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**ICHTIOFAUNA SYSTEMU RZEKI PROSNY. CZĘŚĆ I. PROSNA**

FISH FAUNA OF THE PROSNA RIVER SYSTEM. PART I. PROSNA

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**ABSTRACT**

In July and September 2002 fish distribution and abundance were investigated in the Prosna River (219 km long, left side tributary of the Warta River, the Odra (Oder) River system). Many reaches of the Prosna River had been regulated and polluted by the late 80s but water quality is now continuously improving and natural regeneration of its channel was observed. Electrofishing revealed 22 species, among them lithophils, presently constituting a very small portion of total fish abundance, of which only chub is occasionally angled. The dominant reproductive guild are phytolithophils, of which roach is the most abundant (53.7% of total fish number), while perch, though not numerous, is the only species recorded at each site. Pike is the only phytophil that is characterized by a high occurrence stability ( $C = 94.1\%$ ), and its big specimens are attraction to anglers in the middle and lower courses of the river. In the lower course four specimens of whitefin gudgeon *Gobio albipinnatus* Lukasch were collected. It is a rare and protected species in Poland, and it was now the second occasion on which it was ever captured in the Warta River system.