Course: Biology and Conservation of Large Vertebrates

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Bojan Lazar, PhD

Study Program: Nature Conservation

Study Year: 2026-2027

Seminars: Large Marine Vertebrates - Aquarium Pula study visit

Aim:

With this seminar, based upon general knowledge from *in-class* lectures and labs, students should adopt specific knowledge on biology and status of selected species of large marine vertebrates which are displayed in Aquarium Pula.

Format:

Seminar includes (i) *written summary* on selected species, based upon required information specified bellow (see section "Structure") and (ii) *oral presentation* of species during study visit of Aquarium Pula.

Structure:

Seminars are individual and requires presentation of the following information on selected species:

1. Species Latin name
2. Species common name (*in English, and in Slovenian/Croatian, if available*)
3. Classification / Taxonomy (*Class > Order > Family*)
4. Description (*morphology, identification cues, body size/length – common and max., including minimum of 2 representative photos/scientific drawing of species*; similar species)
5. Distribution range and habitat (*distribution range/climate zone, depth distribution, environment/habitat types, including distribution rage map*)
6. Biology and reproduction (*biological characteristics, life cycle and movements, foraging biology, reproductive biology, including mating, reproduction mode and development*)
7. Threats (*anthropogenic threats and use of species*)
8. Status (*global IUCN red list status, and regional/Mediterranean/Adriatic status, if applicable*)
9. Conservation (*proposed and implemented conservation activities*)
10. References (*list of minimum five scientific/professional information sources used, cited according to citation rules for preparation of master-thesis at UP FAMNIT*)

Written summary should not exceed three A4 page, including illustration of species and distribution map. Technical outline, including font size and line spacing, description of figures and citation of literature must follow *Instructions for the preparation of final project paper in the 1st and 2nd cycle study programmes of the Department of Biodiversity of UP FAMNIT* available at: https://www.famnit.upr.si/sl/studij/magistrsko-delo.

Oral presentations will be given during the study visit of Pula Aquarium, and should include overview of information presented in written summary. Students will have 5-7 minutes max. to present selected species, so *rehears your presentation* before study trip.

Deadlines:

Written summaries should be uploaded to e-classroom until Friday, December 1st 2026, 12:00 p.m.

Oral presentation will be given in Pula Aquarium, during the study trip on Sunday, December 5th 2026. Participation on the study trip is hence *mandatory*.

Grading:

Both, written summary submitted to e-classroom and oral presentation given in Pula Aquarium will be graded, each contributing 50% to the final grade (%) of the “marine” section of the course.