



BIOAQUAE
Biodiversity Improvement of Aquatic Alpine Ecosystems

Common frog in the water - Photo: Stefano Brighenti



ERADICATION OF NON-NATIVE FISH SPECIES FROM SOME HIGH ALTITUDE ALPINE LAKES

The **brook trout** is a predator-species originating from North America, introduced in some lakes of Gran Paradiso National Park, where it extensively **damaged** natural ecosystems. The **eradication** (i.e. removal) is carried out by means of fishing **nets and electrofishing** in order not to damage other species inhabiting



lakes (invertebrates and amphibians). After more than two years of field work, lakes of Djouan are finally **free of fishes** and in the other lakes capture rates are close to zero. Researchers plan to conclude the action in 2017.

Monitoring of biodiversity shows that the removal of fishes allow a fast **recover of ecosystems**: the common frog, dragonflies

and other aquatic invertebrates returned in the lakes and can complete their biological cycles without being predated.

Original **biodiversity**, composed by a multitude of small aquatic organisms, is finally going back to its **natural environment**.



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