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FISH FAUNA OF THE LOWER AND MIDDLE VISTULA RIVER - PRESENT STATE AND THREATS

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ABSTRACT

The fish fauna of the Vistula River was examined along the river course from the outlet of the Sanna River to the Baltic Sea. The basis fishing method was electrofishing with additional net catches conducted by professional river fishers. A total of 36 fish species were recorded in 32 sampling sites. Fish densities varied from 207 to 1640 specimens, and from 5.67 to 23.37 kg per 1 km reach of the river. The share of predatory fish like asp, burbot, wels, pike-perch, pike and eel in the fish community was very low and constituted 1.35% of abundance. The dominant fishes, bleak, roach and perch, constituted 74.5% of abundance. The condition of the fish community of the Vistula River indicates profound changes that the environment of this river has undergone. The state of individual fish species was examined indicating the need for the verification of the current system's categories of threats.