All times are GMT (Irish Time)

Delegate Zoom link for conference https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81882520474

If you are a chair or presenter, please use the chairing/presenting link sent to you via email

19th November: 09:15 – 10:00am

	Opening session **Session Chair Frances Lucy**
09:15	**Professor Stelios Katsanevakis** (GuardIAS Project Co-ordinator)**:** Welcome to the GuardIAS Conference 2026
09:30	**Dr Prof. Steven Loiselle** (Keynote Speaker): Many Eyes on the Water: Lessons from FreshWater Watch for Cost-Effective Aquatic Monitoring

19th November: 10:00 – 11:00am

	Smart detection technologies for IAS surveillance, Session 1 **Session Chair: Mark Costello**
10:00	**Kate McAlpine:** Introducing the Smart Weed Alert Tool (SWAT): harnessing citizen science and open biodiversity data to detect new weeds when they first invade
10:15	**Brett Kettle:** Surveillance at incursion scale: high-speed underwater imaging and machine-learning detection for marine pests too widespread for conventional response
10:30	**Jose A. Fernandes-Salvador**: Automated Detection and Abundance Estimation of Macrobenthic Taxa in Underwater Videos: A Case Study on the Basque Coast
10:45	**María Isabel Cordón-Krumme:** Small panels, big insights: A cost-efficient approach to monitoring fouling communities in Irish marinas

11:00-11:30 Coffee break: and browse the posters

19th November: 11:30 – 12.45pm

	Smart detection technologies for IAS surveillance, Session 2 **Session Chair: Mark Costello**
11:30	**Erola Fenollosa:** From historical imagery to population trends: retrospective monitoring of invasive species with QGIS
11:45	**Federica Soccio:** Listening to the invasion: Assessing the potential of passive acoustics for monitoring *Pterois miles* in Greek waters
12:00	**Ingrid Ravasi:** Comparing sampling methods for early detection of alien species in port fouling communities
12:15	**Ismael Soto:** Is the Iberian Peninsula protected from the faunal Ponto-Caspianization?
12:30	**Chuck Bargeron:** Bugwood - Tools for efficient invasive species education detection and monitoring for professionals and the public

12:45-13:45 Lunch Break

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19th November: 13:45 – 14:30pm

	AI-assisted species detection **Session Chair Philip Haubrock**
13:45	**Erola Fenollosa:** Not all observations are equal: accounting for observation processes in AI-assisted invasive species surveillance
14:00	**Francesca Acampa:** AI-Assisted Video Monitoring of Marine Biodiversity in Italian Marine Protected Areas
14:15	**Gwenolé Coat:** Machine learning-based monitoring for Invasive Alien Species (IAS) of fish in the Aegean Sea using a YOLO model

19th November: 14:30-15:15

	Poster Presentations **Session Chair: Sebastian Gomez-Maldonado**
14:30	**Panagiota Xanthopoulou**: Early detection of *Rugulopteryx okamurae* using COI metabarcoding and citizen science (GuardIAS CaSt11)
14:35	**Panagiota Xanthopoulou**: Environmental DNA metabarcoding for the detection of alien freshwater fishes in Northern Greece: applications, insights, and taxonomic limitations
14:40	**Krešimir Žganec:** Range expansion and population control of the signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) in the Kupa River Basin, central Croatia
14:45	**Jana Pohl**: Far from home: The first record of the alien *Sacoglossan thuridilla mazda* (Mollusca: Gastropoda) from the Aegean Sea
14:50	**Leda L. Cai**: Past, Present and future multi-stressor interactions of shallow reefs ecosystems in the Levantine Sea
14:55	**Ioannis Rallis:** Integrated monitoring of non-indigenous species hotspots in the Eastern Ionian Sea
15:00	**Sofia S. Sadogurska:** DNA barcoding revealed the first confirmed introduction of Ahnfeltia plicata (*Rhodophyta, Ahnfeltiales*) outside its native range: a case from the Odesa Bay (Black Sea, Ukraine)
15:05	**Daniele Grech**: Shedding light on biofouling management and awareness of marine alien species among recreational boaters in Sardinia (Western Mediterranean)
15:10	**Sebastiana Di Dio:** Testing sustainable antifouling solutions along the Lithuanian coastline

15:15-15:45 Coffee Break

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19th November: 15:45 – 16:45pm

	eDNA and molecular diagnostics for non-native species detection and monitoring Session 1 **Session Chair Rein Brys**
15:45	**Eleni Christoforou:** Optimising eDNA Monitoring for Cost-Efficient Detection and Management of Non-Indigenous Species in the Levantine Sea
16:00	**Teun Everts:** Impact assessments from a drop of water: eDNA reveals context-dependent impacts of American bullfrogs on native amphibians
16:15	**Rein Brys:** Beyond presence–absence: Scaling ddPCR eDNA surveillance to guide basin-wide muskrat and coypu eradication
16:30	**Thomas Baudry:** Beyond the target: eDNA metabarcoding reveals multiple non-native fishes in freshwater ecosystems

Close of Day One

20th November: 9:30 – 10:15

	Panel Discussion: Cost-efficient Invasive Alien Species Detection and Monitoring: Novel Tools and Citizen Science
	Panel Chair: Tim Adriaens **Q&A Facilitator:** Frances Lucy **Panelists:** Anastasija Zaiko, Lisandro Benedetti-Cecchi, Anna Nunes, Daniel Nuijten

20th November 10:15-11:15

	eDNA and molecular diagnostics for non-native species detection and monitoring Session 2 **Session Chair Laura Verbrugge**
10:15	**Lori Lach:** Sampling aquatic habitats to detect invasive ant eDNA
10:30	**Cecilia Villacorta-Rath:** Expanding eDNA resources for ornamental pest species detection
10:45	**Abdul Ghaffar:** Environmental DNA (eDNA) Metabarcoding as a Molecular Tool for Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment and Early Detection of Non-Native Species
11:00	**Amalia Mailli:** A collection of protocols, assays and barcodes for the detection and monitoring of invasive species in Europe

11:15-11:45 **Coffee break: and browse the posters**

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20th November: 11:45 – 12:30

	Citizen Science & participatory surveillance networks **Session Chair: Agnese Marchini**
11:45	**Roberto Crosti**: #TevereMolluschiFantastici…e dove trovarli: participatory science for freshwater IAS early detection and awareness
12:00	**Alessandro Nota:** AlienFish project: integrating citizen science and molecular analyses for efficient detection and characterisation of range-expanding species in the Mediterranean Sea
12:15	**Amy Leigh Mackintosh**: Integrating iNaturalist with scientific surveys fills spatial data gaps and enhances invasion risk monitoring

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

20th November: 13:30 – 14:15

	From Detection to Action: cost-efficiency, management & policy uptake **Session Chair: Elena Tricarico**
13:30	**Gemma Smith:** How did we get here? Indicators for evaluating aquatic IAS management
13:45	**Sietse Manning:** From Detection to Action: Building an Operational Decision Framework for AI-Assisted Management of Invasive Aquatic Plants

20th November: 14:15 – 14:45

	Data integration from multiple platforms: transforming diverse observations into actionable intelligence **Session Chair: Damiano Oldoni**
14:00	**Anabell Espinosa:** FWISE: global lessons for the world's first database of freshwater invasive species eradications
14:15	**Damiano Oldoni:** If a Tree Falls in the Forest: Turning Invasive Species Detections into Actionable Alerts with GBIF Alert
14:30	**Lorenzo Vilizzi:** Integrating invasion risk screening evidence into the European Alien Species Information Network (EASIN)

Close of Conference

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