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WYSTĘPOWANIE RYB W ODCINKACH WARTY O RÓŻNYM STOPNIU DEGRADACJI

OCCURRENCE OF FISH IN THE WARTA RIVER SECTIONS OF DIFFERENT DEGRADATION LEVEL

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ABSTRACT

Distribution of selected fish and lamprey species collected in 1996-98 is compared between 3 sections of the Warta River (Oder system, Poland): A – located upstream and the least modified, B – middle-located and the most degraded, and C – located downstream and moderately changed. Three species (pike, perch and roach) were similarly abundant in the 3 sections, i.e. have not reacted to the differences in aquatic environment. Several species however reflected the abiotic differentiation. Among them there were: 1) species most abundant in the degraded B section (mud loach, tench, ide, silver bream), and 2) species least abundant in the B section (stone loach, burbot, gudgeon, dace, chub). Except for ide, rheophils belonged exclusively to the latter group. Thus, in heavily human-modified rivers distribution of certain species is not dependent on river size and water discharge. The study also identifies species resistant and vulnerable to human impact, which may be useful in systems of biological valuation of large lowland rivers.