

TADEUSZ KRZYWOSZ

PROGRAM OCHRONY RAKÓW W POLSCE

THE PROGRAMME OF CRAYFISH PROTECTION IN POLAND

Instytut Rybactwa Śródlądowego w Olsztynie,  
Zakład Rybactwa Jeziorowego w Giżycku  
ul. Rajska 2, II 500 Giżycko

#### ABSTRACT

The aims of the crayfish protection programme is to protect the existing resources of indigenous crayfish species, i.e. of *Astacus astacus* L. and *A. leptodactylus* Esch., and to re-introduce them to these habitats where they used to occur before but have disappeared, on condition that the reasons for their disappearance have been removed. The programme is implemented by the Institute of Inland Fisheries over the entire area of our country and supported by EkoFundusz. It has been planned for 1999-2001. Surveys of the existing crayfish stocks are carried out based on catches and direct observations, and state and suitability of potential habitats for crayfish restoration are being assessed. The results are verified and used to formulate recommendations for crayfish protection. Moreover, „surplus” amounts are fish out and transferred to selected habitats. It is planned to reintroduce native crayfish to a few tens of habitats.