge - Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Dr. Aldridge research focuses on the ecology of aquatic ecosystems, and in particular invasive species and the role of bivalve molluscs. Much of his work centres on using biology and ecology to answer questions which have practical applications. He is also the founder and Managing Director of BioBullets, a company that produces bivalve antifouling particles.



Dr. David L. Strayer - Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook New York, United States of America

Dr. Strayer's research is focused on the distribution and roles of freshwater invertebrates. He worked for decades on the ecology of the Hudson River and on understanding the controls on distribution and abundance of pearly mussels.



Dr. Jurgen Geist - Wildlife Biology & Wildlife Management Unit, Technische Universität München, Freising, Germany

Dr. Geist research is directed to the development of system biology models for chronological and spatial distribution of biodiversity in water ecosystems which integrate molecular biology and ecology approaches. Focus is placed on the quality of the aquatic habitat, genetic and demographic structures of fish and mussel populations, aquatic food webs and stress biomarkers.



Dr. Mary Seddon - Chair of the SSC's Mollusc Specialist Group

Dr. Mary Seddon is Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Mollusc Specialist Group and an internationally recognized expert in freshwater mollusk conservation. Her work focuses on the assessment, conservation, and sustainable management of threatened mollusk species worldwide, with particular emphasis on freshwater systems.



Dr. Agustín Basso - Universidad Nacional del Litoral. Santa Fe, Argentina / BIVAAS network South America

Dr. Agustín Basso is a biologist and researcher at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral (Argentina) with extensive experience in freshwater aquatic organism conservation and ecotoxicology. He is also a member of BIVAAS and a key promoter of BIVALCONS, the South American network of sites dedicated to the conservation of freshwater bivalves.



KEY DATES

15th April 2026

Registration opens
Abstract Submission Opens

15th May 2026

Abstract Submission Closes

1st June 2026

Notification Abstract
Acceptance

30th June 2026

Early Registration Closes

15th August 2026

Late registration closes

1-31st August 2026

Sending Oral presentations
Sending Digital Posters

SYMPOSIUM : 7-10th September 2026

Bragança Polytechnic University

Auditorium Alcínio Miguel (ESTIG)

REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION FEES	Early Registration	Late Registration
PROFESSIONALS		
Regular	425 €	450 €
FMCS Member*	325 €	350 €
STUDENTS/RETIREE		
Regular	275 €	300 €
FMCS Member*	225 €	250 €
DIGITAL PARTICIPANTS	200 €	
Accompanying persons	50 €	75 €

Registration includes:

Documentation, Coffee-breaks, Lunches (8, 9 September) and Excursion lunch (10 September)

Note: Conference dinner (50€) not included

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The official language of the Symposium is English. Abstracts will be published in the Symposium Abstract's book.

Abstract: 250 words (maximum)

Margins: left 2,5cm; right 2cm; top 2cm; bottom 2cm

Font style: Aptos 12pt, except for the title (14pt) and references (10pt)

Paragraph: Lines must be 1.5 and fully justified

Abbreviations would only be used for common terms

For uncommon terms the abbreviation should be given in brackets after the first full use of the word.



TYPES OF COMMUNICATIONS

ORAL

- Each oral presentation will last 12 minutes, followed by 3 minutes for questions or comments from the audience.
- Only 1 oral communication per main author registered will be allowed.
- Authors should send the oral communication in editable PPT format to the Symposium Secretariat (mollusk@ipb.pt) by **August 31st**.

POSTER

- Posters must be accompanied by an audio recording of up to 5 minutes (mp3 format).
- Each main author may submit up to 2 posters.
- Both the poster (editable PPT) and audio recording must be sent to the Symposium Secretariat (mollusk@ipb.pt) by **August 31st**.

DIGITAL

- Digital communications must be accompanied by an audio recording of up to 10 minutes (mp3 format).
- Only 1 digital communication per main author is allowed.
- Both the digital communication (editable PPT) and audio recording must be sent to the Symposium Secretariat (mollusk@ipb.pt) by **August 31st**.
- Only 1 digital communication per main author registered will be allowed.



ORGANIZATION

Organized by Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society and
 Bragança Polytechnic University



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Amílcar Teixeira – CIMO, LA-SusTEC, Bragança Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Manuel Lopes-Lima – BIOPOLIS / CIBIO - InBIO and Porto University, Portugal
- Ronaldo Sousa – CBMA and Minho University, Portugal
- Elsa Froufe – CIIMAR and Porto University, Portugal
- Simone Varandas – CITAB and Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro University, Portugal
- Joana Nogueira – CIBIO - InBIO and Porto University, Portugal
- André Gomes-dos-Santos - CIIMAR and Porto University, Portugal
- Fernando Teixeira – Bragança Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Fernando Miranda – Bragança Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Silvana Costa – Universidad de La Coruña, Spain

COLLABORATORS

