



INHABIT

Local hydro-morphology, habitat and RBMPs: new measures to improve ecological quality in South European rivers and lakes

The INHABIT project: brief overview, habitat information and methods

CNR-IRSA, RAS, ARPA Piemonte

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The INHABIT Project

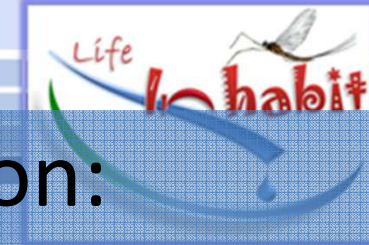
INHABIT - *'Local hydro-morphology, habitat and RBMPs: new measures to improve ecological quality in South European rivers and lakes'* (LIFE08 ENV/IT/000413) è un progetto cofinanziato dal **Programma LIFE+2008 – Policy and governance**

DURATION: 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2013.

PARTENERS:

- **CNR–IRSA (Istituto di Ricerca sulle Acque)** – coordinator;
- CNR-ISE (Istituto per lo Studio degli Ecosistemi);
- ARPA Piemonte;
- Regione Autonoma della Sardegna.





Use of Habitat information: the INHABIT approach

Habitat → combination of selected Hydro-morphological (*and physiochemical*) features

Habitat information crucial for:

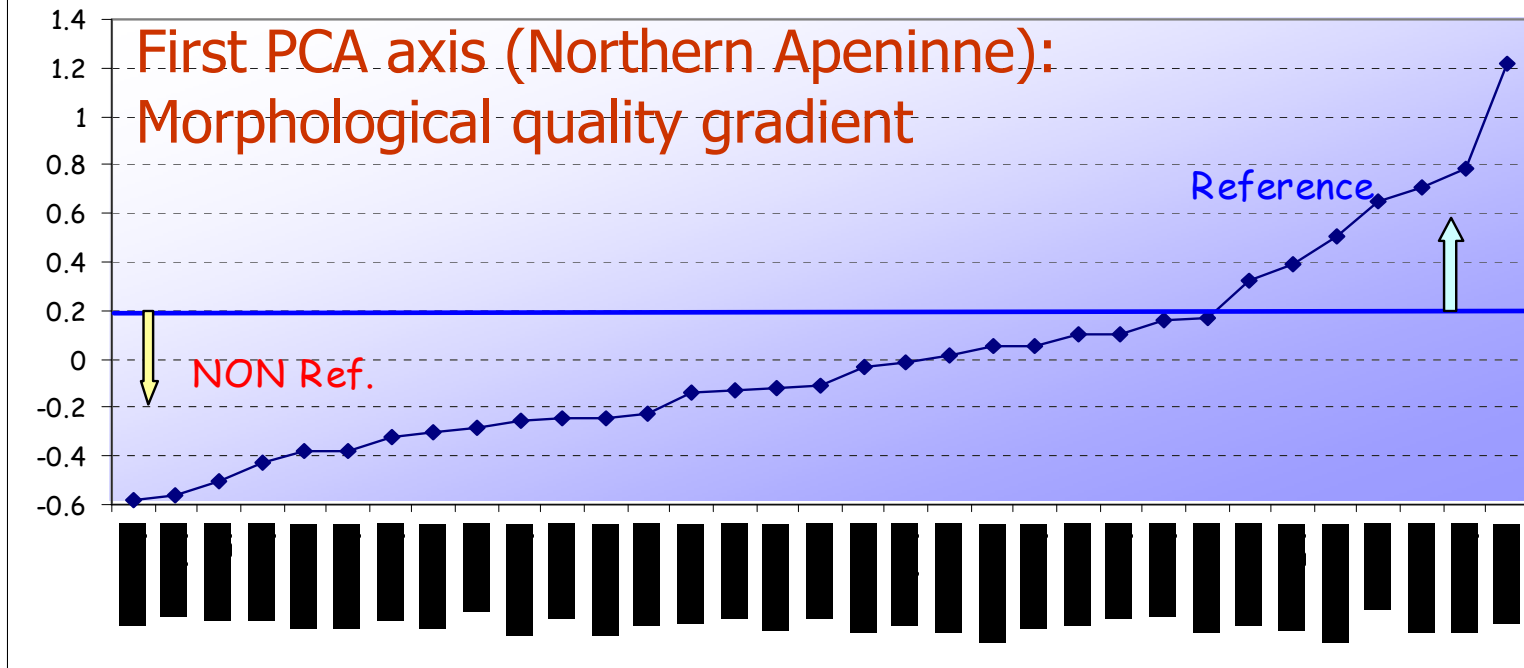
- **Quantifying reference conditions e.g. to model REF values as a function of habitat diversity;**
- **Refining river typologies e.g. sub-types definition or accounting for expected seasonal and/or interannual variability;**
- **Interpreting biological data e.g. to discriminate between different sources of variation;**
- **Refining biological classification systems e.g. to select metrics, weights and habitat-specific approaches for stressor-specific evaluations**



Habitat e biocenosi (alterazione morfologica)



Punteggio PCA ax1 (pool 3 stagioni, con covariate)



Morphological alteration

$R = -0.61$

Bank resectioning

$R = -0.506$

Presence of bridges

$R = -0.426$

No in channel modification

$R = 0.447$

HABITAT QUALITY



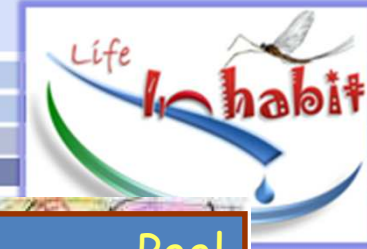
	Morf.	Hab. Div.	Lenticità /loticità
Abund.	<u>0.26</u>	<u>-0.25</u>	-0.14
ASPT	<u>-0.29</u>	<u>0.56</u>	<u>-0.36</u>
Shannon	-0.06	0.24	-0.15
EPT taxa	<u>-0.39</u>	<u>0.65</u>	<u>-0.25</u>
No. families	-0.2	<u>0.45</u>	<u>-0.34</u>
sel EPTD	<u>-0.29</u>	<u>0.32</u>	-0.24
1-GOLD	<u>-0.29</u>	<u>0.26</u>	0.03
ICMi	<u>-0.37</u>	<u>0.54</u>	<u>-0.33</u>
Pelal%*	0.21	<u>-0.4</u>	0.17
Lithal%*	-0.22	0.25	<u>-0.4</u>
Phytal%*	0.07	<u>-0.33</u>	<u>0.3</u>
DIND3*	<u>-0.4</u>	<u>0.45</u>	-0.26
DIND4*	<u>-0.48</u>	<u>0.46</u>	-0.09

EU dataset (R values)

Tratto da: Erba et al., 2006. Hydrobiologia, 566.



Spatial scales



Pool

- **Microhabitat**

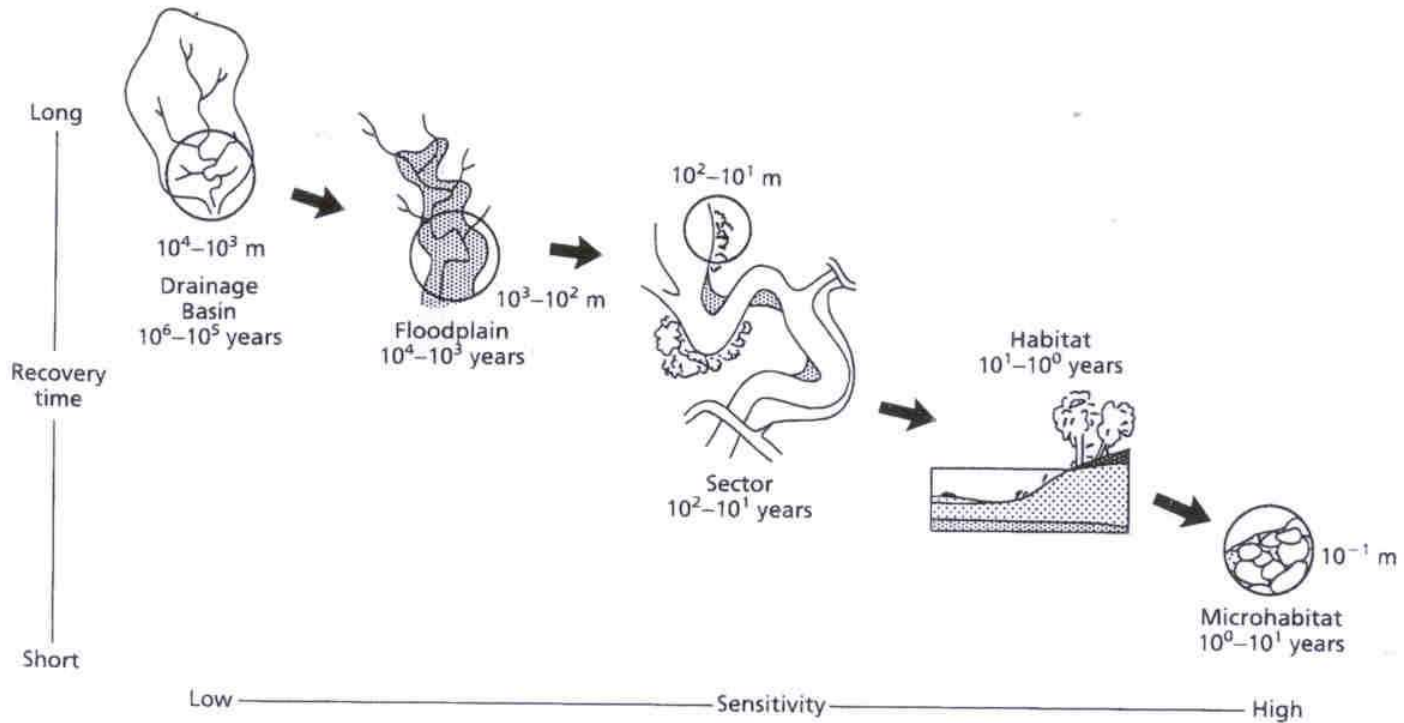


Fig. 1.1 Hierarchical organization of a river system in relation to sensitivity to disturbance and recovery time (after Frissell *et al* 1986).



Preparatory project phase (P) – Review of approaches and methods, selection of methods, protocols and study sites

Assessment of environmental and biological condition and variability (I1)

Relationship between nutrients, community and environmental conditions (I2)

Proposal of innovative measures for river basin management plans (I3)

Demonstration actions on classification and uncertainty (D1)

Demonstration actions in regions not directly covered by the project (D2)



Communication and dissemination of results (DI)





- Review of approaches and methods used in the preparation of RBMPs (Pd1)**

Types of measures for mitigation of hydro-morphological alteration

Tipologia della misura	Misura	PdG
Conoscitive	Aggiornare e approfondire i quadri conoscitivi relativi alle forme e ai processi idromorfologici dei corsi d'acqua (...)	P, S, AM
	Applicazione dell'Indice di Qualità morfologica (IQM) per i corsi d'acqua principali (delimitati da fasce fluviali) per la definizione dello stato morfologico	P
	Aumento delle conoscenze su struttura e funzionamento degli ambienti acquatici marginali nella fascia perifluviale e delle relazioni tra idrodinamismo e successioni vegetazionali e delle dinamiche e funzioni iporreiche	P, S
	Studi per l'individuazione di siti idonei per la realizzazione di impianti mini e micro-idroelettrici.	S
Economiche	Aumento delle conoscenze sulle specie e habitat prioritari e redazione delle corrispondenti checklist	P
	Valutazione dell'impatto economico a lungo termine delle modificazioni morfologiche dei corpi idrici (...)	P
Controllo	Tutela delle aree di pertinenza dei corpi idrici superficiali con manutenzione della vegetazione (...)	AM, AO-V
	Salvaguardare i processi di erosione spondale per garantire la funzionalità idromorfologica (...)	P
	Salvaguardia degli habitat naturali mediante specifici interventi normativi, privilegiando l'istituzione di aree protette fluviali e lacustri riguardanti anche porzioni limitate di habitat particolarmente significative per il ciclo biologico della specie minacciata (esempio aree di frega dei pesci)	S
Gestionali	Salvaguardare le forme dell'alveo e della piana inondabile, coinvolte dai processi idromorfologici fluviali attivi	P
	Individuazione di misure per ripristinare il trasporto dei sedimenti lungo i corsi d'acqua interessati da sbarramenti	P, S
Informative	Formazione, sensibilizzazione e sviluppo di buone pratiche relativamente all'idromorfologia	P
Infrastrutturali	Adeguare, dismettere e gestire i manufatti di attraversamento, le infrastrutture lineari interferenti e le opere di difesa dalle alluvioni interferenti e non strategiche per la sicurezza per migliorare i processi idromorfologici e le forme fluviali naturali	P
	Interventi di manutenzione e riqualificazione del reticolo idrografico artificiale, finalizzati al miglioramento ecologico, al recupero funzionale, al sostegno dei popolamenti ittici autoctoni e al controllo delle specie invasive di pianura (ad es. gambero rosso)	P, S, AO-V
	Azioni per la ricostruzione di habitat naturali al fine di favorire il recupero ecologico di sistemi fluviali	AM
	Realizzazione di fasce tampone lungo le fasce fluviali	AM
	Ricalibrazione e rinaturalizzazione dei corsi d'acqua	AO-V
	Riconnettere le forme fluviali abbandonate e prossime all'alveo ai processi idromorfologici fluviali attivi	P
	Realizzazione di invasi per aumentare la disponibilità di risorsa idrica per gli usi irrigui nei periodi di crisi idrica e compatibilmente al raggiungimento degli obiettivi ecologici e chimici dei corpi idrici a valle	P
	Ricostruzione degli assetti originari per i corsi d'acqua di preminente interesse naturalistico	AO-V
	Ripristinare un profilo di fondo alveo in equilibrio per i corsi d'acqua fortemente incisi	P
	Mantenimento e ripristino naturalistico nelle sponde dei corsi d'acqua (...)	P, S
Misure per la prevenzione dell'interrimento degli invasi	S, P	



- Review of approaches and methods used in the preparation of RBMPs (Pd1)**

List of surface water bodies in Sardinia region

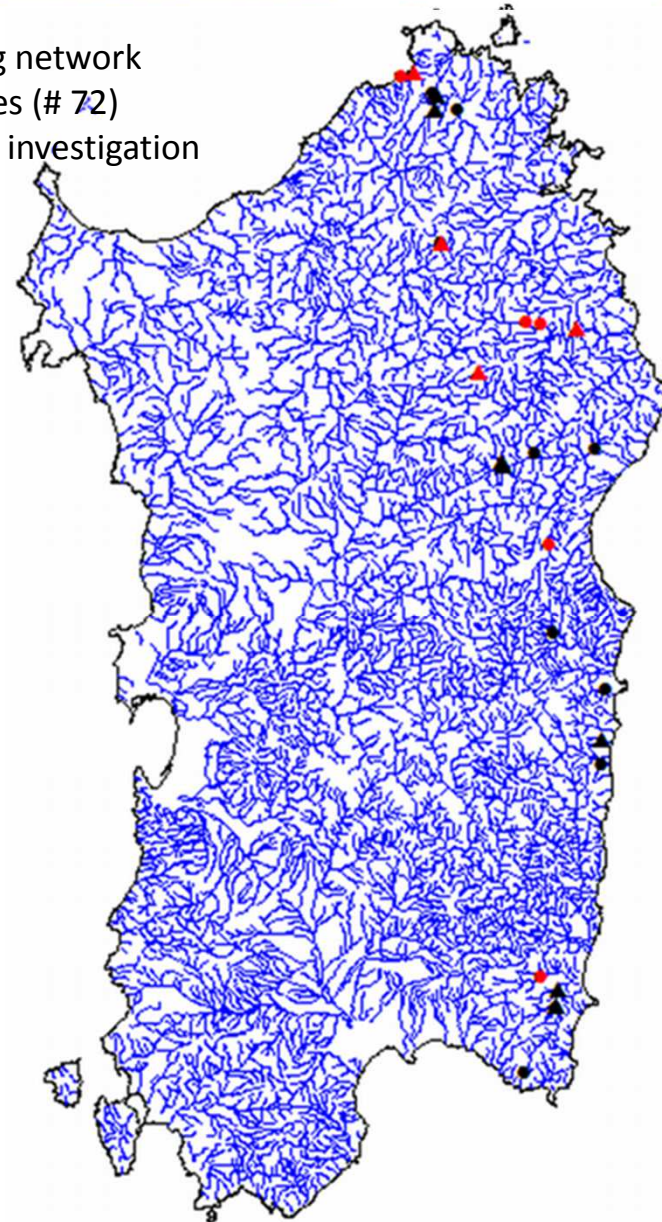
Tipo	Codice tipo	Lunghezza totale (Km)/superficie totale (Km ²)	N corpi idrici	N corpi idrici sorveglianza	Numero corpi idrici operativo
Temporanei (intermittenti, effimeri, episodici)	21 EF7Tsa	4079.530	453	22	31
	21 EF8Tsa	67.061	8	2	4
	21EP7Tsa	102.708	14	1	1
	21EP8Tsa	2.179	1		
	21 IN7Tsa	1859.408	150	5	24
	21 IN8Tsa	44.076	6	2	3
Perenni	21 SR1Tsa	46.913	9	2	3
	21SS1Tsa	43.689	5	1	1
	21SS2Tsa	396.566	32	5	7
	21SS3Tsa	502.701	32	7	12
Perenni grandi e molto grandi	21SS4Tsa	187.399	12	1	8
	21SS5Tsa	41.316	2		2
Laghi mediterranei, polimittici	ME-1	6.00	2		2
Laghi mediterranei, poco profondi, calcarei	ME-2	23.09	7		7
Laghi mediterranei, poco profondi, silicei	ME-3	2.33	7		7
Laghi mediterranei, profondi, calcarei	ME-4	46.96	8		8
Laghi mediterranei, profondi, silicei	ME-5	13.87	7		7
Laghi ad elevato contenuto salino	S	0.29	1		1
Corpi idrici lacustri (n tot)			32	0	32
Corpi idrici fluviali (n tot)			724	48	96
Corpi idrici superficiali (n tot)			756	48	128



Red: Sardinia monitoring network
Light blue: inspected sites (# 72)
Green: selected sites for investigation

- **Selection of reference and degraded sites for field investigation (Pd2)**

selectes sites for investigation: 28
Red: reference sites

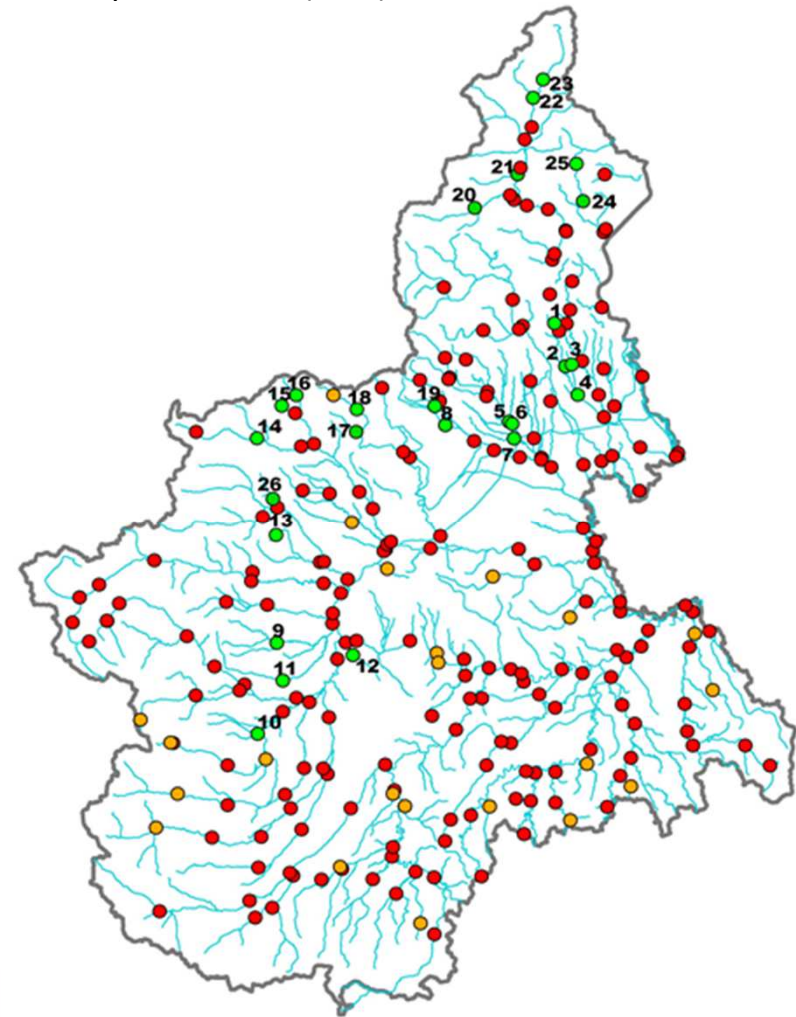
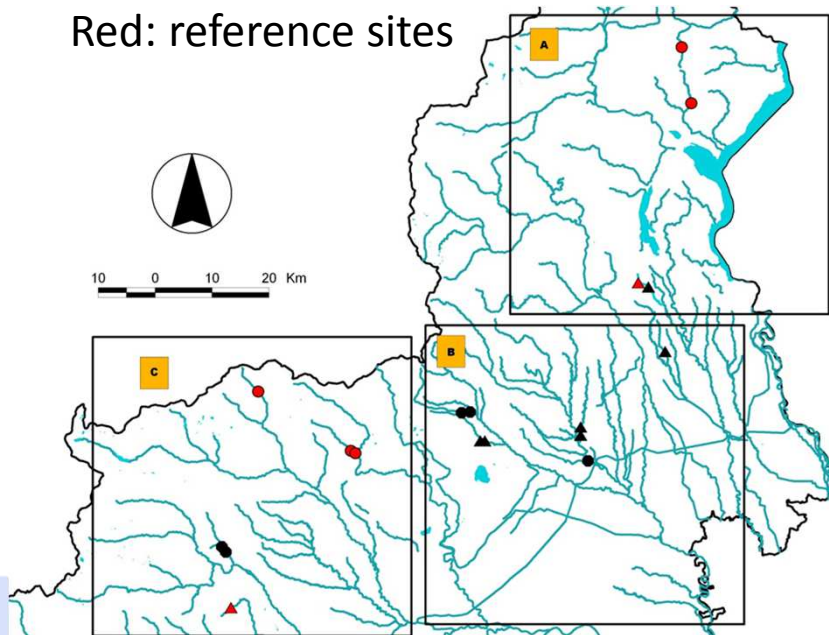




Red and orange : Piedmont monitoring network
Green: inspected sites (# 26)

- Selection of reference and degraded sites for field investigation (Pd2)

selectes sites for investigation: 18
Red: reference sites

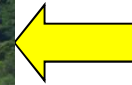




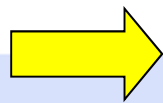
No morphological alteration and high habitat diversification



Flumineddu (Sardegna):
HMS 0
HQA 61



Affluente Posada
(Sardegna):
HMS 0
HQA 50

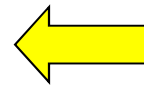




Different levels of morphological alteration and habitat diversification

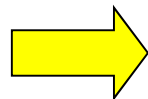


diversification



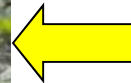
**Corre pruna ponte
(Sardegna):
HMS 79
HQA 26**

**Baldu Downstream culvert
(Sardegna):
HMS 26
HQA 54**





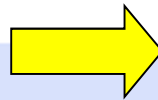
Same water quality between sites; different habitat conditions



conditions

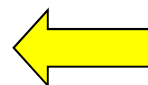
Savenca Reference (Alps,
Piemonte):
HMS 1
HQA 49

Savenca ponte (Alps,
Piemonte):
HMS 37
HQA 35



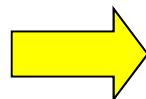


Different habitat conditions in the Po plain



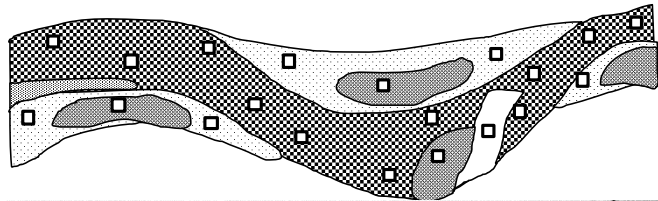
Sizzone (Po Plain, Piemonte):
HMS 4
HQA 51

Guarabione ponte (Po Plain, Piemonte):



HMS 46
HQA 22





River invertebrates sampling field form

116 Sample replicates (v= current velocity)

RIFFLE	Micro Hab	Depth cm	v cm/s	Fun Hab	Flow Type	Flow Type	POOL	Micro Hab	Depth cm	v cm/s	Fun Hab	Flow Type
1	TP/CPOM	6	7 g/30"	RCM	SM	FF	11	CPOM	8	0	RSM	NP
2	GH	21	50 g/30"	RR	RP	CH	12	SA	10	0	RSM	NP
3	PF	18	10 g/30"	RSM	SM	BW	13	PF	12	>0	RSM	SM
4	PG	25	54 g/30"	RR	UW	UW	14	GH	15	10 g/30"	POOL	SM
5	SA/CPOM	8	0	RSM	NP	CF	15	TP	25	8 g/30"	RCH	SM
6	PF	20	28 g/30"	RIF	UW	RP	16	PF	21	5 g/30"	POOL	SM
7	CO	40	49 g/30"	RR	RP	UP	17	GH	10	12 g/30"	POOL	SM
8	TP/CPOM	9	46 g/30"	RIF	UW	SM	18	SI	6	0	RSM	NP
9	GH	18	56 g/30"	RIF	UW	NP	19	PG	21	20 g/30"	POOL	SM
10	AR	10	103 g/30"	BED	CH	NO	20	CPOM	9	0	RCM	NP

Fiume Tanagro loc. Casalbuono (SA) Marzo 2001



Biological quality evaluation – STAR_ICMi

Metriche che compongono lo STAR_ICMi e peso loro attribuito nel calcolo (da Buffagni et al., 2005; 2007, 2008; DM 260/2010).

Tipo di informazione	Tipo di metrica	Nome della Metrica	Taxa considerati nella metrica	Rif. Bibliografico	Peso
Tolleranza	Indice	ASPT	Intera comunità (livello di famiglia)	e.g. Armitage et al., 1983	0.333
Abbondanza/ Habitat	Abbondanza	Log ₁₀ (Sel_EPTD +1)	Log ₁₀ (somma di Heptageniidae, Ephemeridae, Leptophlebiidae, Brachycentridae, Goeridae, Polycentropodidae, Limnephilidae, Odontoceridae, Dolichopodidae, Stratyomidae, Dixidae, Empididae, Athericidae e Nemouridae +1)	Buffagni et al., 2004; Buffagni & Erba, 2004	0.266
	Abbondanza	1-GOLD	1 - (Abbondanza relativa di Gastropoda, Oligochaeta e Diptera)	Pinto et al., 2004	0.067
Ricchezza /Diversità	Numero taxa	Numero totale di Famiglie	Somma di tutte le famiglie presenti nel sito	e.g. Ofenböck et al., 2004	0.167
	Numero taxa	Numero di Famiglie di EPT	Somma delle famiglie di Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera e Trichoptera	e.g. Ofenböck et al., 2004; Böhmer et al., 2004.	0.083
	Indice Diversità	Indice di diversità di Shannon-Wiener	$D_{S-W} = -\sum_{i=1}^s \left(\frac{n_i}{A} \right) \cdot \ln \left(\frac{n_i}{A} \right)$	e.g. Hering et al., 2004; Böhmer et al., 2004.	0.083



Habitat Modification Score (HMS)

The principle of HMS: different scores are assigned to different morphological alteration (and than summed)



High HMS values → high morphological alteration



Features		Scores			
		Each SC	<3	# of SC 3-5 6≥	
Da Raven et al., 1998					
Spotcheck	Reinforcement to banks (RI)	2			
	Reinforcement to bed (AR)	2			
	Resectioned bank or bed (RS)	1			
	Two-stage bank modification (BM)	1			
	Embankment (EM)	1			
	Culvert	8			
	Dam, weir, ford (DA, FO)	2			
	Bank poached by livestock (PC)		0	1 2	
		Bank			
		one	both		
Sweep-up	Artificial bed material	1			
	Reinforced whole bank	2		3	
	Reinforced top or bottom only	1		2	
	Resectioned bank	1		2	
	Embankment	1		1	
	Set-back embankment	1		1	
	Two-stage channel	1		3	
	Weed-cutting	1			
	Bank mowing	1		1	
	Culvert		8 each		
	Dam, weir, ford		2 each		
			# of features		
			1	2≥	
	Roadbridge	1		2	
Enhancements, such as groynes	1		2		
		Partly	Extensively		
Site affected by flow control	1		2		
Realigned channel	5		10		



Habitat quality assessment (HQA)

High HQA values →
high habitat
diversification

Category (note)	Features	Spotcheck			Sweep-up (note)	
		#1	#2-3	#4≥		
Flow types	Every features	1	2	3	1 each (if not in the SC)	
Channel substrates	Every features (NV score 1 only if 6≥)	1	2	3		
Natural channel features	Every features	1	2	3	1 each (if not in the SC)	
Bank features	EC, SC, PB, VP, SB, VS	1	2	3		
Bars	VP, PB, SB, VS				1 each (if not in the SC)	
					# of features 3-8 9≥	
	PB+VP (count together)				1 2	
Bank vegetation structure (each bank is scored separately)	Bankface (S or C)	1	2	3		
	Banktop (S or C)	1	2	3		
In-stream channel vegetation (either present or extensive)	Liverworts/mosses	1	1	2		
	emergent broad-leaved herbs	1	1	2		
	emergent reeds/rushes/sedges	1	1	2		
	floating-leaved, free floating and amphibious	1	1	2		
	submerged broadleaved	1	1	2		
	submerged linear and fine-leaved	1	1	2		
Land-use within 50 m (each bank is scored separately)	Broadleaf woodland, moorland/heath and wetland exclusively recovered. Broadleaf woodland, moorland/heath and wetland				P	E
					1	2
					7	
Trees (each bank is scored separately)	Isolated/scattered				1	
	Regularly-spaced or occasional clumps				2	
	Semi-continuous or continuous				3	
					P	E
Associated features	Overhanging boughs				1	
	Exposed bankside roots, underwater tree roots				1	2
	Coarse woody debris				1	3
	Fallen trees				1	5
Special features	Waterfall more than 5m high, braided or side-channels, debris dams, natural open, fen, carr, flush bog				5	



Vienna, 15/2/2013



Land Use Index (LUI)



Features recorded with the CARAVAGGIO method included in the calculation of LUIr and related sections of the field form. WF: the feature is used as a Weight Factor.

Natural land uses: all receiving 0

Sec.	Spot-checks / Sweep-up	Feature	River section	Score / WF	Score		
					Spot-checks and Sweep-up	Adjusted scores for spot-checks if tillage of fields is perpendicular to river course	
					P	E	W
A	Spot-checks	Land use within 50 m of banktop					
		Banktop height (m)	BP, CP, EU, PO, FM	3			
		Bankface extension (m)	OR, VI, TL, RF	3	3.3	3.9	4.5
		Total channel width	RP, WM	1			
E			OL	1	1.1	1.3	1.5
I	Sweep-up	Land use within 50 m of banktop					
		Land use on bankface					
J	Sweep-up	Bank profiles - Embanked					
		Bank profiles - Set back embankment	IN, UR, WT, QU	5			
Q	Sweep-up	Tillage of fields perpendicular to river course	SU	3			
			MS, RA	3	0.3	0.45	0.6
			PG, AW	1			
			RO	1	0.1	0.15	0.2
			WR	0			



HMS, HQA and LUI are actually included in DM 260/2010 (Italian law indicating technical criteria for classifying water bodies) for the definition of High/Good boundary

Ecological Quality Ratio: HMS & LUI

90th percentile (MHS=6) → High/Good boundary

$EQR_{HMS} = 100 - HMS_{observed} / 100 - 0$ [where 0 is HMS median value at reference sites]

90th percentile (LUI) → High/Good boundary

$EQR_{LUI} = 39.2 - LUI_{observed} / 39.2 - 0$ [where 0 is HMS median value at reference sites]

EQR HMS	HMS Score range	Range 100-HMS	Quality status
≥ 0.94	0 - 6	94-100	High status
≥ 0.82	7-18	82-93	Good status
≥ 0.58	19-42	58-81	Moderate status
≥ 0.28	43-72	28-57	Poor status
< 0.28	≥ 73	≤ 27	Bad status

EQR _{LUIcara}	LUIcara range	Range Max-LUIcara	Quality status
≥ 0.95	0 - 2	37.2- 39.2	High status
≥ 0.72	2.01-11	28.2-37.19	Good status
≥ 0.49	11.01-20	19.2-28.19	Moderate status
≥ 0.26	20.01-29	10.2-19.19	Poor status
< 0.26	> 29	<10.2	Bad status

Ecological Quality Ratio: HQA



10th percentile (HQA) → High/Good boundary

$EQR_{HQA} = \frac{HQA_{observed} - 11}{reference\ median\ value - 11}$
 [where 11 is HQA minimum value, if HQA is < 11 (very rare) → = 0]

EQR_{HQA} (median REF 58)	Score HQA – Mediterranean temporary	Quality status
≥ 0.66	≥ 42	High status
≥ 0.49	34-41	Good status
≥ 0.32	26-33	Moderate status
≥ 0.15	18-25	Poor status
< 0.15	≤ 17	Bad status

EQR_{HQA} (median REF 56)	Score HQA – small lowland	Quality status
≥ 0.69	≥ 42	High status
≥ 0.51	34-41	Good status
≥ 0.33	26-33	Moderate status
≥ 0.16	18-25	Poor status
< 0.16	≤ 17	Bad status

EQR_{HQA} (median REF 57)	Score HQA – other	Quality status
≥ 0.78	≥ 47	High status
≥ 0.59	38-46	Good status
≥ 0.39	29-37	Moderate status
≥ 0.20	20-28	Poor status
< 0.20	≤ 19	Bad status

EQR_{HQA} (median REF 54)	Score HQA – Alps	Quality status
≥ 0.84	≥ 47	High status
≥ 0.63	38-46	Good status
≥ 0.42	29-37	Moderate status
≥ 0.21	20-28	Poor status
< 0.21	≤ 19	Bad status

EQR_{HQA} (median REF 64)	Score HQA – Appennino	Quality status
≥ 0.91	≥ 59	High status
≥ 0.68	47-58	Good status
≥ 0.45	35-46	Moderate status
≥ 0.23	23-34	Poor status
< 0.23	≤ 22	Bad status

EQR_{HQA} (median REF 52)	Score HQA – Appennino (low diversification)	Quality status
≥ 0.88	≥ 47	High status
≥ 0.66	38-46	Good status
≥ 0.44	29-37	Moderate status
≥ 0.22	20-28	Poor status
< 0.22	≤ 19	Bad status

Lentic-lotic River Descriptor

Negative scores associated to lotic features

Positive values associated to lentic features

It is possible to separate scores associated to artificial features to scores linked with natural features

Description (page - section)	Category	Feature	Score		
Flow type (2-F)	Lentic	DR	8		
		NP	2		
	Intermediate	CH, SM, UP	0		
		RP	-0.5		
		UW	-1		
Lotic	BW, CF, FF	-2			
	Maximum water depth (2-E)	Deep	>75		
	Intermediate	25?x?75			
	Not deep	<25			
Channel substrate (2-F)	Lentic	CL, SI, SA	1		
		GP, BE	0		
	Lotic	CO, BO	-1		
		Artificial	AR	0	
		Extension	P <33%	E ?33%	
Channel vegetation types/ Organic debris (2-H)	Lentic	Emergent reeds/sedges/ rushes/grasses	1	3	
		Floating-leaved (rooted)			
		Free-floating			
	Lotic	Organic matter (CPOM/FPOM)	1	3	
		Liverworts/mosses/ lichens	-1	-3	
		Class	Present	Frequent	Very frequent
		Occurrence (# features)	1-2	3-4-5-6	>7
Flow type (1-D)	Lentic	DR	16	24	24
		NP	4	6	10
	Intermediate	CH, SM, UP	0	0	0
		RP	-1	-1.5	-2.5
		UW	-2	-3	-5
Lotic	BW, CF, FF	-4	-6	-10	
Bars (1-C & 1-D)	Every recorded bar scores		-0.5 (maximum total score -5)		
Artificial features (2-G)	Weirs/sluices, Bridges, Culvert		Major	Intermediate	Minor
	Deflectors, Fords		2	1	0
General degradation (4-Q)	Is water impounded by weirs/sluices?		1	1	1
			Yes <33%	Yes ?33%	
		Extension	P <33%	E ?33%	
Features of special interest (4-R)	Natural water falls (>5 m high)		-3	-5	
	Natural water falls (>5 m high)		-1	-3	
	Debris dam(s)		1	3	



LRD varies between -70 (extremely lotic) and 90 (Extremely lentic)

Class	Name	value	
1+	Extremely lotic	LRD ≤ -50	
1	Very lotic	-50 <	LRD < -30
2	Lotic	-30 \leq	LRD < -10
3	Intermediate	-10 \leq	LRD < 10
4	Lentic	10 \geq	LRD < 30
5	Very lentic	30 \geq	LRD < 50
5+	Extremely lentic	LRD ≥ 50	



Curone LRD 23



Museddu LRD 69



E Gurue: LRD -38



Campiglia, LRD -54



CARAVAGGIO soft → for calculating the different indices

Grazie per l'attenzione!



FOTO ANDREA BUFFAGNI

