

The Ichthyofauna of the Shoreline Zone in the Longitudinal Profile of the Danube River, Bulgaria

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Abstract: The fish community in the shoreline zone of the Bulgarian section of the Danube River (r. km 376-840) was studied in different seasons of 2005-2006. Totally 38 sites were sampled using two methods-beach seining and electrofishing. In total, 44 fish species belonging to 12 families were recorded. Of them, 39 species are indigenous to the ichthyofauna of the Danube basin. First records of *Gasterosteus aculeatus* and nonindigenous *Gambusia holbrooki* are reported from the main channel of the Bulgarian Danube. In October 2005, *Neogobius fluviatilis* (91.18%) occurred most frequently followed by *Alburnus alburnus* and *N. kessleri* (88.24% each). Regarding the beach seine samples, *N. fluviatilis*, followed by *A. alburnus* and *N. melanostomus*, reached the highest abundance. Regarding the electrofishing, *A. alburnus* was most abundant followed by *N. kessleri* and *Leuciscus idus*. Nineteen of the species recorded are of high conservation concern in Bulgaria.

Key words: Lower Danube, shoreline zone, fish community, distribution, abundance, endangered species