

**PhD project at BCA dept, University of Padua**

**Title: Strategies to mitigate climate change and anthropogenic impacts  
in bivalve species of commercial interest**

**Brief description:** Climate change represents the most important threat for bivalve species of high economic and ecological interest. Among them, the Manila clam and the Mediterranean mussel, following heat waves and the spread of emerging pathogens, have experienced dramatic stock reductions in the Venice lagoon and Po delta river. In addition, new anthropogenic modifications (i.e. MOSE system) and emerging contaminants (e.g. new PFAS) represent new potential threats for lagoon end estuarine ecosystems. This project, through a multidisciplinary approach based on the monitoring of chemical-physical parameters and the application of innovative biochemical and molecular analyses, will study the biological responses and adaptive strategies of clams and mussels to biotic/abiotic stressors. The final goal is to propose new strategies to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and to improve bivalve shellfish aquaculture, a sector profoundly affected by the recent COVID-19 crisis.

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