

IV REUNIÓN BINACIONAL DE ECOLOGÍA

Interacción, Espacio, Tiempo

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Buenos Aires, Argentina



CONFERENCIA PLENARIA

Viernes 13 de agosto
11:30 hs

STATE OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL INVASION ECOLOGY: INTEGRATING DIVERSE SCALES OF TIME AND SPACE

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The shifting baseline syndrome applies as much to the study of invasion ecology as it does to historical fisheries assessments and to most other metrics of the perception of environmental alteration and variation over time and space. Our understanding of the breadth and depth of the importance of human-mediated invasions is scaled against an environmental matrix: we perceive invasions to have had the greatest impact on land, next in "aquatic" environments (lakes, rivers, streams) and least in the world's oceans – a perception, in turn, scaled against both the intensity of scientific study of these three biomes (terrestrial, freshwater, and marine) and human interest and relationship with these realms. We know the least about the diversity and historical biogeography of species in the sea, and thus we know least about the diversity and historical biogeography of invasions in the sea. I examine here the state of our knowledge, at the dawn of the 21st century, of the scale of human-induced alterations of near-shore marine communities, using invasion biology as a model system, what these alterations mean to our perception of the role of ecological vs. evolutionary time in shaping community and ecosystem dynamics, and explore the striking impact of two great historical eras that still influences our understanding of life in the sea.