

Endangered Animals in the Adriatic Sea





Sadly, we have endangered animal species in our Adriatic Sea, such as:

**Nobel Pen Shell,
Mediterranean Monk
Seal, Seahorse...**

Date Mussel

In this presentation, we are going to focus on the **Date Mussel**.



Facts

- Scientific name: *Litophaga Litophaga*
- Seashell species that belongs to the family of mussels
- Their average **length** is about **9 cm** (they can grow up to **15 cm**)
- They are **yellowish** to **brown** to **black** in colour
- Their approximate **weight** is **20 grams**, but they can weigh up to **100 grams**
- They need **10** to **20 years** to grow **5 cm!**

Habitat

- Date Mussel lives along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean
- It lives in cliffs, big rocks and underwater caves where it digs a hole for itself
- In Croatia, they can be found around the coast of west Istria, around Split, Šibenik, Ston and Croatian islands (they were also hunted there the most)
- They can be found at [Brijuni National Park](#) as well



Endangerment

- The biggest **threat** to Date Mussel are **people**
- They **illegally** take them out and by doing that they **damage the whole ecosystem**
- They are served in fancy restaurants to elite guests
- Restaurants don't put them on the regular menu so they don't have to pay huge fines
- They are served on **secret menus** or under a "**code name**"



Protection

- In Croatia, Date Mussels have been **strictly protected** since **1995**.
- Fine for legal entity who is selling Date Mussels is up to **200 000 kn**
- If you have materially benefited from the sale, the penalty at the end of the proceedings can be **1 million kn**

NEVER EAT DATE MUSSELS!!!





Thank you for your attention!

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