

TADEUSZ PENCZAK, ANDRZEJ KRUK, HENRYK KOSZALIŃSKI,  
LIDIA MARSZAŁ, JOANNA KOSTRZEWA

Katedra Ekologii i Zoologii Kręgowców,  
Uniwersytet Łódzki,  
ul. Banacha 12/16, 90-237 Łódź

## **MONITORING ICHTIOFAUNY DORZECZA GWDY**

### **MONITORING OF FISH FAUNA IN THE GWDA DRAINAGE BASIN**

#### **ABSTRACT**

In years 1983-85 fish and lampreys were sampled in 57 sites located in the Gwda River and its tributaries (the Warta River drainage basin). In precisely the same sites, except one, sampling was repeated in 1995-97, retaining the full unification of sampling methods (CPUE electric fishing). In the lower Gwda a purification plant has been constructed, but in numerous tributaries water quality has deteriorated during the sampling break. New reservoirs have also been constructed in the river as well as several dams on pure tributaries for feeding fish farms with water. There has not been much progress in bank regulation, but consumable fish are much endangered by widespread poaching and anglers' overfishing. After the decade that has elapsed since the previous research the species number has decreased from 31 to 27, although two new (trout, sunbleak) have been observed. The abundance of grayling, barbel, burbot and eel has decreased in the whole drainage basin by a whole order of magnitude. More drastic differences in the abundance and constancy of occurrence of given populations have now been recorded in certain tributaries. Grayling, and particularly barbel and eel have been added to the list of endangered species. These changes are a result of both natural and, hardly separable, artificial factors, such as numerous dams without fish ladders, overfishing and decrease in water quality in a few tributaries.