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**MONITORING ICHTIOFAUNY SYSTEMU RZECZNEGO
SKRWY PRAWYJ**

MONITORING OF FISH FAUNA IN THE SKRWA PRAWA RIVER SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Fish distribution and abundance were investigated in the Skrwa Prawa River system (113.9 km long, right side tributary of the Vistula River) in 2002 and 2003. This river system is natural, relatively undisturbed by human activity (banks regulation etc.) with the exception of 12 dams and locks located on the main river. In spite of localization in the lowland area, the Skrwa Prawa River has quite a steep gradient (mean slope 0.74 m km^{-1}) and flows along a deep ravine valley. Water quality is now continuously improving and level of pollution remains relatively low. At 28 sites located in the river system 34 species were electrofished. The fish community is dominated by phyto-lithophils (50.4%) but lithophils constitute quite a large proportion of total fish abundance (19.4%). In the main channel 32 fish and 1 lamprey species were noted while only 13 common fish species were identified in the tributaries. Moreover in its lower course the Pontocaspian invader, racer goby *Neogobius gymnotrachelus*, was collected. The dam localized in the mouth river section disrupts the river continuum, which disables migrations of rheophilic fishes from the Vistula River. That was the reason why the introductions program of brown trout and rheophilic cyprinids (vimb and nase) was started there.