

Roczniki Naukowe PZW	14	93 - 106	Warszawa 2001
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**LIDIA WIŚNIEWSKA, BOGUSŁAW BOBEK, DOROTA PRZYWARA,  
IZABELA WIERZBOWSKA**

**WPLYW WYDRY (*Lutra lutra*) NA POPULACJE RYB  
W RZEKACH BIESZCZAD ZACHODNICH**

**THE PREDATION OF THE OTTER (*Lutra lutra*) UPON FISH POPULATIONS  
IN THE RIVERS OF WESTERN BIESZCZADY MNTS**

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**ABSTRACT**

From July to September 2000 electrofishing and collecting otter spraints in Oślawa and Oslawica rivers were carried out in the Western Bieszczady Mnts., southeastern Poland. During electrofishing 4105 individuals of fish representing 9 species were collected. The most common fish were minnow, stone loach and bullhead constituting 89,99%, 5,02% and 1,27% of the total fish collection. The otter spraint analysis (n=145) showed that among 570 individuals of the identified fish species, the highest value of the percentage shores for trout (47,09%), bullhead (27,37%), and minnow (12,21%). Comparison of the electrofishing results and the otter diet showed that regarding numbers the most preferred by the otter were bullhead, barbel, trout and stone loach for which calculated Ivlev's index (E) was +0,86, +0,76, +0,69, +0,66 respectively. In relation to the biomass, bullhead (E=+0,80) and trout (E=+0,70) were only the species preferred by the otter.