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ICHTIOFAUNA DORZECZA BARYCZY

THE ICHTHYOFAUNA OF THE BARYCZ RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN

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ABSTRACT

In the Barycz river basin (Odra basin, SW Poland) there is the largest and oldest pond complex in Poland, and all the rivers of the area have been regulated and canalised since middle ages. At present the ichthyofauna of the river system comprises 30 fish species, of which two groups dominate quantitatively: phytophils (62.57%) and psammophils (23.80%). The density and biomass of fish in the rivers are low, which results from the regulation and unstable water level associated with the constant alimentionation of the carp ponds. Escape of fish from the ponds increases the abundance of the ichthyofauna only slightly and temporarily. In rivers transformed into shallow canals they do not find adequate conditions and soon leave the river system. As a result of import of fry of carp and phytophagous fishes from the south of Europe, introductions of new species have occurred.