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REZERWATY ICHTYOLOGICZNE - STAN OBECNY I PERSPEKTYWY

FISH SANCTUARIES - PRESENT STATE AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

In Poland, there are four ichthyological (faunistic) sanctuaries. The basic aim of creating these sanctuaries was the conservation of spawning grounds and natural conditions of the following precious fish species: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), sea trout (*Salmo trutta m. trutta*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta m. fario*), (European) grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*), and vimba (*Vimba vimba*). In 1957 a sanctuary was established on a section of the Welna River extending from the Słonawy mill impoundment to the outlet of the Welna to the Warta River, then in 1959 in the whole area of the Biała Wisielka and Czarna Wisielka Rivers, in 1961 a sanctuary on the Drwęca River and in 1971 in the source section of the Grabowa River. On the basis of respective investigations the ichthyological sanctuaries were determined to undergo similar processes of degradation and changes concerning their physicochemical water characteristics as other surface water bodies in Poland. Despite determining in most of the reservoirs the extinction of several fish species for the conserving of which the sanctuaries were established they should not be liquidated due to that extinction. By active protection and creation of border zones some pristine features of rivers and the natural spawning of threatened species may be restituted. Periodical ichthyobiological monitoring should be carried on and, where justified, certain methods of exploitation allowed.