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WIELOLETNIE ZMIANY W ICYTYOFAUNIE GÓRNEGO BIEGU WARTY

LONG TERM CHANGES IN THE FISH FAUNA
OF THE UPPER WARTA RIVER

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ABSTRACT

Fish stability of occurrence and abundance in a 228-km long stretch of the upper Warta River (right side tributary of the Odra River, Poland) were compared between three research periods: 1963-66 (I), 1986-88 (II) and 1996-98 (III). A decrease in studied parameters was found for vimba *Vimba vimba*, eel *Anguilla anguilla*, nase *Chondrostoma nasus*, barbel *Barbus barbus*, bleak *Alburnus alburnus*, burbot *Lota lota*, chub *Leuciscus cephalus*, dace *Leuciscus leuciscus* and gudgeon *Gobio gobio*. Roach *Rutilus rutilus* and perch *Perca fluviatilis* exhibited an opposite trend of changes. Their abundance rose several times while stability of occurrence remained in all periods at a high 85-100% level. Recorded changes are connected with worse water quality, existence of the Jeziorsko dam reservoir, intensification of angling and presumably poaching pressure, and with improper stocking.