

1st Announcement

14th International Conference of the ISSRL – International Society for Salt Lake Research Inland Salt Lakes, Salt Flats and surrounding habitats



**Campus de La Merced, Universidad de Murcia,
Murcia, Spain, 19-23 October 2020**

icslr2020.es

The ISSRL Conference series

Saline lakes and inland saltscapes are common on every continent and are of considerable economic, ecological, and scientific value. Since 1979, an informal international association of salt lake researchers from a variety of disciplines have sponsored a series of triennial conferences to foster scientific exchange and further our understanding of saline lakes. The International Society for Salt Lake Research (ISSLR) was founded in 1994 to establish effective liaison between persons interested in any aspect of inland saline waters, to encourage these interests, and to educate the public in the scientific use, management, and conservation of salt lakes. These triennial conferences are always held in locations rich in this natural and cultural heritage and, for the first time in over three decades, it will be celebrated again in Europe. In addition to the usual high-level scientific work presented in them, this conference will also offer field trips to inland and coastal saltscapes, as well as the opportunity to know the work of other stakeholders (NGOs, consultants, managers) in them.

Organising committee - Secretariat

Scientific committee

- Miamping Zheng, Center for Saline Lake and Epithermal Deposits, China
- Egor Zadereev, Institute of Biophysics SB RAS, Russia
- Aharon Oren, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- Emil Boros, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary
- Jonathan Clark, Weber State University, USA
- Tianlong Deng, Tianjin University of Science and Technology, China
- Zsofia Horvath, WasserCluster Lunz, Austria
- Peter Hudson, South Australian Museum, Australia
- Nickolai Shadrin, Kovalevsky Institute Marine Biological Research, Russia
- Lucila Castro, Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Argentina
- Bindy Datson, Actis Environmental Services, Australia
- Antonio Camacho, University of Valencia, Spain
- Francisco Comín, Pyrenean Institute of Ecology – CSIC, Spain
- José Ariza, University of Huelva, Spain
- Magdalena Bernués, Ministry of Ecological Transition, Spain
- Mariano Paracuellos, University of Almería, Spain
- Manuel Rendón, Regional Government of Andalucía, Spain
- Francisco Belmonte, University of Murcia, Spain
- Gustavo Ballesteros, University of Murcia, Spain
- Andrés Millán, University of Murcia, Spain
- Pepa Antón, University of Murcia, Spain
- M^a Ángeles Alonso Vargas, University of Alicante, Spain
- Rosa M^a Martínez Espinosa, University of Alicante, Spain
- M^a del Carmen Rodríguez, University of Alicante, Spain
- Katia Hueso, Pontifical University Madrid / IPAI S A L, Spain
- Maria Asunción Romero Díaz, University of Murcia, Spain

Local organizing committee

- Francisco Belmonte, University of Murcia
- Gustavo Ballesteros, University of Murcia
- Katia Hueso, Pontifical University Madrid / IPAISAL
- Association La Carraca (NGO exhibit)
- Biocyma (Secretariat)

Place: Murcia (SE Spain)

Murcia is an extraordinarily rich region in inland saltscapes. It has more than a dozen inland saline environments: salt mines, hypersaline streams and, of course, it is the home to the hypersaline Mar Menor lagoon, and very close of the La Mata and Torrevieja littoral salt pans, in the nearby province of Alicante (see map). The problems that the Mar Menor are currently suffering (eutrophication, pollution, sedimentation) will undoubtedly be of great interest to the specialized public that is expected to attend to the conference, possibly including a special session on this topic. Furthermore, the Mar Menor lagoon has several active salt pans across the border.

From the point of view of connections, both Alicante and Murcia have good highway and railroad links with the rest of Spain and Europe. The Alicante International Airport lies at just 70 km. Soon (in 2019-2020), Murcia will be served by a new international airport at 25 km of the city centre and high-speed railroad that will connect the city to Madrid in just 2.5 hours. Murcia has over 443,000 inhabitants, being the largest city in the southeast of Spain, one of the most important tourist regions of the country.

It has all the services needed in a mid-sized town, while being walkable, with a lively centre and plenty of places to enjoy a good meal or a drink in good company (see links at the end of this document). Beaches are a short ride away from the city centre. Murcian gastronomy is rich and diverse, based among others on salted fish and orchard products and the historical presence of arabs, jews and Christians in the region. It is one of the best exponents of the Mediterranean diet, which has been recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage.



The landscape of the area is characterized by the presence of fruit and vegetable orchards. Further inland, the typical features are irrigated crops, mountain ranges with pine groves and ancient neogenic basins, with strongly eroded loamy lithologies, forming typical badland landscapes. These have been modelled by runoff that increase the high saline concentrations of lower lying terrains, resulting in saline streams -also known as "ramblas"- and wetlands, which feed the inland salinas. Other salinas worth mentioning are those located around the largest saline lagoon in the Mediterranean: the Mar Menor.

The climate is hot semi-arid, with an average temperature in the warm months (July and August) above 25°C and maximum temperatures of 40°C or higher. Murcia has the second highest maximum temperature record registered in Spain, with 47.3°C. But it also enjoys the mildest temperatures in spring and autumn, with average temperatures of 20-25°C in these seasons. Sunshine is guaranteed almost year-round; it is said that Murcia is *where the Sun lives*.

Venue

Main location: Paranymp building of the Campus de La Merced of the University of Murcia, in the heart of the city:



Accommodation

Hotels in downtown Murcia. Discounts will be offered to participants in different hotels that already have agreements with the University of Murcia.

Important deadlines

- Application for “Best paper” award for young scientists – January 15, 2020
- On-line registration – April 30, 2020
- Discount for early bird registration in full fee– April 30, 2020
- Application for travel grants for young scientists – April 30, 2020
- Abstract submission – May 30, 2020
- Post-conference tour registration – May 15, 2020

Registration fee

Full fee: 260 Euro. Early bird registration: 234 Euro (only for full fee until April 30, 2020).

Reduced fee: 160 Euro (only for students).

It includes coffee breaks, welcome package, conference abstracts, welcome party and other organization expenses. Mid-conference trip to be covered by regional / local authorities.

The fee includes a 3-year membership of the ISSLR

Official language

English, with possible translation from Spanish to English in opening session.

Proposed sessions and preliminary programme

Programme

Monday 19 October – opening and regular sessions, reception

Tuesday 20 October – regular sessions

Wednesday 21 October – Mid-conference trip

Thursday 22 October – regular sessions

Friday 23 October – regular sessions, closing and dinner

Saturday 24 October – Monday 26 October – Post-conference tour A (Murcia and Alicante salt lakes and salines)

Saturday 24 October – Tuesday 27 October – Post-conference tour B (Andalusia: natural, geological and cultural tour)

Sessions

1. Geology/Physical geography
2. Chemistry/Chemical properties
3. Biology
4. Microbiology
5. Ecology and biodiversity
6. Related natural resources and ecosystem services (agriculture, aquaculture, etc.)
7. Conservation, management and heritage

Each session will start with a plenary talk.

Please find the call for papers at: icslr2020.es

Proposal mid-conference tours

Parallel field trips: Due to the fragility of some of the sites to be visited, the group of participants will be split in subgroups of 50-60 pax each. Two tours will be offered, each one with two buses (if needed) making the round trip in opposite order. Lunch will be offered to all participants. There will be opportunity to relax in nature and possibly even for bathing, in both tours.

- Tours 1a and 1b: Saline coastal wetlands (Mar Menor, and saline saltpans of San Pedro del Pinatar, Lo Poyo and El Rasal...)
- Tours 2a and 2b: Inland saltscapes (Rambla Salada, Santomera, Sangonera la Seca...)



Mar Menor lagoon (©Diario 20 Minutos)



Rambla Salada saline river (©Fortuna Imagen)

Please bear in mind that the final programme may change according to economic and practical criteria.

Post-conference tours

A. Murcia and Alicante salt lakes and salines: inland saline wetlands of Villena, Petrola and Corral Rubio lagoons system, Pinoso, stay at the historical town of Villena, visit to wineries and the Elche palm forest World Heritage Site, coastal lagoon El Hondo de Elche.

B. Andalusia: natural, geological and cultural tour. National Park Cabo de Gata, visit to the saline Fuente de Piedra lagoon. Cultural visits to the cave houses of Guadix, Granada with the famous Alhambra.



Fuente de Piedra lagoon (©ABC)



Salinas of Villena (©Senderos de Alicante)



The Alhambra of Granada (©Spaininfo.es)



Elche palm tree forest (©Euromarina.com)

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