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Diversity Declines across Systems / Blakeslee, April -- 8. Invasive Crayfish and Their Invasive Diseases in Europe with the Focus on the Virulence Evolution of the Crayfish Plague / Jussila, Japo / Vrezec, Al / Makkonen, Jenny / Kortet, Raine / Kokko, Harri -- 9. Host Dynamics and Ectoparasite Life Histories of Invasive And Non-Invasive Deer Ked Populations / Härkönen, Laura / Kaitala, Arja -- 10. The Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) Invasion in Scandinavian Coastal Waters: Impact on Local Ecosystem Services / Laugen, Ane T. / Hollander, Johan / Obst, Matthias / Strand, Åsa -- 11. Invasive Seaweeds: Impacts and Management Actions / Petrocelli, Antonella / Cecere, Ester -- Part III. Management and Control of Biological Invasions -- Summary of Part III / Canning-Clode, João / Paiva, Filipa -- 12. Fighting Invasions in the Marine Realm, a Case Study with *Caulerpa webbiana* in the Azores / Cardigos, Frederico / Monteiro, João / Fontes, Jorge / Parretti, Paola / Serrão Santos, Ricardo -- 13. Reducing the Ecological Impact of Invasive Cane Toads / Shine, Richard -- 14. Pine Invasions in South America: Reducing Their Ecological Impacts Through Active Management / Pauchard, Aníbal / García, Rafael / Zalba, Sergio / Sarasola, Mauro / Zenni, Rafael / Ziller, Silvia / Nuñez, Martín A. -- 15. Implications of Ship Type on Delivery and Management of Ballast Water / Minton, Mark S. / Whitman Miller, A. / Ruiz, Gregory M. -- Part IV. Predictions and New Tools in Biological Invasions -- Summary of Part IV / Canning-Clode, João / Paiva, Filipa -- 16. Will Alien Plant Invaders Be Advantaged Under Future Climates? / Leishman, Michelle R. / Gallagher, Rachael V. -- 17. Anticipating Invasions and Managing Impacts: A Review of Recent Spatiotemporal Modelling Approaches / Santos, Mário / Bastos, Rita / Vicente, Joana / Berger, Uta / Silveira Soares Filho, Britaldo / Rodrigues, Hermann / Alonso, Joaquim / Guerra, Carlos / Martins, João / Honrado, João / Cabral, João Alexandre -- 18. Applications of DNA-based Methods for the Study of Biological Invasions / Viard, Frédérique / Comtet, Thierry -- 19. Assembly Rules and Novel Assemblages in Aquatic Ecosystems / Light, Theo / Moyle, Peter -- List of Figures -- List of Tables -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

When organisms are deliberately or accidentally introduced into a new ecosystem a biological invasion may take place. These so-called 'invasive species' may establish, spread and ecologically alter the invaded community. Biological invasions by animals, plants, pathogens or vectors are one of the greatest environmental and economic threats and, along with habitat destruction, a leading cause of global biodiversity loss. In this book, more than 50 worldwide invasion scientists cover our current understanding of biological invasions, its impacts, patterns and mechanisms in both aquatic and terrestrial systems.