



# Newsletter

# LIFE FOR LASCA

N. 03/2020

The main cause of the decrease of Lasca in Slovenia is the Common Nase (*Chondrostoma nasus*). The two species lived in distinct environments, but fishermen have, in the past, introduced the Common Nase into the waters inhabited by the Lasca. Within the **LIFE for LASCA project** (2017-2021), one of the activities carried out is the reduction of the population of the allochthonous fish species Common Nase in Slovenia in the waters of the Isonzo basin, especially during the spawning when the specimens congregate in the shallower waters. This activity is carried out in collaboration with local sport fishing associations.

## Common Nase (*Chondrostoma nasus*)

**Family:** Cyprinidae

**Habitat:** Running freshwaters

**Diet:** Invertebrates and algae

**Behaviour:** Gregarious

**Length:** 30-40 cm

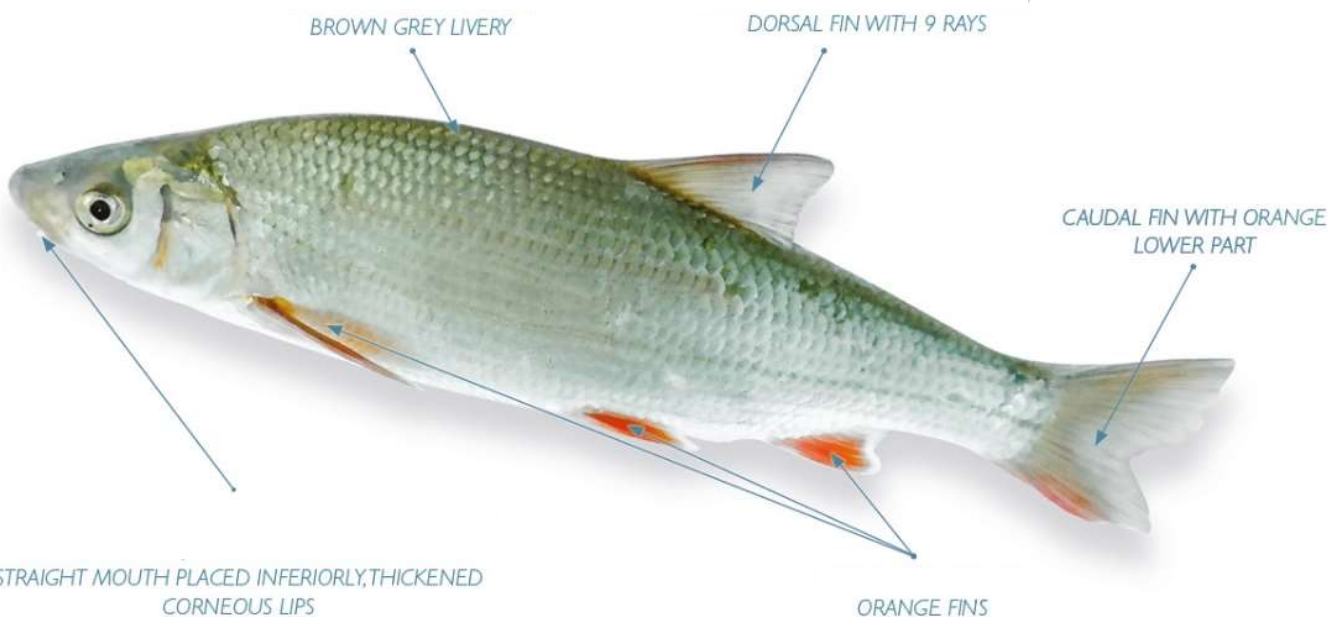
**Sexual maturity:** Reached when 3-4 years old

**Breeding season:** Spring

## Distribution Area

present in central and eastern Europe, part of Asia and Russia, even very abundantly.

It has been introduced into various waterways where it competes with other native fish species, causing their decline or even extinction.



*Chondrostoma nasus* - card made by Zani Marco

## *Lasca (Protochondrostoma genei)*

**Family:** Cyprinidae

**Habitat:** Running freshwaters

It populates the central sections of the plain watercourses with strong and moderate currents (rheophilous species). In these sections, it often shares the habitat with cyprinids of the genera *Barbus*, *Telestes*, *Phoxinus*, *Alburnus* and *Chondrostoma*. It is also present in the upper sections of the waterways, where it coexists with grayling and marble trout. Smaller populations are reported in lakes with low nutrient content waters.

**Behaviour:** Gregarious

**Length:** 20-25 cm

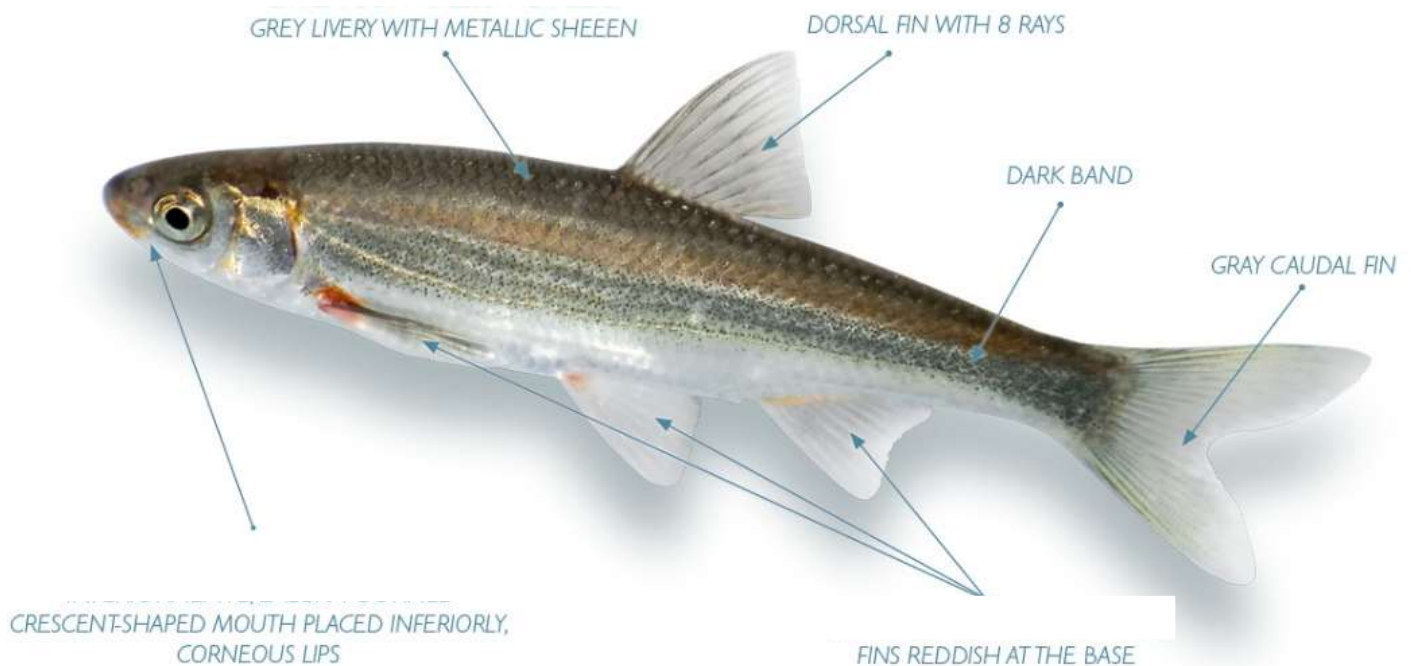
**Sexual maturity:** Reached when 3-4 years old

**Breeding season:** Spring. Before spawning, the groups migrate to fast-flowing areas of the watercourse and its tributaries in search of suitable habitat. It reproduces on gravels with a substrate granulation between 3 and 4 cm, where the female lays several thousand eggs. Sexual dimorphism is only visible during the spawning period, when males develop small nuptial tubercles on the head and the pectoral and anal fins become heavily colored.

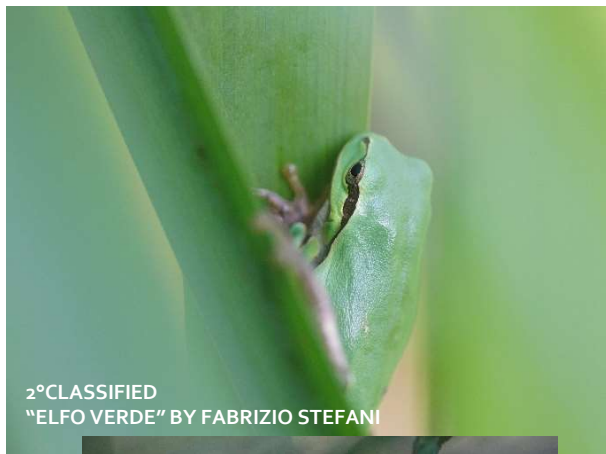
### **Distribution Area**

Northern Italy and Slovenia. In the past it was very widespread while today there are few and isolated populations, in Slovenia it is extinct in some waterways.

In the Apennines it is present as an allochthonous species, in particular in the Tiber river.



*Protochondrostoma genei* - card made by Zani Marco



2°CLASSIFIED  
"ELFO VERDE" BY FABRIZIO STEFANI



3°CLASSIFIED "  
L'ULTIMO BALZO" BY LINO PIZZOCHERO



1°CLASSIFIED  
"IL PELOBATE FOSCO " BY SIMONE GIACHELLO

## Parco Ticino Wild Photo Contest

As mentioned in the previous issue of the newsletter, as part of the Life for Lasca project, the Ticino Park and the FRIS have launched a photo contest to raise public awareness of environmental issues; on 28/10 the 10 finalists of the Italian competition were published on the Ticino Park website, in the section dedicated to Life for Lasca, and subsequently the 3 winners. It ranked first **"IL PELOBATE FOSCO "** by *Simone Giachello*: the photo depicts a species of particular conservation interest in one of the Natura 2000 sites of the Ticino Park, namely the Marshes of Arsago. The shot was chosen because it focuses on the theme of the competition and sends a clear message: **the importance of safeguarding the habitat for the protection of the species**. Also in the photographs of the 2nd and 3rd place there are amphibians, with two specimens of **Italian tree frog (*Hyla intermedia*)** an anuran, included in the Red List of threatened species of the IUCN; symbol of how much, within the Ticino Park, the wetlands are of fundamental importance for the conservation of animal species closely linked to them and how necessary the **Natura 2000 Network** and the **LIFE programs** of the European Union are. (<https://ente.parcoticino.it/concorso-fotografico-parco-ticino-wild>).



SPECIAL MENTION  
" TICINO: TRA UOMINI E GRUCCIONI" BY FABIO USVARDI

A special mention was given to the photograph "TICINO: TRA UOMINI E GRUCCIONI" by Fabio Usvardi, for the **coexistence between wild animals and humans**, a situation that is found every day in the Ticino Park, being the protected area in one most populated areas of the Po Valley. The role of the Park Authority is precisely to **balance the needs of man with those of nature**.