



Application of innovative methods for eradication of invasive crayfish in the Czech Republic

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T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute, p.r.i.

4. 6. 2024 Inovace v ochraně životního prostředí, Praha

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Project period: **05/2022 – 04/2024**

Financial support NF + SFŽP: **10,2 mil. Kč**

Project partners: **T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute, p.r.i.**



Norwegian Institute for Nature Research

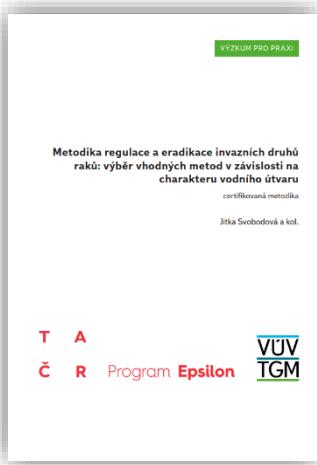


Povodí Vltavy, s.p.

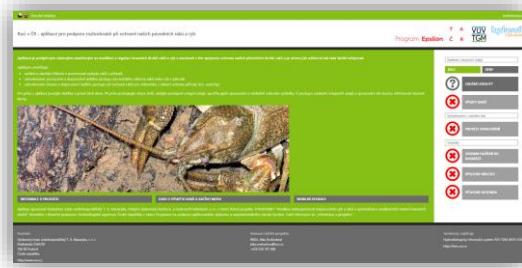


Project background

TH02030687 Prediction of threats posed by non-native fish and crayfish and optimization of eradication methods for invasive species (2017 – 2020) heis.vuv.cz/projekty/raci2017



- Svobodová et al.: **Methodology** for the control and eradication of invasive crayfish species: Selection of appropriate methods depending on the water body **VÚV TGM**. Praha, 2020 (in Czech)
- Svobodová et al. (2020): Crayfish in the Czech Republic - applications for decision support in the conservation of our native crayfish and fish. (in Czech) (**Software**)
- Picek, J., Svobodová, J., Semerádová, S., Beneš, J., (2019) Raci v ČR. **Mobile app** for Android phones. (in Czech)

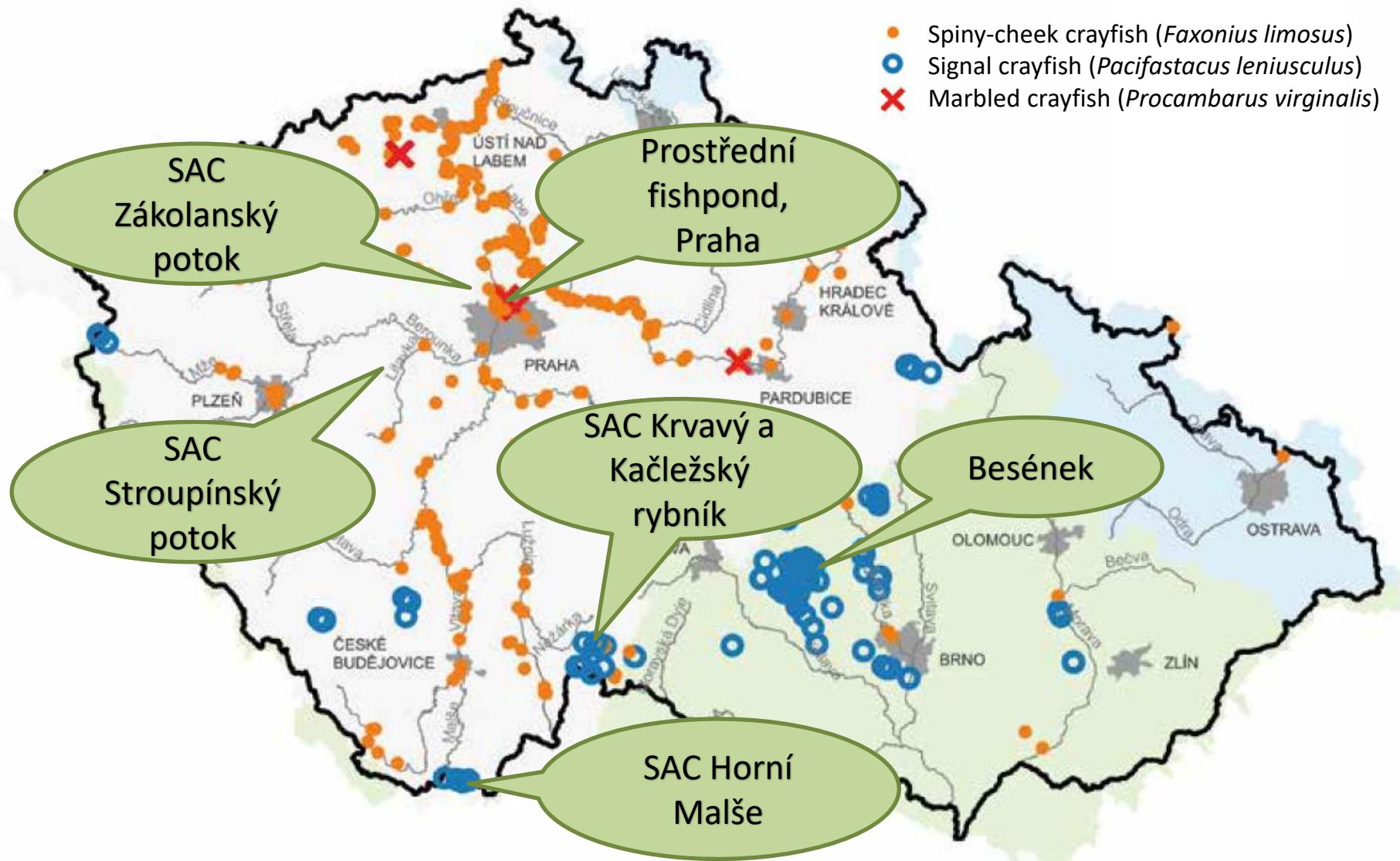


Why to control / eradicate invasive crayfish species?



- Biodiversity Loss: invasive crayfish outcompete native species
- Ecosystem Damage: altering local food webs etc.
- Crayfish plague: invasive crayfish can carry the pathogen *Aphanomyces astaci*
- Economic Impact: invasive crayfish can harm human activities (such as fisheries)
- Invasive crayfish species are subject to EU Regulation 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species

Locations addressed



Mapa výskytu invazivních druhů raků v ČR, Jiří Picek, Jitka Svobodová a Silvie Semerádová, VÚV TGM, v. v. i., květen 2023.

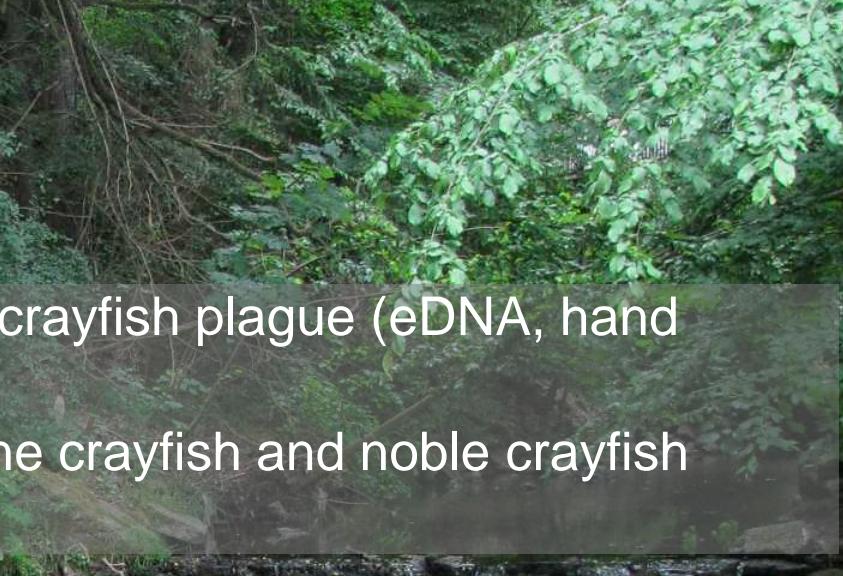
Podklady: Lokality nálezů a výskytu raků: AOPK ČR, VÚV TGM, v. v. i., data poskytnutá studenty vysokých škol a uživateli mobilní a internetové aplikace „Raci v ČR“

SAC Zákolanský potok

- 
- Adaptation of existing migration barriers
 - Monitoring of the occurrence of spiny-cheek crayfish (eDNA)

SAC Stroupínský potok

- Monitoring of invasive crayfish and crayfish plague (eDNA, hand fishing)
- Monitoring of the occurrence of stone crayfish and noble crayfish (eDNA, hand fishing)



Prostřední fishpond, Praha

- Continued efforts to eradicate the marbled crayfish (pond harvesting and dredging, hand fishing, fish stocking)
- Monitoring of marbled crayfish in the area (eDNA, hand fishing)



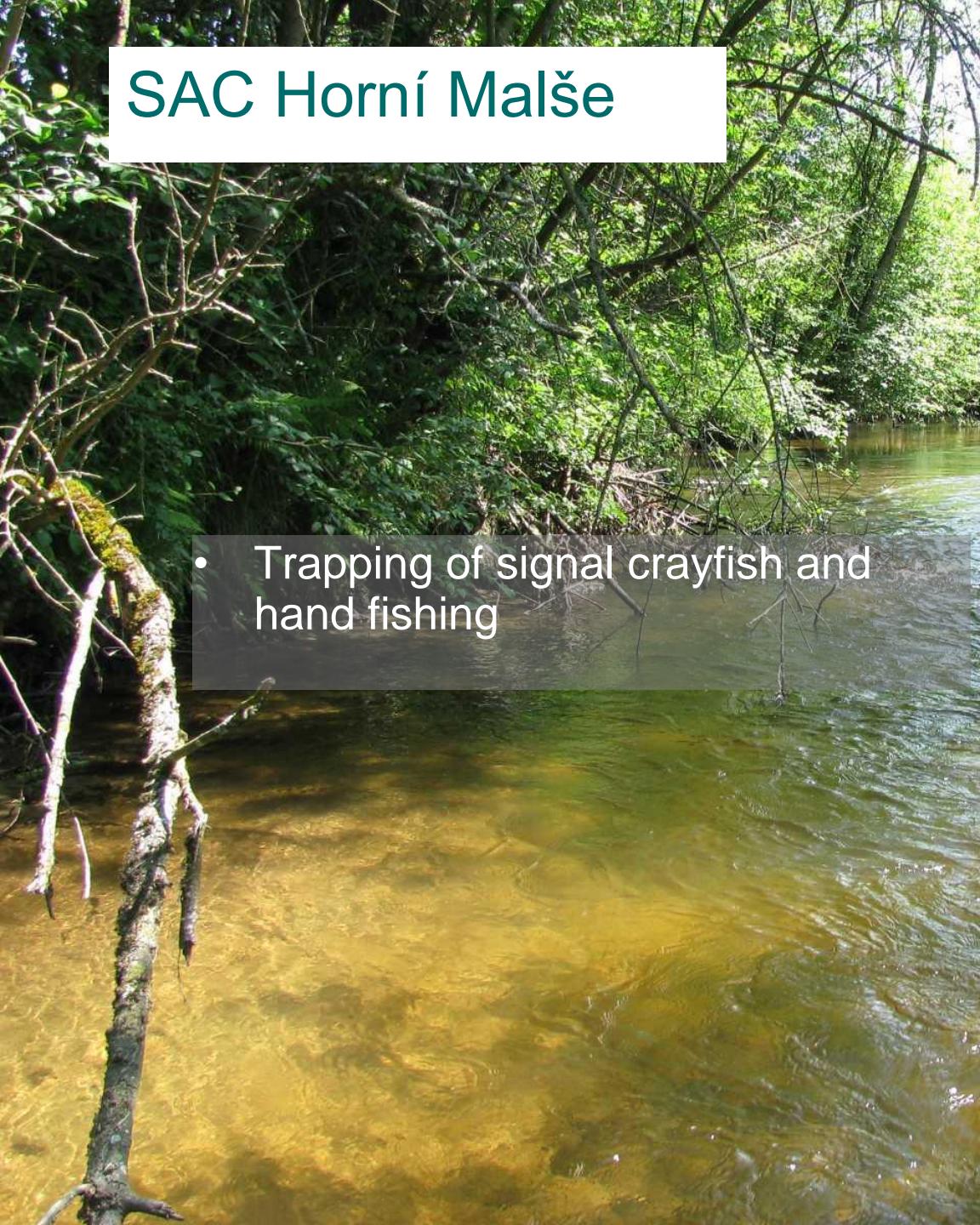
SAC Krvavý a Kačležský rybník



- Summer trapping of signal crayfish
- Intensive hand fishing during fishpond harvest
- Fish stocking (pikeperch)

SAC Horní Malše

- Trapping of signal crayfish and hand fishing



Besének stream

- Temporary adaptation of migration barriers
- Trapping of signal crayfish and hand fishing
- Adjustment of fish stocking (brown trout)

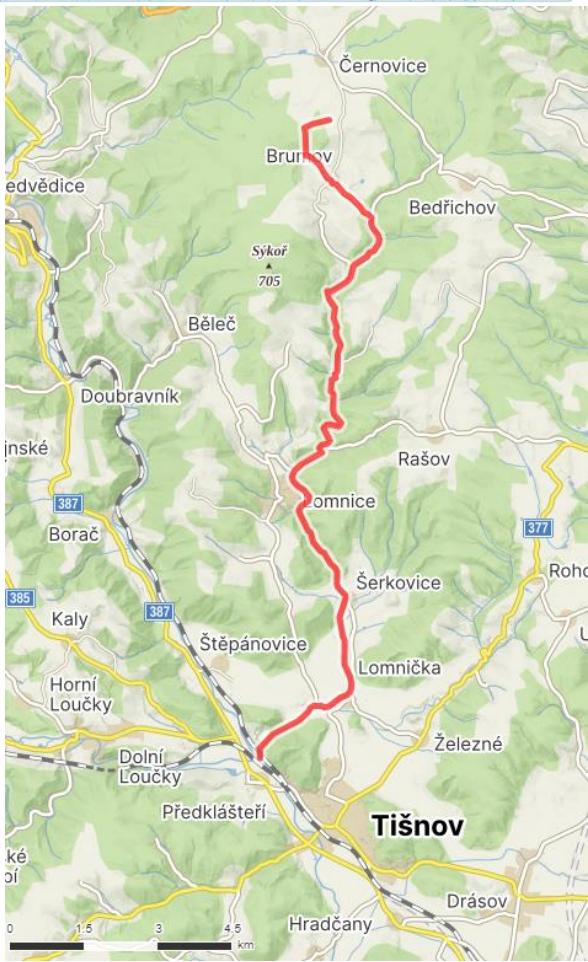
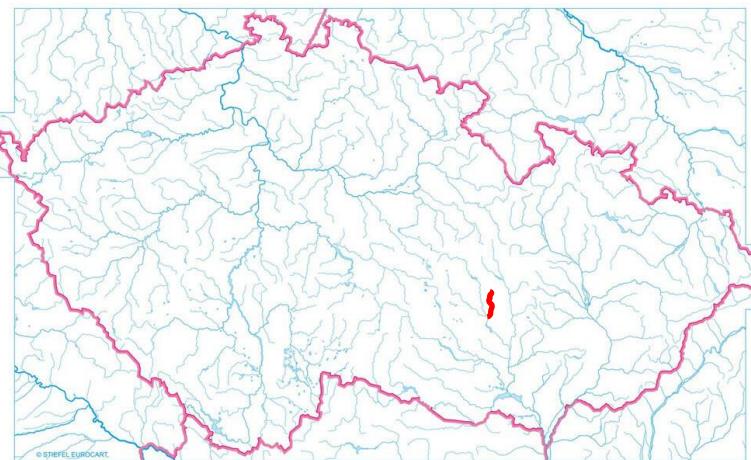


Besének

18 km long watercourse

Tributary of the Svatka river

$$Q_a = 0,17 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$$

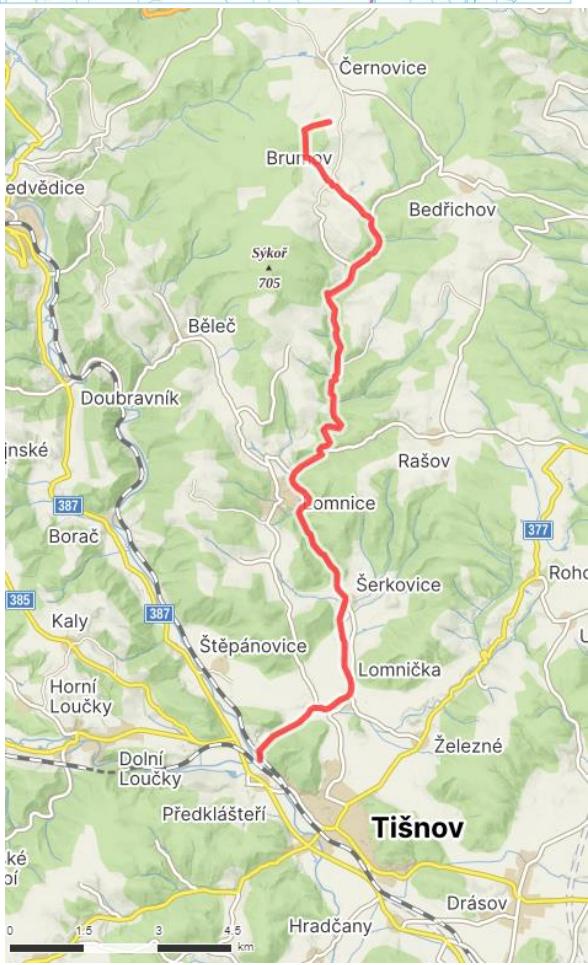
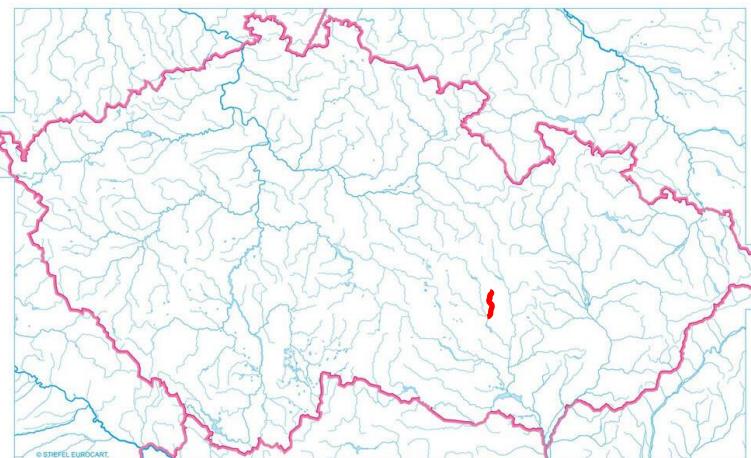


Besének

Until 2008 dense population of noble crayfish (*Astacus astacus*)

2009 outbreak of crayfish plague

2018 occurrence of signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) in tributary of lower Besének



Besének

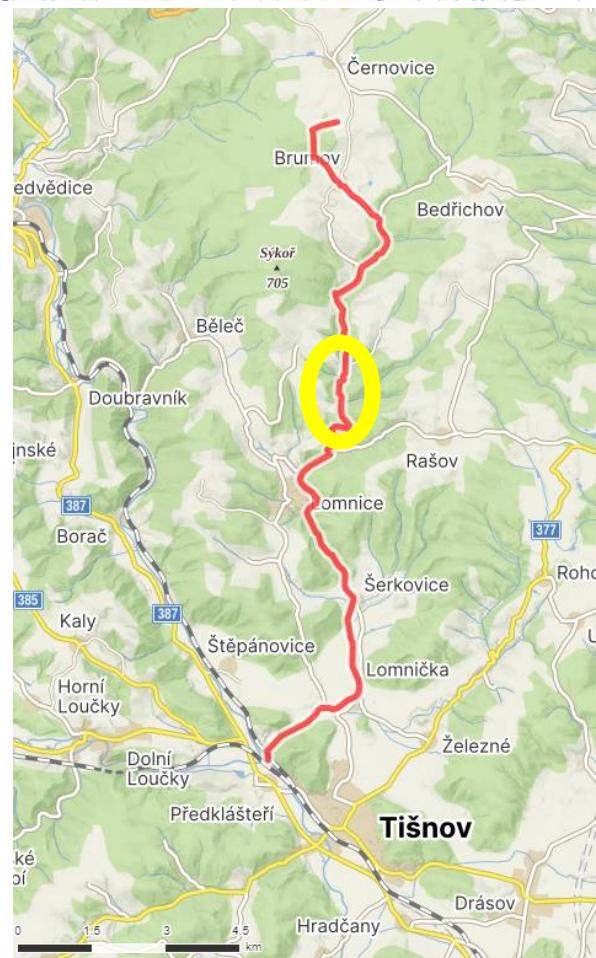
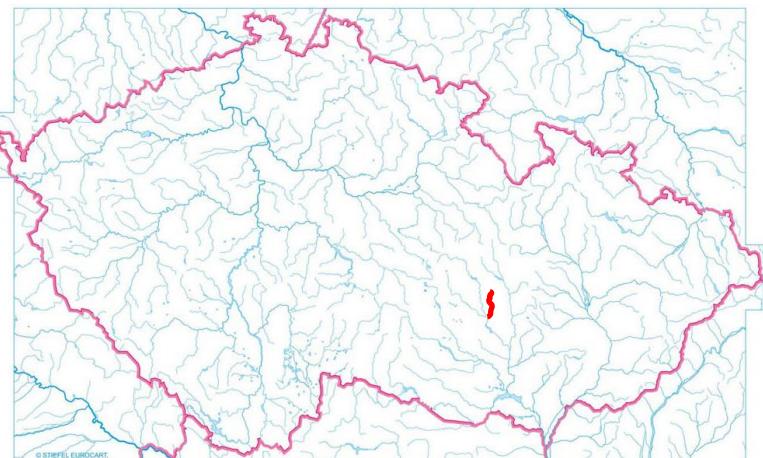
Until 2008 dense population of noble crayfish (*Astacus astacus*)

2009 outbreak of crayfish plague

2018 occurrence of signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) in tributary of lower Besének

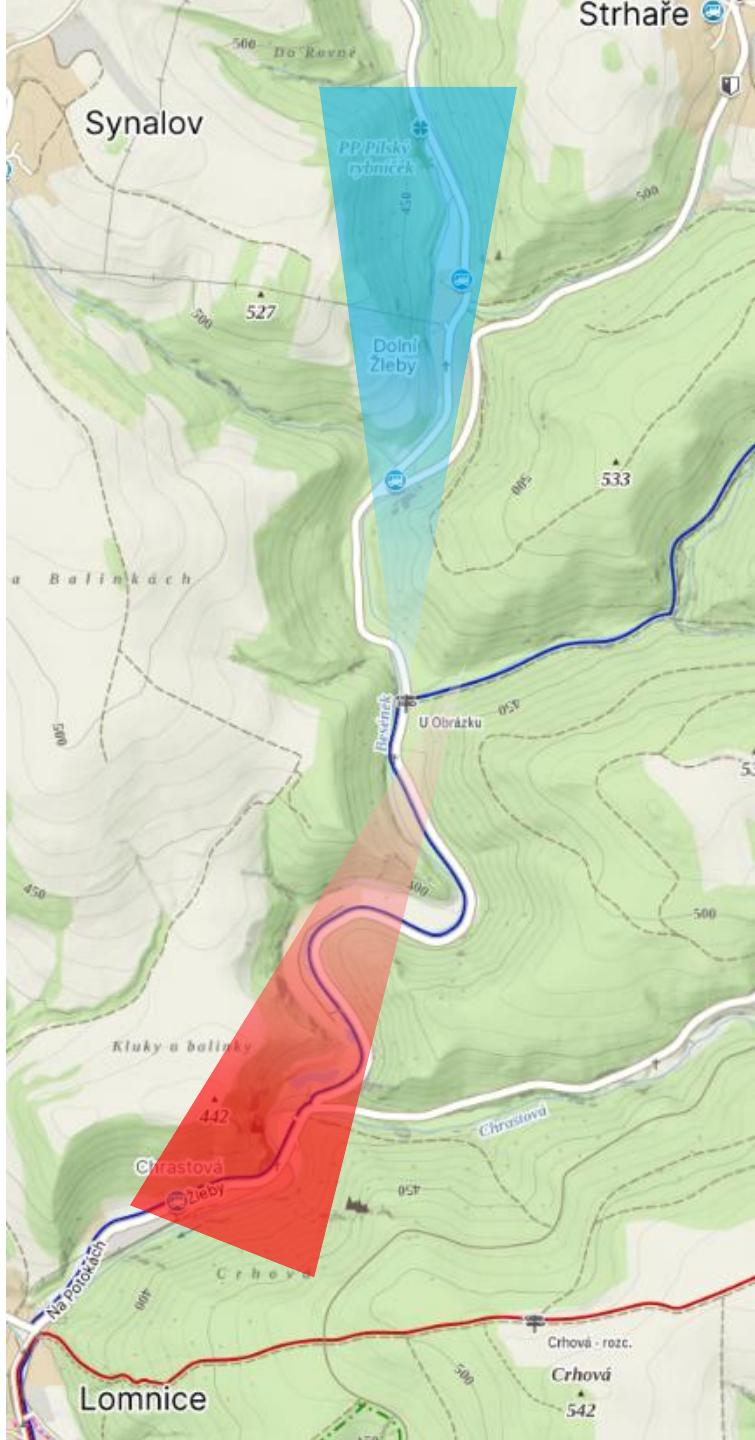
2020 occurrence of noble crayfish in upper Besének

2021 dense population of signal crayfish in lower Besének (free of *Aphanomyces astaci*)



Besének

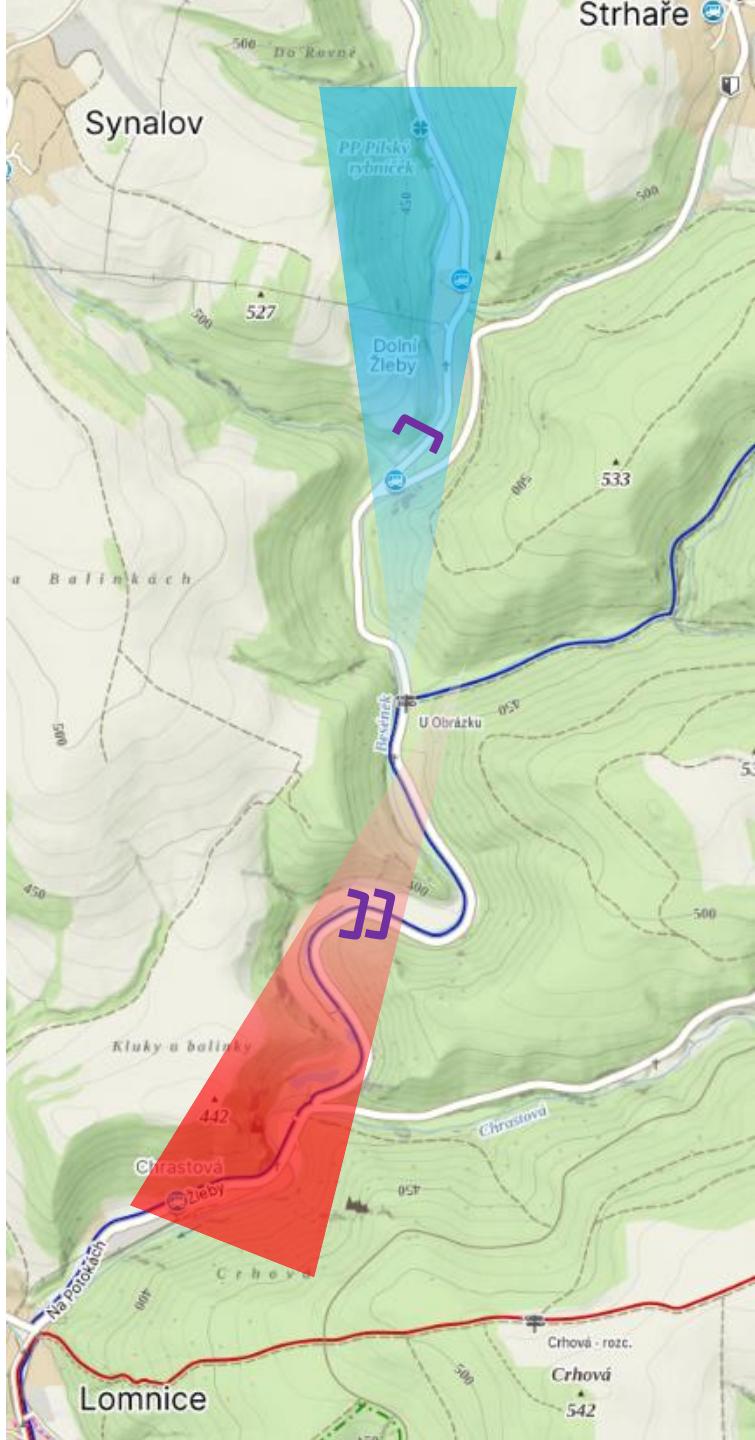
2022 population of **noble crayfish** is in contact with the **signal crayfish** population



Besének

2022 population of **noble crayfish** is in contact with the **signal crayfish** population

Autumn 2022
migration barriers built



Temporary migration barriers





HDPE plastic plate attached to
existing steps in the stream
channel





Visible Implant Elastomer Taggs

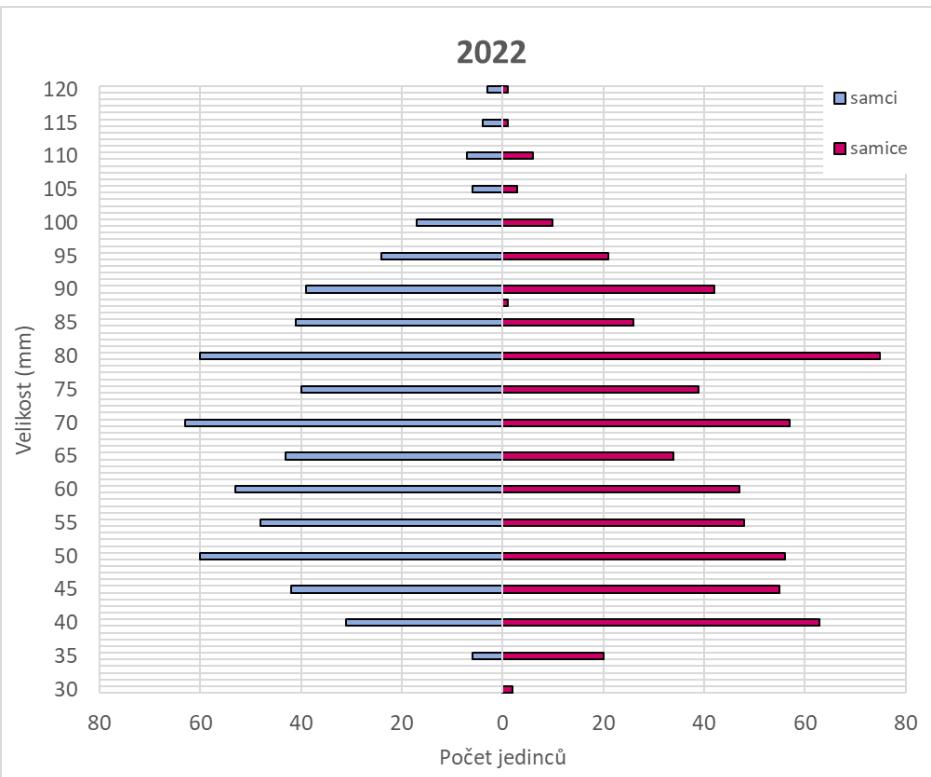


4589 ind. of signal crayfish

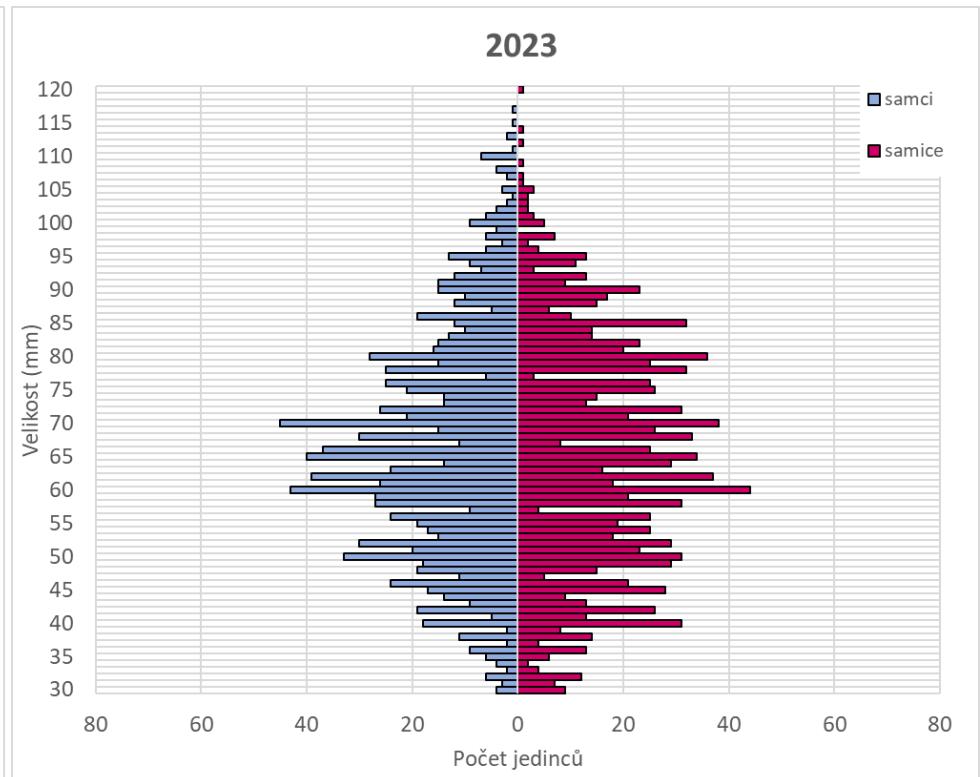
3686 ind. >30 mm

2076 Visible Implant Elastomer Tags

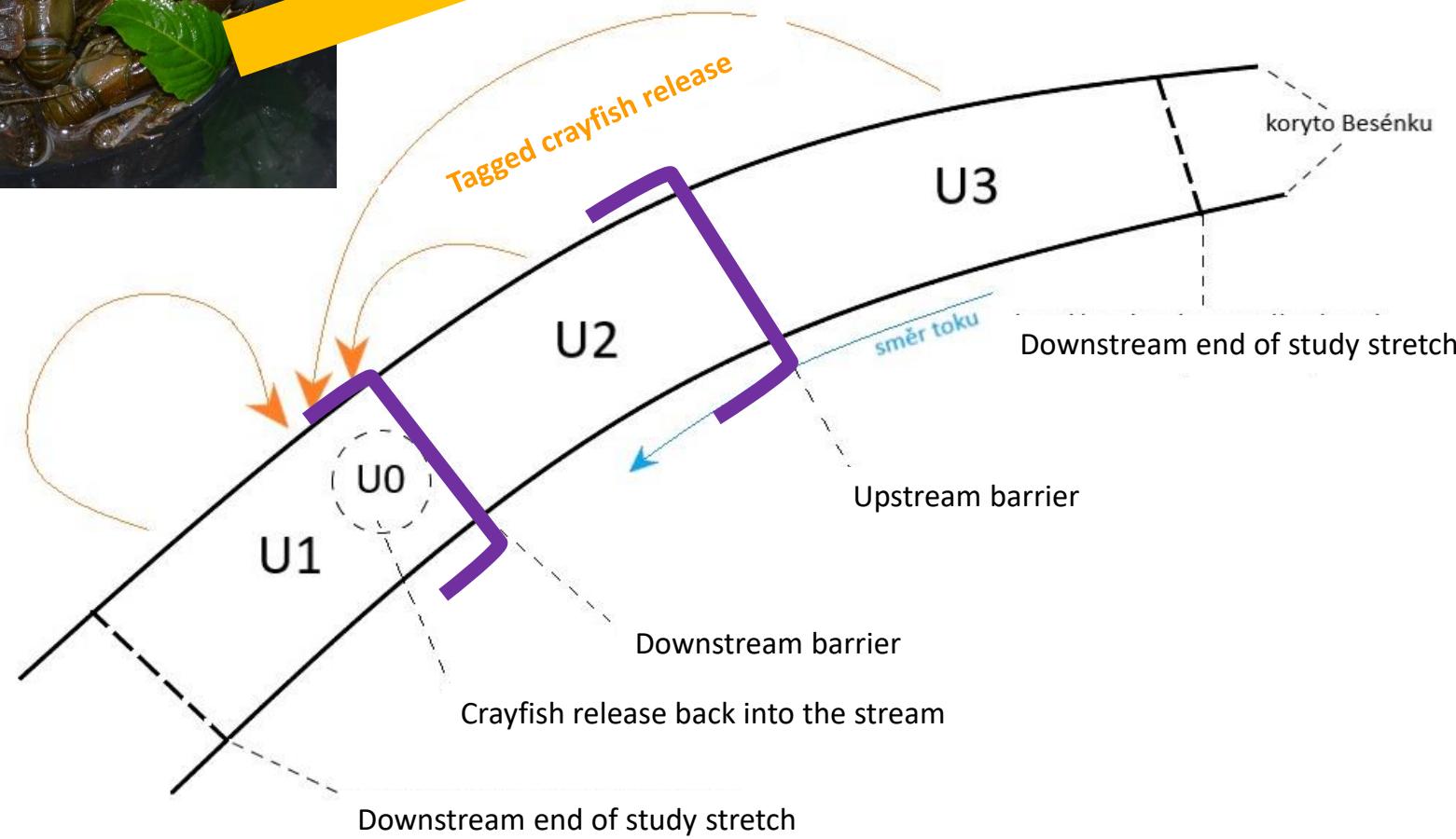
535 of tagged crayfish recaptured



2022 n=1194; 587 male, 607 female

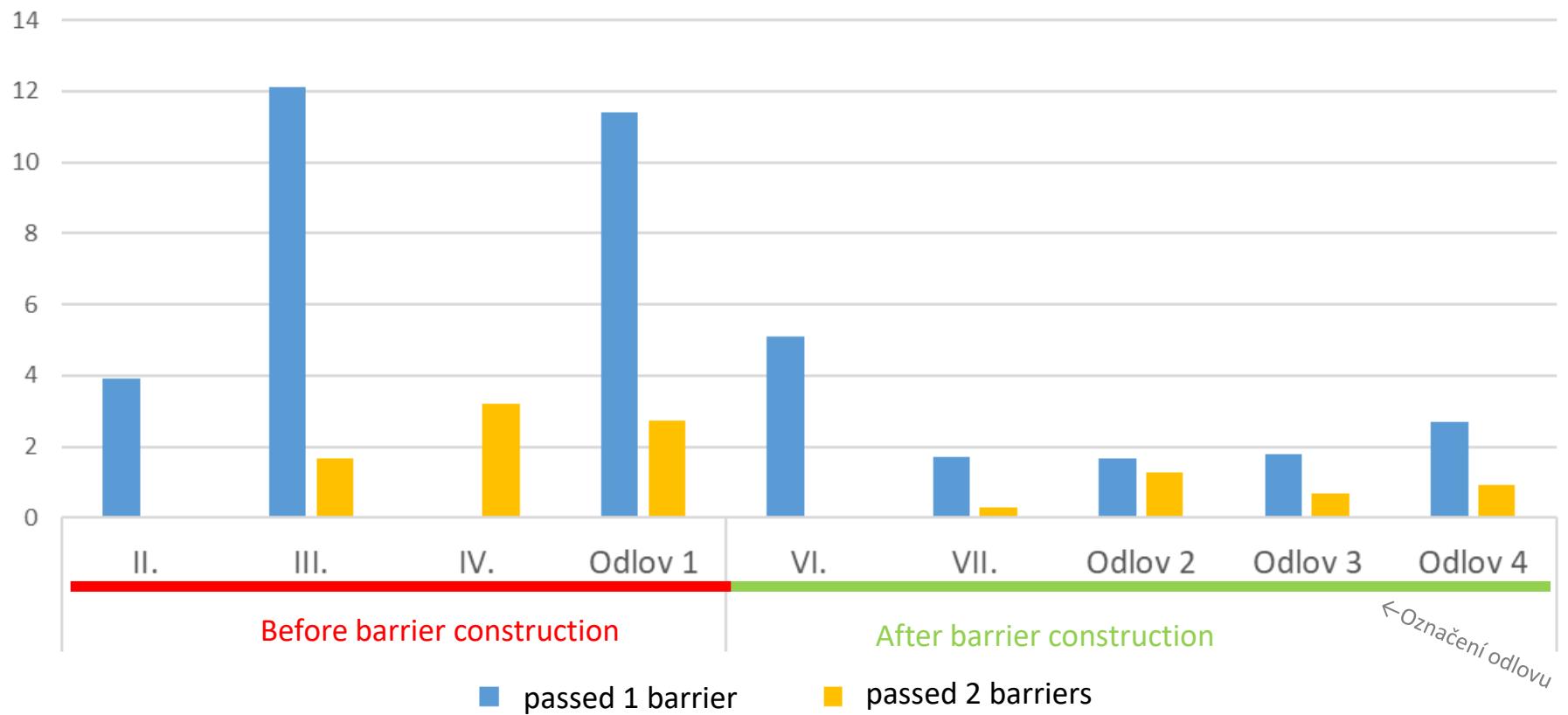


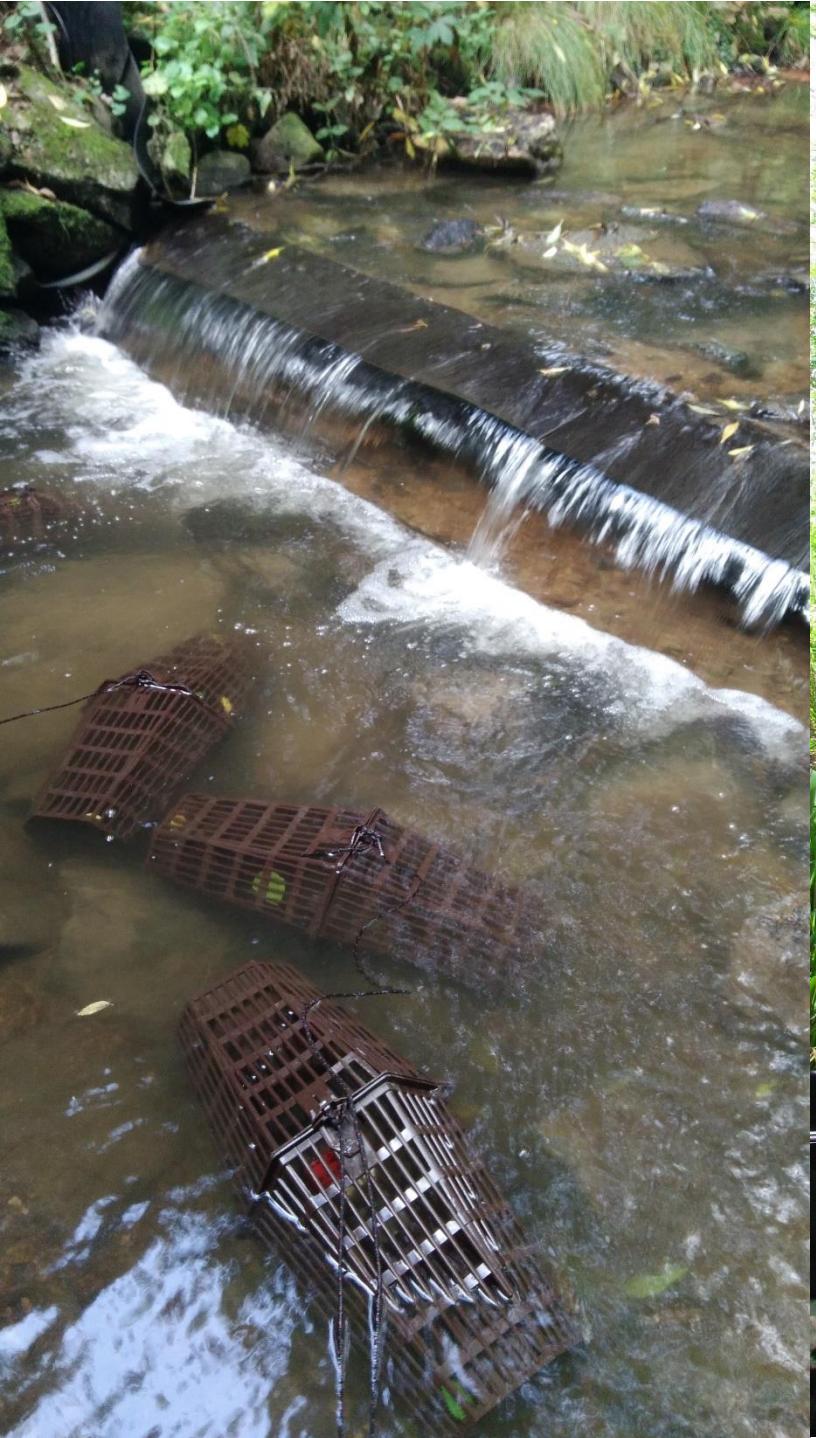
2023 n=2492; 1195 male, 1297 female



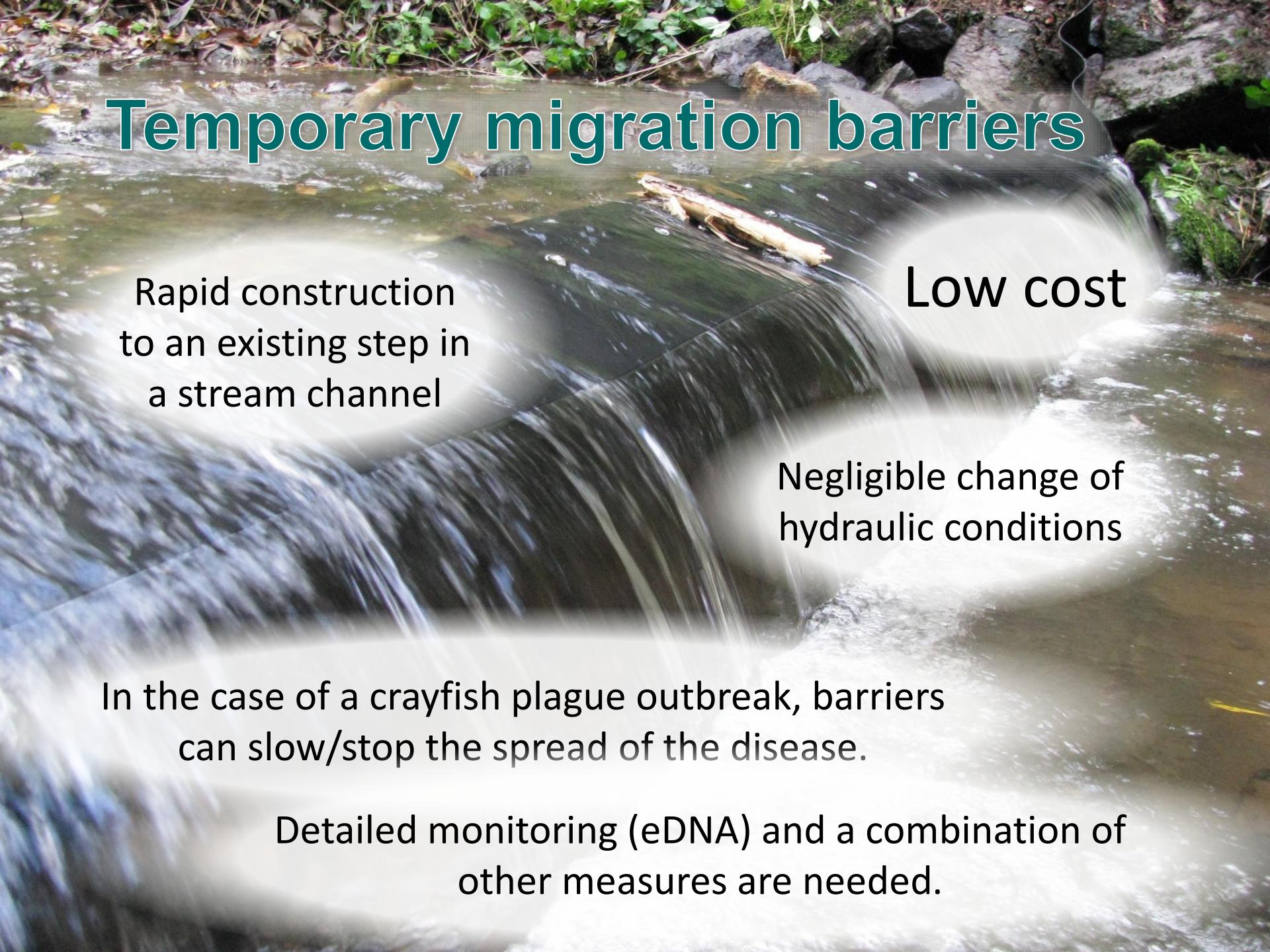
Effect of migration barriers

Number of crayfish that passed the barrier





Temporary migration barriers



Rapid construction
to an existing step in
a stream channel

Low cost

Negligible change of
hydraulic conditions

In the case of a crayfish plague outbreak, barriers
can slow/stop the spread of the disease.

Detailed monitoring (eDNA) and a combination of
other measures are needed.

Supported by the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 - programme CZ-ENVIRONMENT



Thak you for your attention

<https://crayfish2022.vuv.cz>