

Fishes are a highly diverse group of Chordata, with more than 33,500 species, a larger number than that of all non-fish vertebrates combined. Freshwater fishes comprise more than 16,000 species, distributed throughout the planet. Freshwater fishes are one of the most endangered group of vertebrates, especially vulnerable to human alterations as a result of species introduction, overexploitation, fragmentation, degradation of continental watercourses, and climate change. However, knowledge of ecology and conservation status of freshwater fishes is lower than for terrestrial groups due to bias in conservation research toward those charismatic species. Research into environmental requirements, ecological issues, and threats of freshwater fishes is considered essential to be able to develop adequate management plans for freshwater ecosystems. Understanding these ecological features remains a key concern of conservation biology.

The aim of this Special Issue of Water is to explore these topics: The analysis of environmental issues related to freshwater fish biodiversity and human impacts, focused on the conservation biology of species and ecosystems.