

Roczniki Naukowe PZW	14	5 - 19	Warszawa 2001
----------------------	----	--------	---------------

**TADEUSZ PENCZAK, JOANNA KOSTRZEWA, ANDRZEJ KRUK, LIDIA  
MARSZAŁ, GRZEGORZ ZIĘBA, HENRYK KOSZALIŃSKI**

**ICHTIOFAUNA DORZECZA RZEKI WKRY. CZĘŚĆ I. WKRA**

**FISH FAUNA OF THE WKRA RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN. PART I. WKRA**

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

**ABSTRACT**

In September 2001 fish distribution and their abundance were investigated in 23 sites located proportionally along the Wkra River (249 km long, right side tributary of the Narew River, Vistula catchment). In the years 1960-1990 fish diversity and abundance were decreasing there from year to year because accelerated industry development was not linked with the construction of any purification systems. A continual water quality decrease since the 60's was responsible for a catastrophic reduction in fish populations, to 1-3 species (among them stickleback) in the upper course, and to roach only in the lower course. Since the 1990's water quality started gradually improving. The Wkra River empties to the Narew River only 5 km from the outlet of the latter to the Vistula. We suspect that recolonization from the Vistula may now positively affect fish diversity in the Wkra River. This is impossible in case of the Narew River which is separated with a big man-made reservoir located 15 km upstream from its mouth. Electrofishing samples in 2001 revealed 25 species, among them riverine obligatory ones (ORS) constituting less than 10% of total fish abundance, of which only chub is angled occasionally. Taxa representing non-obligatory riverine species (NORS) are a little bit richer, however big specimens, which are attraction for angles, were only occasionally met in our samples.