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**ICHTIOFAUNA BYSTRZYCY I JEJ DOPŁYWÓW
(DORZECZE ODRY)**

**THE ICHTHYOFAUNA
OF THE BYSTRZYCA RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN
(MID-ODRA RIVER BASIN)**

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ABSTRACT

Fish distribution, dominance, density and biomass were studied in the Bystrzyca River drainage basin (mid-Odra River basin) in 1994. The basin collects water from the most industrialized region of SW Poland. Twenty two fish species were recorded from 51 localities. Only the ichthyofauna of the upper sections of streams and rivers is unchanged and represented by typical species, such as brown trout, minnow and stone-loach. The density and biomass were also the highest in those sections. The mid sections of most rivers are devoid of fish or only vestigial populations of the most pollution-resistant species remain. Three dam reservoirs in the basin, though they disrupt the river continuum, play a favourable role of sewage purification thus improving the quality of outgoing waters. Their influence is reflected in the richer ichthyofauna in the river sections situated below. Unfortunately, it is represented mainly by limnophilous species migrating from the reservoirs (roach, bream, tench, carp, gibel, eel, perch, pike-perch). Rheophilous cyprinids are absent and should be introduced.