PERIODIC DROUGHTS IN STREAMS: THE
NEXT NEGATIVE FACTOR INFLUENCING
CRAYFISH POPULATIONS

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Periodic droughts in small streams are caused by climate changes but also by
the inappropriate management of precipitation and surface water. If these
factors act simultaneously, water level rapidly declines even up to the com-
plete drying up of long sections of the stream. Such changes are often fatal for
aquatic fauna and particularly for protected crayfish species.

This contribution brings a couple of stories in 2015 connected with drought,
crayfish and their rescue transfers. These rescue transfers were made incor-
rectly in many cases, without the appropriate permission and could hurt more
than help. Therefore, this contribution also deals with legislative and technical
aspects of such rescue transfers and also suggests how to properly proceed in
these cases.