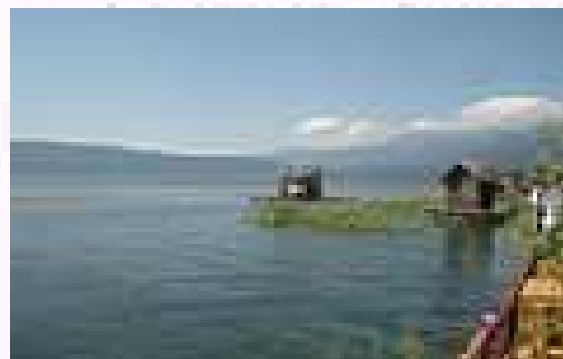




ACT4DRIN

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OHRID



Lake Ohrid harbors endemic species covering the whole food-chain, from phytoplankton and sessile algae (20 species) over plant species (2 species) zooplankton (5 species to predatory fish (two trout species; the Ohrid trout complex *Salmo letnica*, and "Belvica" *Salmo ohridanus*) and finally its diverse endemic bottom fauna (176 species; with particularly large endemism among crustaceans, molluscs, sponges and planarians.

There were recorded 68 species of freshwater snails from the Lake Ohrid basin. 73.5% of the total freshwater gastropod fauna appear to be endemic to the Lake Ohrid basin



Prespa is well known for its natural beauty and its high biodiversity with unique characteristics. It hosts more than 1,500 species of plants, 40 species of mammals, 260 of birds, 32 reptiles and amphibians, and 17 species of fish including a number of species found only here

These lakes are classified in the same zoogeographical area, the data indicated that their ichthyofaunas anyway have longest geographical isolation, especially Lake Prespa. Lake Ohrid has specific and unique Salmonidae ichthyofauna

OHRID



Lake Ohrid is a unique aquatic ecosystem and a hotspot of freshwater biodiversity with more than 210 endemic species described. Due to the long history of Lake Ohrid's continuous existence and the geographical isolation, a relatively high number of lake organisms are still speciating

PRESPA



There is high habitat diversity in the Prespa basin, with a flora of more than 1300 species. From a phytocoenological perspective, the presence of the endemic plant community Lemnetum-Spirodeletum polyrrhizum aldrovandetosum is the most important.

Species, continue to diversify into new taxonomic categories - subspecies, species and even families. This type of speciation, also known as intralacustrine speciation, is typical in old, deep and large preglacial lakes, such as Lake Baikal.

In total, there are 23 freshwater fish species (80% of which are endemic); 11 amphibian species; 21 reptile species; more than 42 mammal species, among which are endangered brown bear, the wolf, the otter and the chamois; and over 260 species of bird.



Prespa Trout
(*Salmo peristericus*)



Maximum length: **47,5 cm**
Maximum weight: **790 gr**
Level of threat:

ENDANGERED

Prespa Barbel
(*Barbus prespensis*)



Maximum length: **30 cm**
Maximum weight: **390 gr**
Level of threat:

VULNERABLE

Prespa Roach
(*Rutilus prespensis*)



Maximum length: **23 cm**
Level of threat:

VULNERABLE

Prespa Bleak
(*Alburnus belvica*)



Maximum length: **19 cm**
Level of threat:

VULNERABLE

Prespa Nase
(*Chondrostoma prespense*)



Maximum length: **30 cm**
Level of threat:

VULNERABLE

Prespa Chub
(*Squalius prespensis*)



Maximum length: **44 cm**
Level of threat:

LEAST CONCERN

Prespa Spirin
(*Alburnoides prespensis*)



Maximum length: **13cm**
Level of threat:

VULNERABLE

Prespa Southern Spiny Loach
(*Cobitis meridionalis*)



Maximum length: **11cm**
Level of threat:

VULNERABLE

Prespa Minnow
(*Pelagus prespensis*)



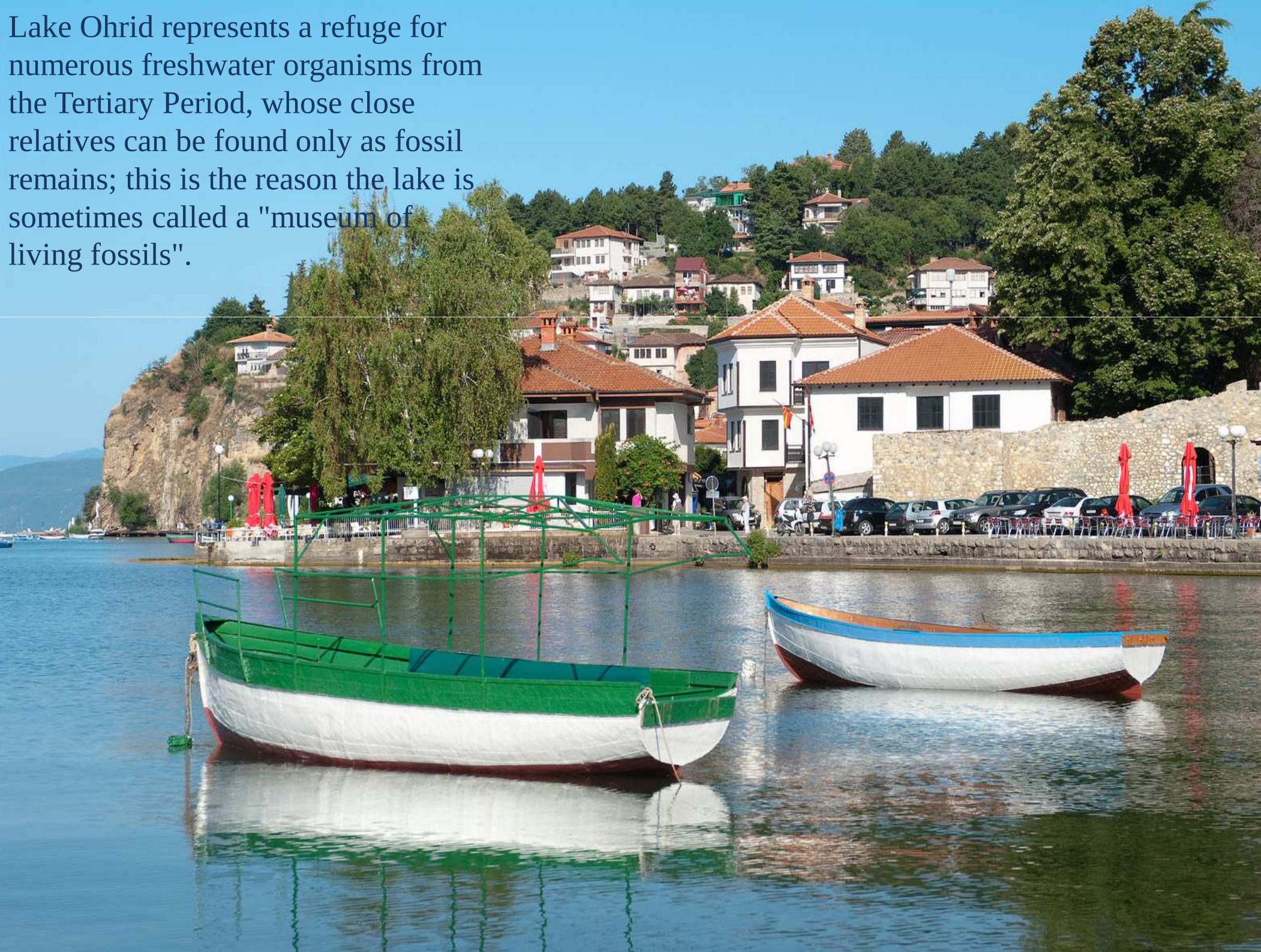
Maximum length: **6cm**
Level of threat:

ENDANGERED

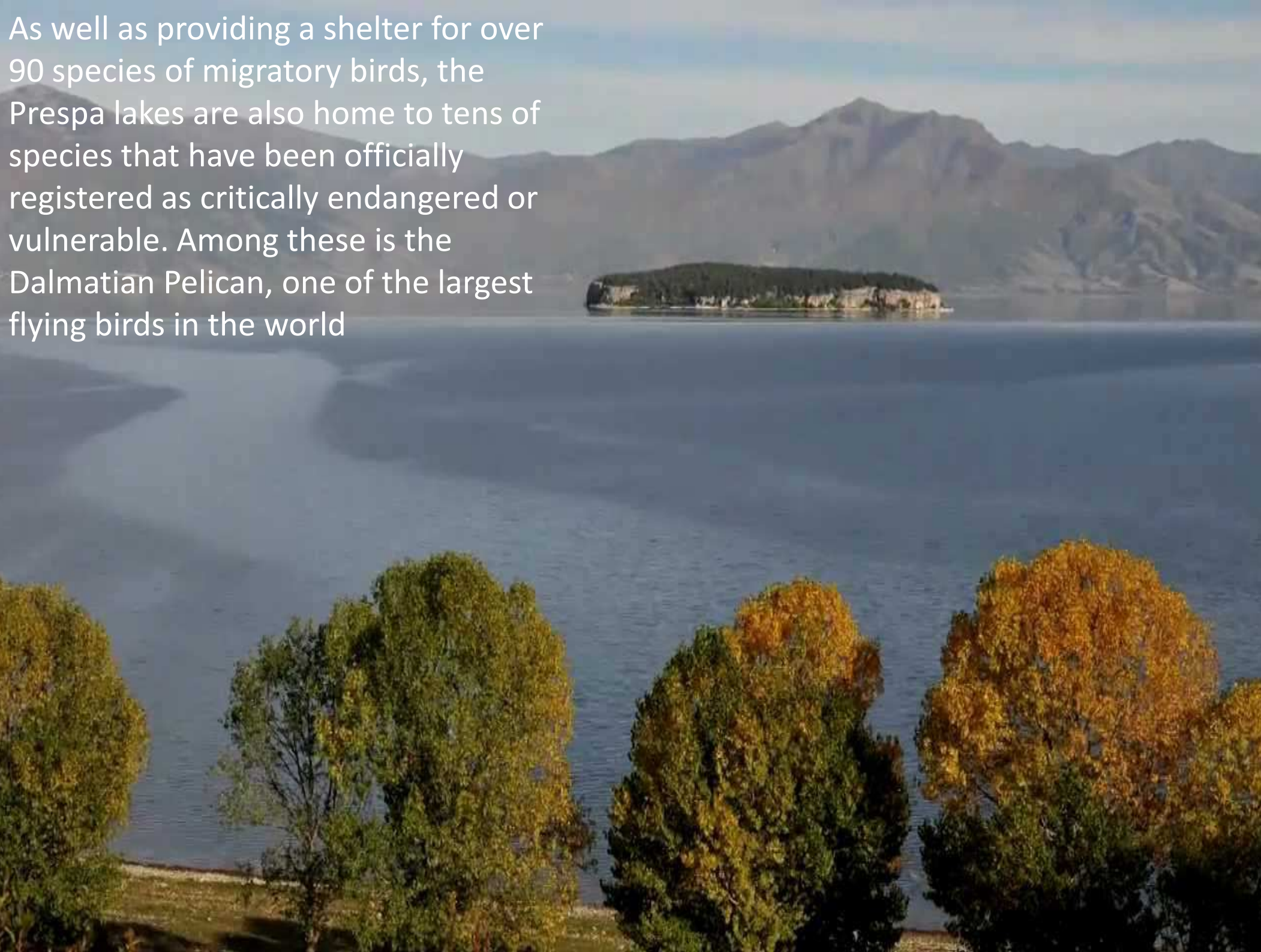
Lake Ohrid is even considered to be one of the most diverse ancient lakes in the world with regard to the number of endemic species: Bacillariophyta 14%, endoparasitic Infusoria 88%, Rhabdocoela 44%, Tricladida 71%, Hirudinea 54%, Gastropoda 90%, Amphipoda 90% and Ostracoda 66%.



Lake Ohrid represents a refuge for numerous freshwater organisms from the Tertiary Period, whose close relatives can be found only as fossil remains; this is the reason the lake is sometimes called a "museum of living fossils".



As well as providing a shelter for over 90 species of migratory birds, the Prespa lakes are also home to tens of species that have been officially registered as critically endangered or vulnerable. Among these is the Dalmatian Pelican, one of the largest flying birds in the world



Among them are included the famous Ohrid Trout (*Salmo letnica*) and a freshwater sponge (*Ochridospongia rotunda*). Due to its peculiarities, Lake Ohrid is considered to be a key site for biodiversity and speciation research.

Seventeen of Macedonia's 20 endemic fish species are included within the category of globally threatened species: seven are restricted to Ohrid Lake and six to Prespa Lake.

OHRID



PRESPA

