

Conservation Activities of Endanger Freshwater Fishes Cooperated by Museums, Regions and Companies

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1. Lake Biwa Museum

Lake Biwa Museum carries out activities to preserve and conserve the endanger freshwater fishes in Japan, together with the regions and companies. In this presentation, I will introduce the conservation activities of endanger freshwater fish “Hariyo (Three spined stickleback)” *Gasterosteus aculeatus* subsp.2 inhabiting Shiga prefecture, Japan.

Hariyo has decreased in recent years due to deterioration of habitat environment and depletion of spring water. This subspecies is positioned as Critically Endangered (CR) in the Ministry of the Environment Japan Red List 2017. On the other hand, according to research in recent years, it was known that Hariyo inhabiting Shiga Prefecture has different genes for each river system. Therefore, Lake Biwa Museum began activities to conserve each regional population based on genetic consideration. First, we held a study meeting about Hariyo for local residents in areas where Hariyo inhabiting. Also, depending on the region, field studies were conducted in rivers where Hariyo live, and people in the community saw the real fish. Among them, the local residents reaffirmed the value of Hariyo.

In addition, the museum led the ex-sites conservation in cooperation with the region and companies. In this effort, regions, companies and experts have established close relations with each other for proper conservation, and we created a conservation pond within the premises of the area and company. Currently, in these conservation ponds, more than 300 individuals of Hariyo are inhabited, and populations are properly maintained.

For the conservation of endanger freshwater fishes, the museum plays a core role in research and preservation, and by linking with local communities and enterprises, the activities will be further enhanced.