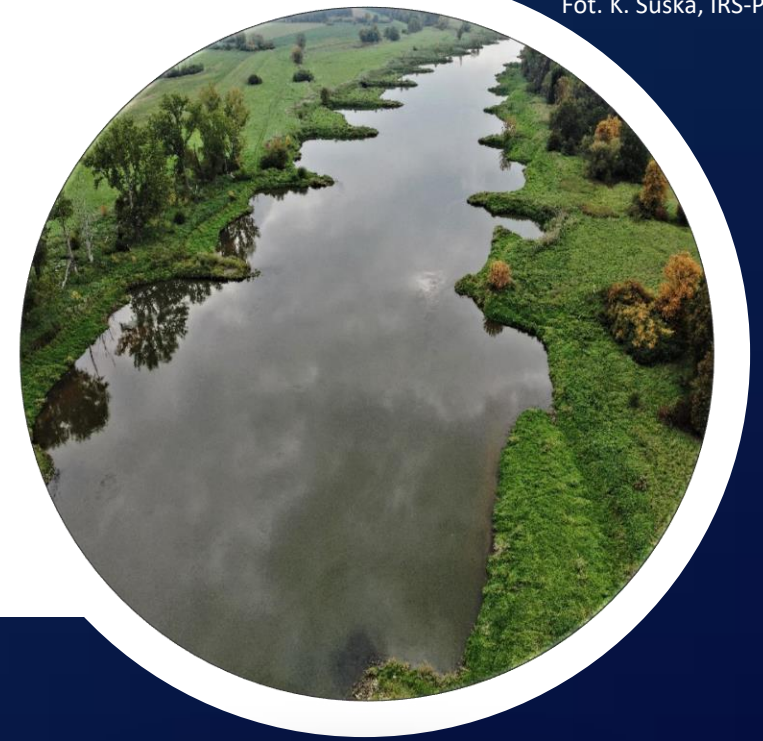


Scientific Conference:

**„HARMFUL BLOOMS OF *PRYMNESIUM PARVUM*
IN FRESHWATERS – CONSEQUENCES AND
MITIGATION MEASURES”**

*Institute of Environmental Protection – National Research Institute
Warsaw, March, 31 2023*



**WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE DISASTER
IN ODRA RIVER IN SUMMER 2022? –
RESULTS OF THE REPORTS**

*Reported by Agnieszka Kolada
Institute of Environmental Protection – National Research Institute*

REPORT OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 IN NUMBERS:

Pursuant to the order of the Minister of Climate and Environment, Mrs. Anna Moskwa, on August 18, 2022 [the Team for the situation on the Odra River](#) was appointed to recognise the potential causes and consequences of the disaster in the Odra River.



14 research centres and institutions involved



Team of ~50 scientists involved in the report preparation and over 2 ths. people engaged in data collection in the field and laboratories;



Over 2,7 ths. samples tested and over 3,5 ths. analyses performed;



10 thematic issues presented in the first report

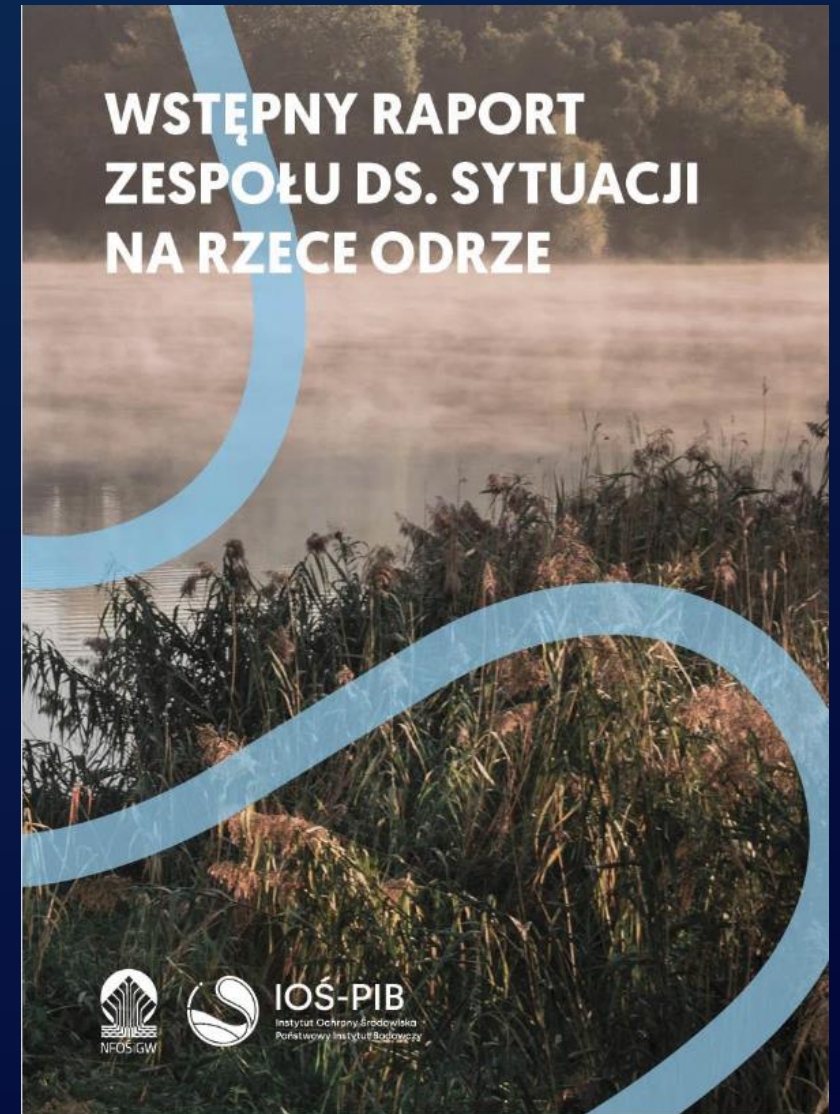


Almost 200 items of professional literature analysed



TOPICS COVERED IN THE PRELIMINARY REPORT

- Observation of fish die-off
- Toxicological and anatomopathological examination of fish
- Hydrometeorological situation in the period preceding fish die-off
- The quality of the Oder River waters in the period of fish die-off
- Analysis of satellite images concerning chlorophyll-*a* concentration
- Factual background for the formulation and verification of the hypothesis on the relationship between fish die-off and the activity of the algae in the Oder River
- Identification of the presence and bloom of *Prymnesium parvum*
- Identification of the presence of *PKS* genes
- Determination of primnesines produced by *Prymnesium parvum*
- Algae blooms in the light of research to-date



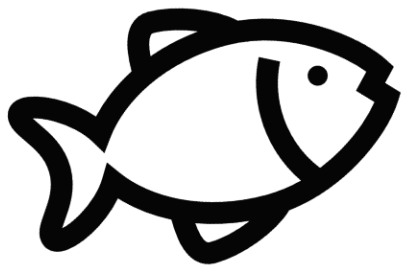
<https://ios.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Wstepny-raport-zespołu-ds.-sytuacji-na-rzecz-Odrze-2.pdf>

TOPICS COVERED IN THE FINAL REPORT

- Water law permits for the water use of the Oder river and its tributaries;
- Summary of the hydrological situation on the Odra river;
- Water quality of the Odra River and its tributaries based on the state monitoring results;
- Temporal and spatial variability of physicochemical parameters of the waters of the Odra river and its tributaries during and after the disaster;
- Occurrence of *Prymnesium parvum* against the physicochemical environmental conditions;
- Determination of primnesins (PRM) produced by *Prymnesium parvum*;
- Studies of the Szczecin Lagoon and Roztoka Odrzańska in August and September 2022;
- Analysis of the state of fish and molluscs after the disaster;
- Technical ways to neutralize golden algae (*Prymnesium parvum*);
- Summary and conclusions



OBSERVATIONS OF FISH IN ODRA RIVER

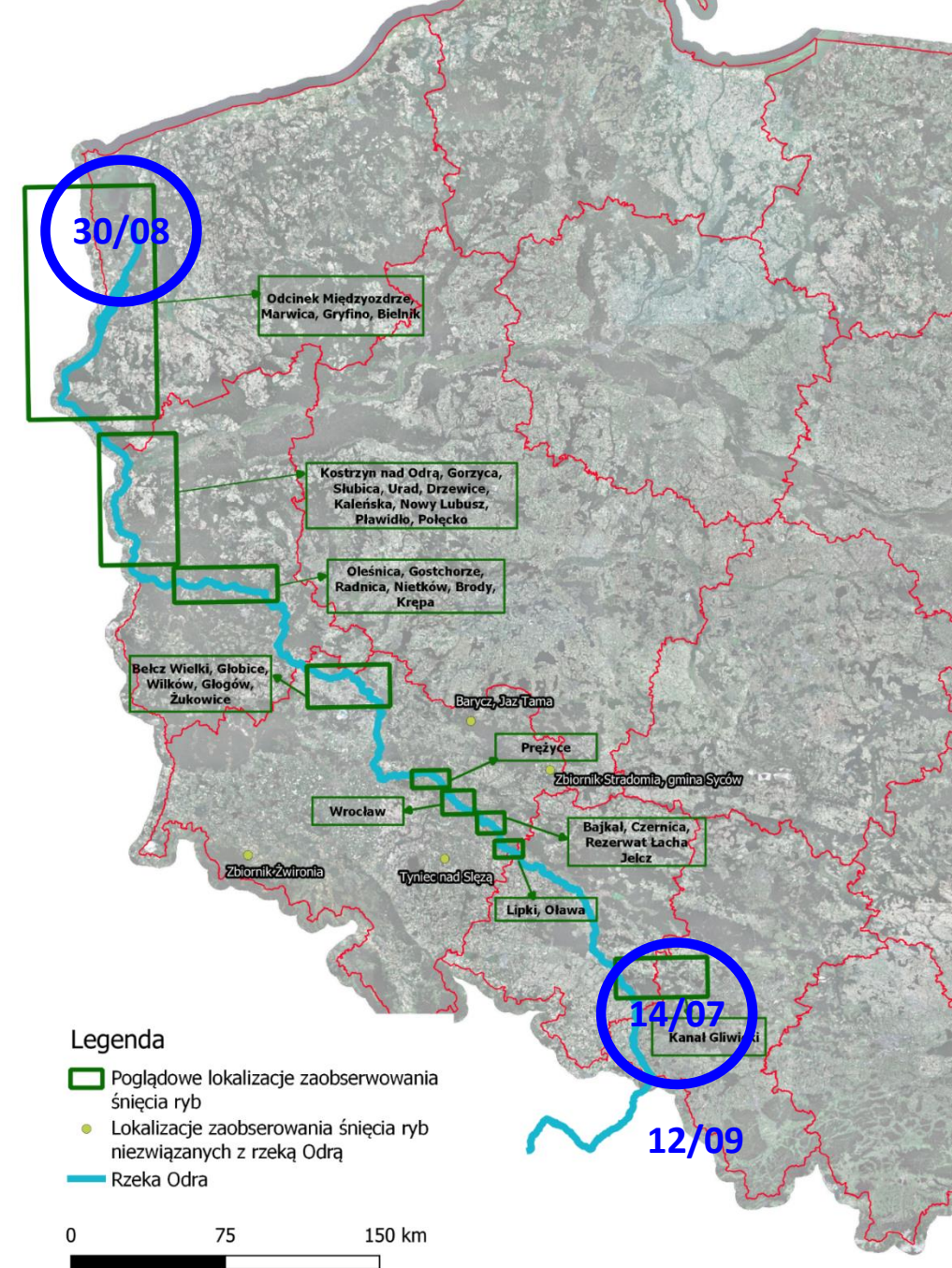


OBSERVATION OF FISH DIE-OFF

- The first fish kills in the summer period of 2022 on July 14 were observed, in the Gliwice Canal in the Opolskie Voivodeship.
- The fish die-off in all 5 voivodeships: śląskie, opolskie, dolnośląskie, lubuskie i zachodniopomorskie were observed from the end of July to +/- end of August.
- From the end of July 2022 to 12th of September 2022, a total of over 249 tonnes of dead fish were noticed.

Voivodeship	Amount of fish die-off [t]
śląskie (Kanał Gliwicki)	7,3 t
opolskie (Kanał Gliwicki)	
dolnośląskie	26,1 t
lubuskie	46,42 t
zachodniopomorskie	169 t
Total:	~ 249 ton

Due to diverse methodology, the processes complexity and the dynamics of the situation, these data should be considered estimates.

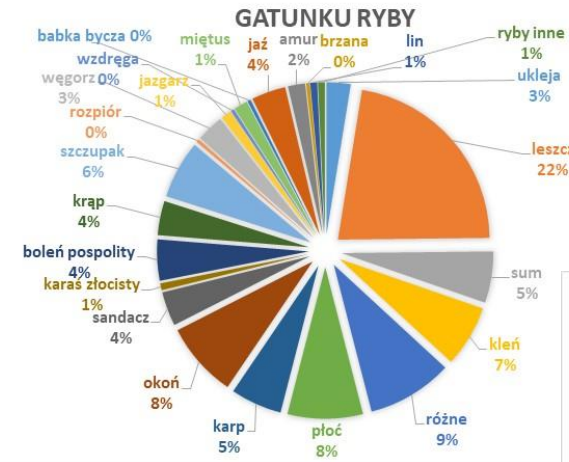


EXAMINATION OF FISH

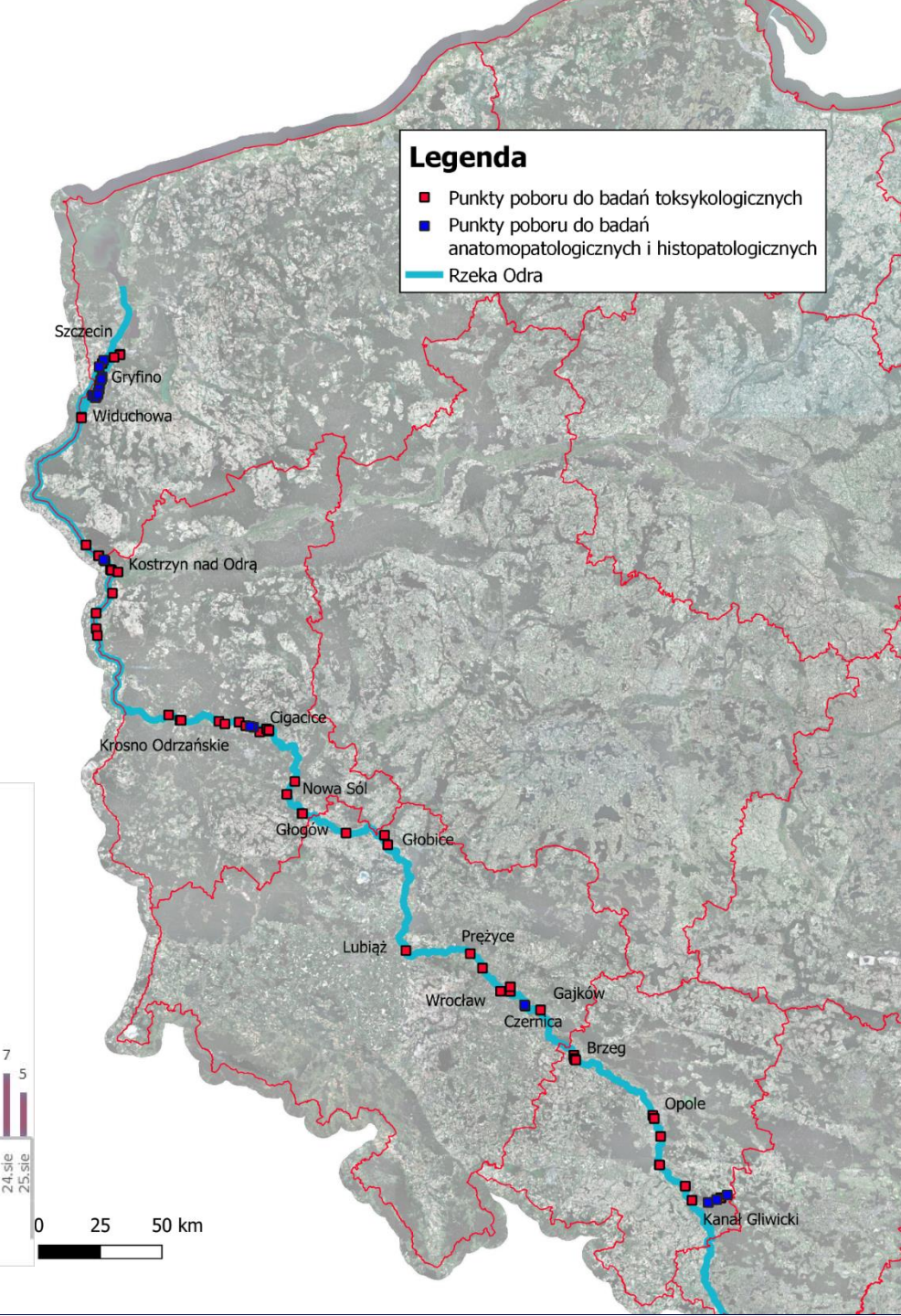
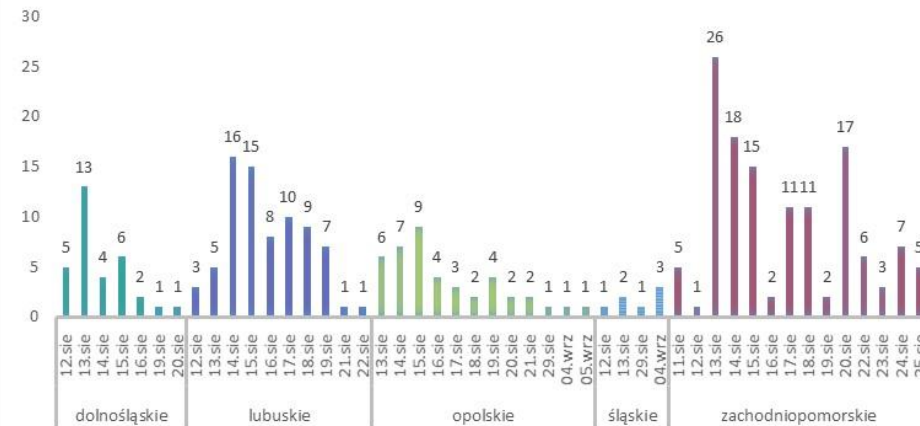
Between August, 2 and September, 5, the Veterinary Inspection collected 334 fish samples for laboratory tests that included:

- 278 samples for toxicological tests;
- 56 samples for anatomopathological and histopathological tests

PROCENTOWA LICZBA PRÓBEK POBRANYCH Z DANEGO



ZESTAWIENIE LICZBY PRÓBEK POBRANYCH DO BADAŃ TOKSYKOLOGICZNYCH BADAANYCH W ZHW



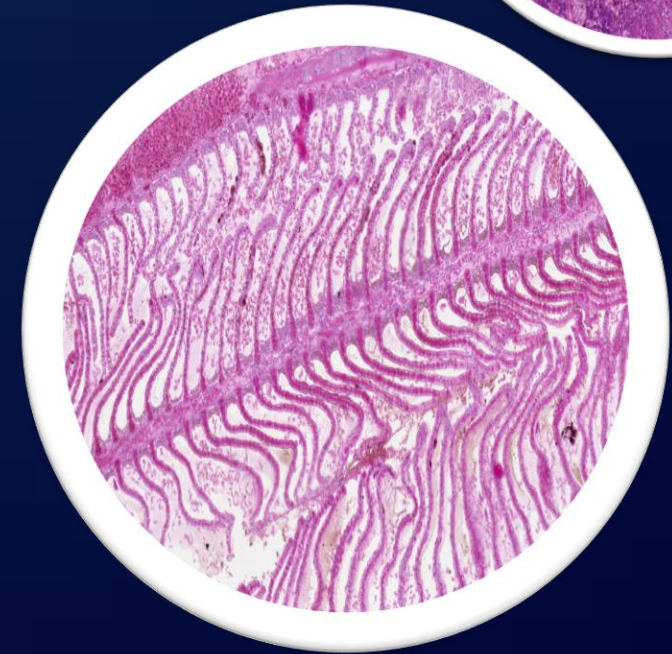
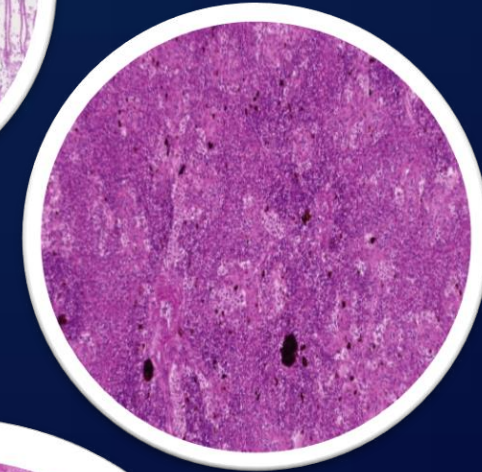
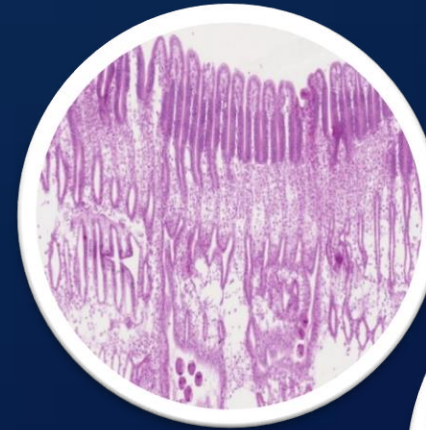
TOXICOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

- Toxicological examination were carried out by **the Veterinary Inspection and the National Veterinary Institute – National Research Institute in Puławy**:
 - 148 tests for lead, cadmium, mercury and arsenium.
 - 98 analyzes of organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).
 - 109 samples in the direction of toxic elements, pesticides, mold toxins and other toxic compounds.
 - 6 samples in the direction of permanent organic pollutants and radioactive contamination.
- Over 300 chemical substances and trace elements were tested;
- The concentration of the substances in the provided samples do not differ from the levels characteristic of environmental contamination in rivers in Poland;
- Based on the current toxicological knowledge, it was excluded that these compounds were the cause of poisoning and the fish die-off.



ANATOMOPATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

- Clinical, anatomopathological, parasitological, bacteriological, mycological, histopathological examinations of fish were carried out by **the National Inland Fisheries Research Institute** and several Universities;
- 116 samples of fish and 7 of mules were examined.
- The majority of the examined animals was healthy and showed no disease symptoms.
- The histopathological image of all examined animals indicated **acute damage to the organs with the highest blood supply (gills, spleen, kidneys)**.
- Disturbances in hematopoietic processes and damage to the gills are most likely related to the action of **haemolytic toxins**, which include, among others, primnesines secreted by *Prymnesium parvum*.



FISH STATUS AFTER THE DISEASTER

Status of ichthyofauna in Odra River after the disaster – research by the **National Inland Fisheries Research Institute** (report published)

- Research in autumn 2022 on 15 sites on the Odra and Parnica rivers within 14 waterbodies - comparison with the state monitoring results from 2014-2021;
- Comparative research on 9 sites located in the middle course of the Odra River conducted in 2017 and 2022.



Fot. J. Szlakowski, IRS-PIB

Comparison of the results of fish monitoring in the Odra River in the period 2014-2021 and 2022

Indicator	Monitoring 2014–2021	Monitoring 2022	%
Average weight of the catch per site (kg)	13,6	6,5	47,9
Average number of fish (n)	578	309	53,5
Average fish weight in catch (g)	23,5	21,0	89,4
Size structure (% fish of length <15 cm)	83	89	107,2

Comparison of the results on 9 research sites sampled in 2022 and 2017

No.	Site	Monitoring 2017 r.				Monitoring 2022 r.			
		Abundance	Total weight (g)	Number of species	Class based on IBI	Abundance	Total weight (g)	Number of species	Class based on IBI
1.	Lubiąż	189	5517	14	3	270	3424	9	3
2.	Przyborów	625	7968	15	3	987	12774	14	3
3.	Chobienia	498	3476	14	3	1044	19863	15	3
4.	Głogów	330	9373	15	2	757	27153	18	3
5.	Bytom Odrzański	984	12763	21	2	1323	22401	16	3
6.	Kiełcz	1100	11296	17	2	356	10634	15	3
7.	Cigacice	1473	7311	14	2	83	2618	11	3
8.	Osiecznica	2408	10036	19	2	357	6360	15	3
9.	ujście Nysy Łużyckiej	4469	20069	21	2	714	27032	17	3

QUALITY OF WATERS IN THE ODRA RIVER



STATE MONITORING OF SURFACE WATERS

- Odra River has been monitored within the state monitoring program, in 2022 in 17 control points;
- The state monitoring is aimed at assessing the ecological status/potential and chemical status of waters as required by the WFD-compliant;
- The sampling methods and the scope of the indicators are compliant with the Ordinance of the Minister of Infrastructure on the forms and methods of monitoring... (Journal of Laws 2021, item. 1576).

Results of the waterbody assessment in the Odra River in 2021

Code	Name	Year	BQEs	HyMo	PHC	PHC (3.6)	Ecological status/potential	Chemical status	Status
PLRW6000191139	Odra od granicy państwa w Chałupkach do Olzy	2021	5	1	>2	2	bad	LTG	BAD
PLRW6000011513	Odra od Olzy do wypływu z polderu Buków	2021	No classification	No classification	No classification	No classification	No classification	LTG	BAD
PLRW600019117159	Odra od wypływu ze zbiornika Polder Buków do Kanalu Gliwickiego	2021	4	5	>2	2	poor	LTG	BAD
PLRW600019117159	Odra od Kanalu Gliwickiego do Osobłogi	2021	5	2	>2	>2	bad	LTG	BAD
PLRW60002111799	Odra od Osobłogi do Małej Panwi	2021	4	3	>2	>2	poor	LTG	BAD
PLRW60002113337	Odra od Małej Panwi do granic Wrocławia	2021	4	1	>2	2	poor	LTG	BAD
PLRW60002113399	Odra w granicach Wrocławia	2021	5	5	>2	2	bad	LTG	BAD
PLRW600021137579	Odra od gr. Wrocławia do Wałów Śląskich	2021	5	2	>2	2	bad	LTG	BAD
PLRW6000211511	Odra od Wałów Śląskich do Kanalu Wschodniego	2021	4	2	>2	2	poor	LTG	BAD
PLRW60002115379	Odra od Kanalu Wschodniego do Czarnej Strugi	2021	2	1	>2	2	moderate	LTG	BAD
PLRW6000211739	Odra od Czarnej Strugi do Nysy Łużyckiej	2021	3	3	>2	2	moderate	LTG	BAD
PLRW60002117999	Odra od Nysy Łużyckiej do Warty	2020	4	1	>2	2	poor	LTG	BAD
PLRW60002119199	Odra od Warty do Odry Zachodniej	2021	4	4	>2	2	poor	LTG	BAD
PLRW6000211971	Odra od Odry Zachodniej do Pamicy	2021	4	2	>2	2	poor	LTG	BAD
PLRW6000211999	Odra od Pamicy do ujścia	2021	5	2	>2	2	bad	LTG	BAD
Canals and tributaries									
PLRW60001911569	Ruda od zbiornika Rybnik do ujścia	2021	4	2	>2	2	poor	LTG	BAD
PLRW60001911655	Kłodnica od Promnej do Kozłówki	2021	4	5	>2	2	poor	LTG	BAD
PLRW6000011659	Kanał Gliwicki z Kłodnicą do Kozłówki do Dramy	2021	No classification	4	No classification	2	No classification	LTG	BAD
PLRW60000117169	Kanał Gliwicki	2021	No classification	2	1	No classification	No classification	LTG	BAD
PLRW60000117166	Kanał Kędzierzyński	2021	No classification	1	1	No classification	No classification	LTG	BAD
PLRW600019115899	Bierawka od Knurówki do ujścia	2021	5	1	>2	>2	bad	LTG	BAD
PLRW600019116999	Kłodnica od Dramy do ujścia	2021	5	2	>2	>2	bad	LTG	BAD

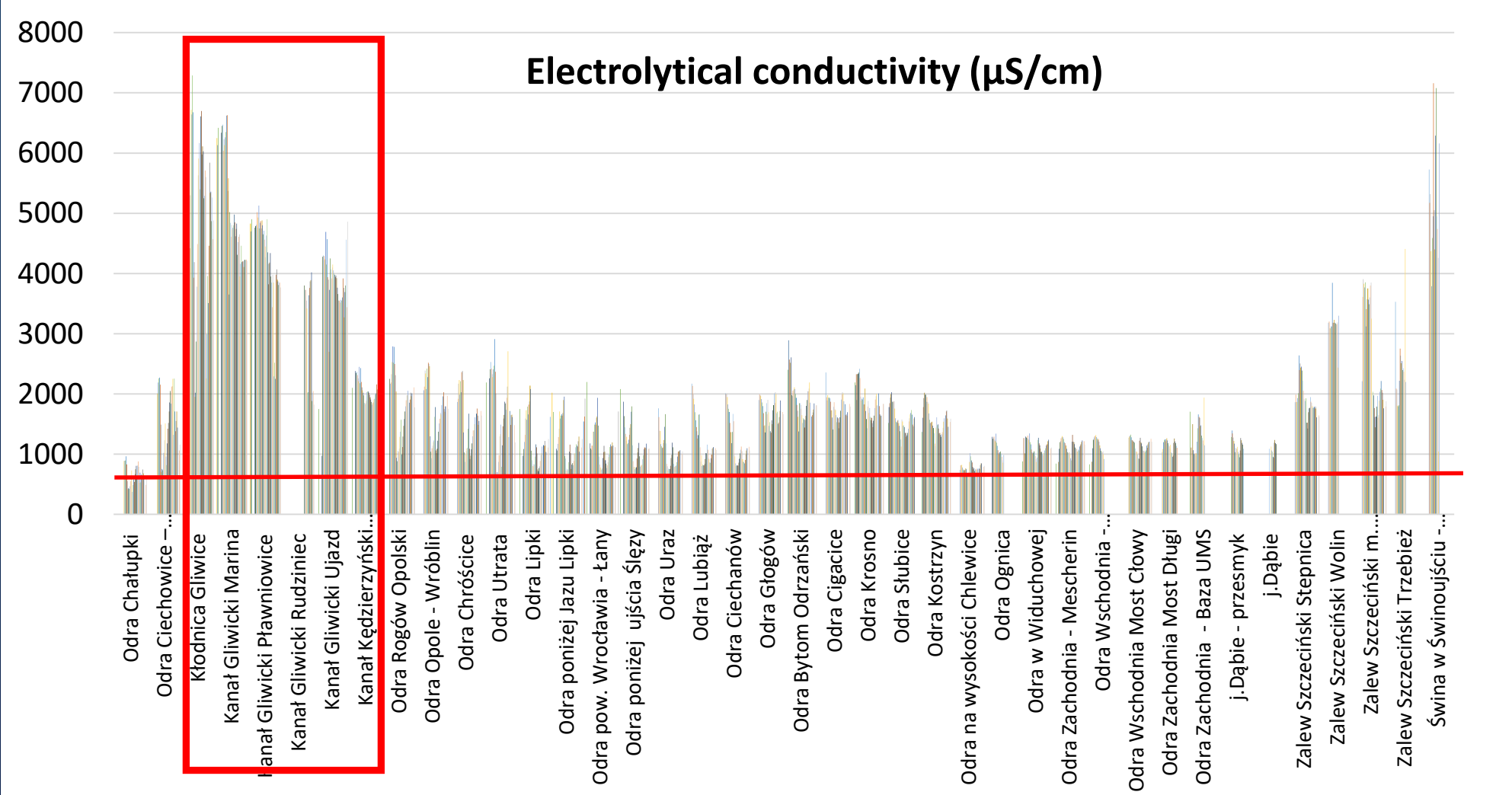


INTERVENTION MONITORING

- Starting from 28th of July the Central Research Laboratory of Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, started daily sampling at additional points on the river.
- The number of points approached 37.
- Until 20th September over 34,000 physicochemical determinations were carried out, in the fields of:
 - ✓ **Thermal and oxygen conditions:** water temperature, dissolved oxygen, oxygen saturation, ChZT-Mn, total organic carbon, total suspended solids,
 - ✓ **Salinity conditions:** electrolytic conductivity, sulphates, chlorides, sodium, potassium, hardness,
 - ✓ **Acidification conditions:** pH,
 - ✓ **Biogens:** Kjeldahl nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, ammonium nitrogen, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, phosphate
 - ✓ **Specific pollutants:** cyanides, phenol index, petroleum derivatives,
 - ✓ **Metals:** chlorine, mercury, cadmium, lead, nickel,
 - ✓ **Elements:** Li, Be, B, Al., Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Se, Sr, Mo, Ag, Cd, Sn, Sb, Ba, Tl, Pb.



SALINITY INDICATORS

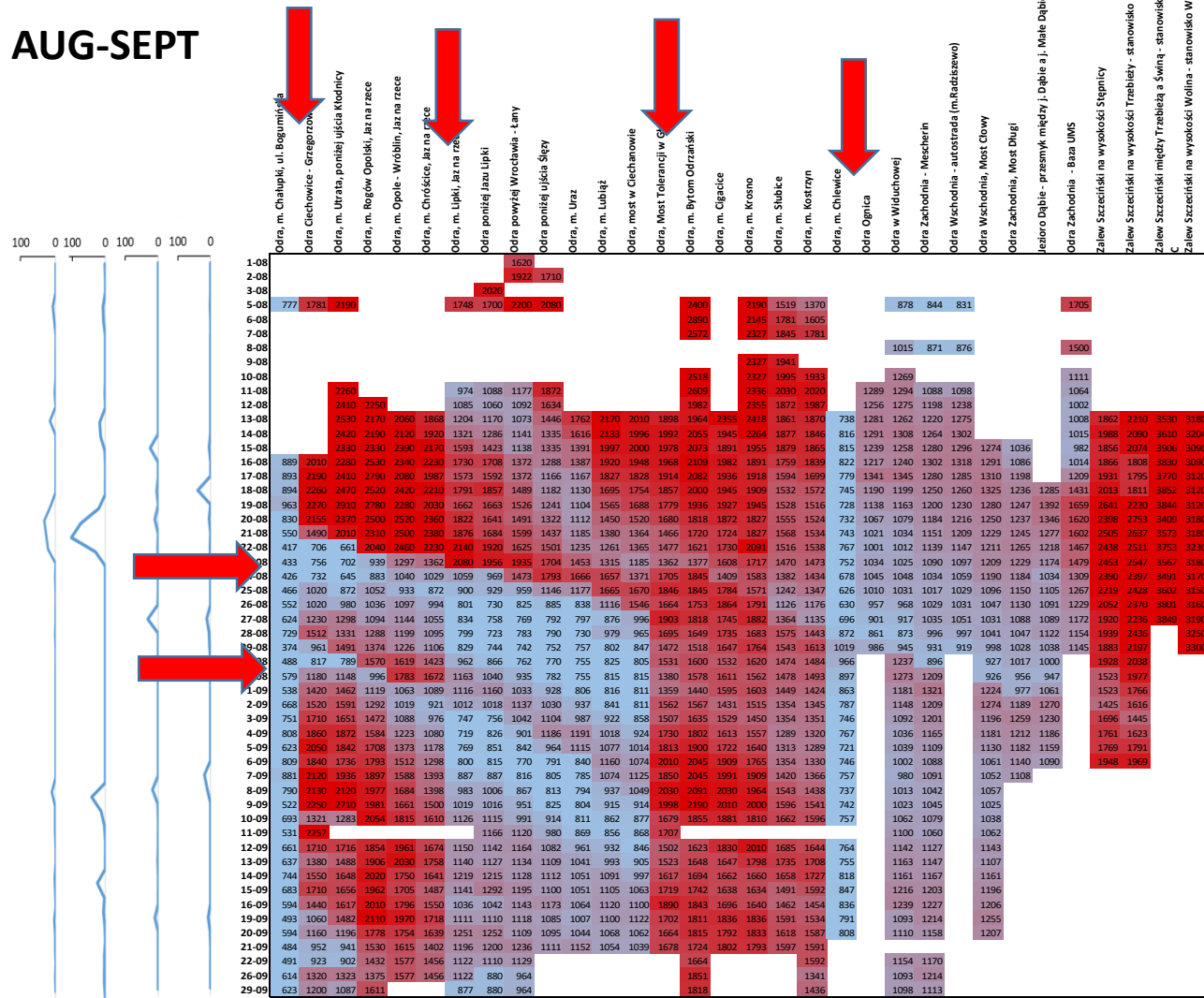


Threshold of the good ecological status/potential $\leq 850 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$

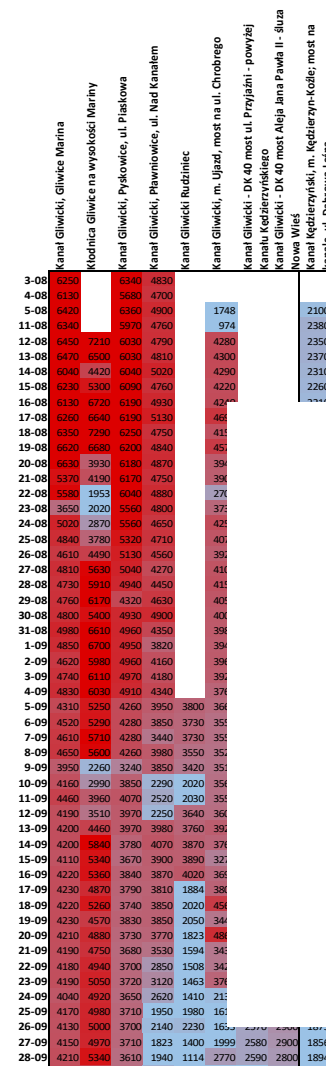
SALINITY INDICATORS

ELECTROLYTICAL CONDUCTIVITY

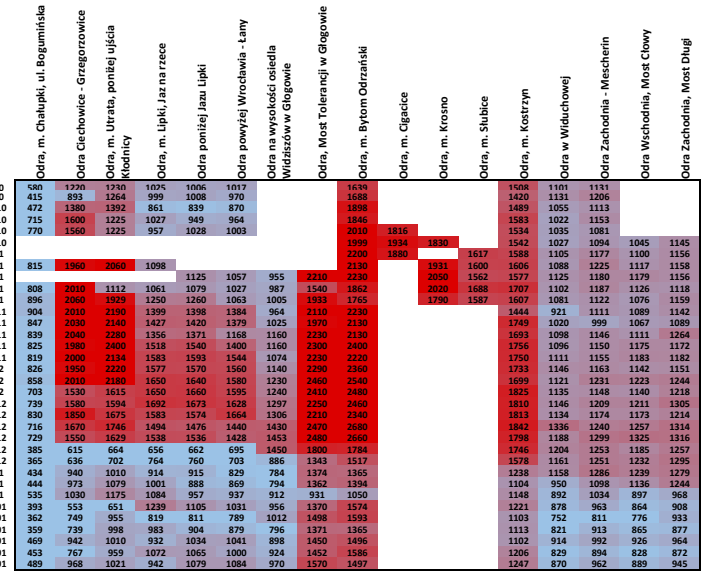
AUG-SEPT



Range: 374-3906 µS/cm



Range: 973-7290 µS/cm

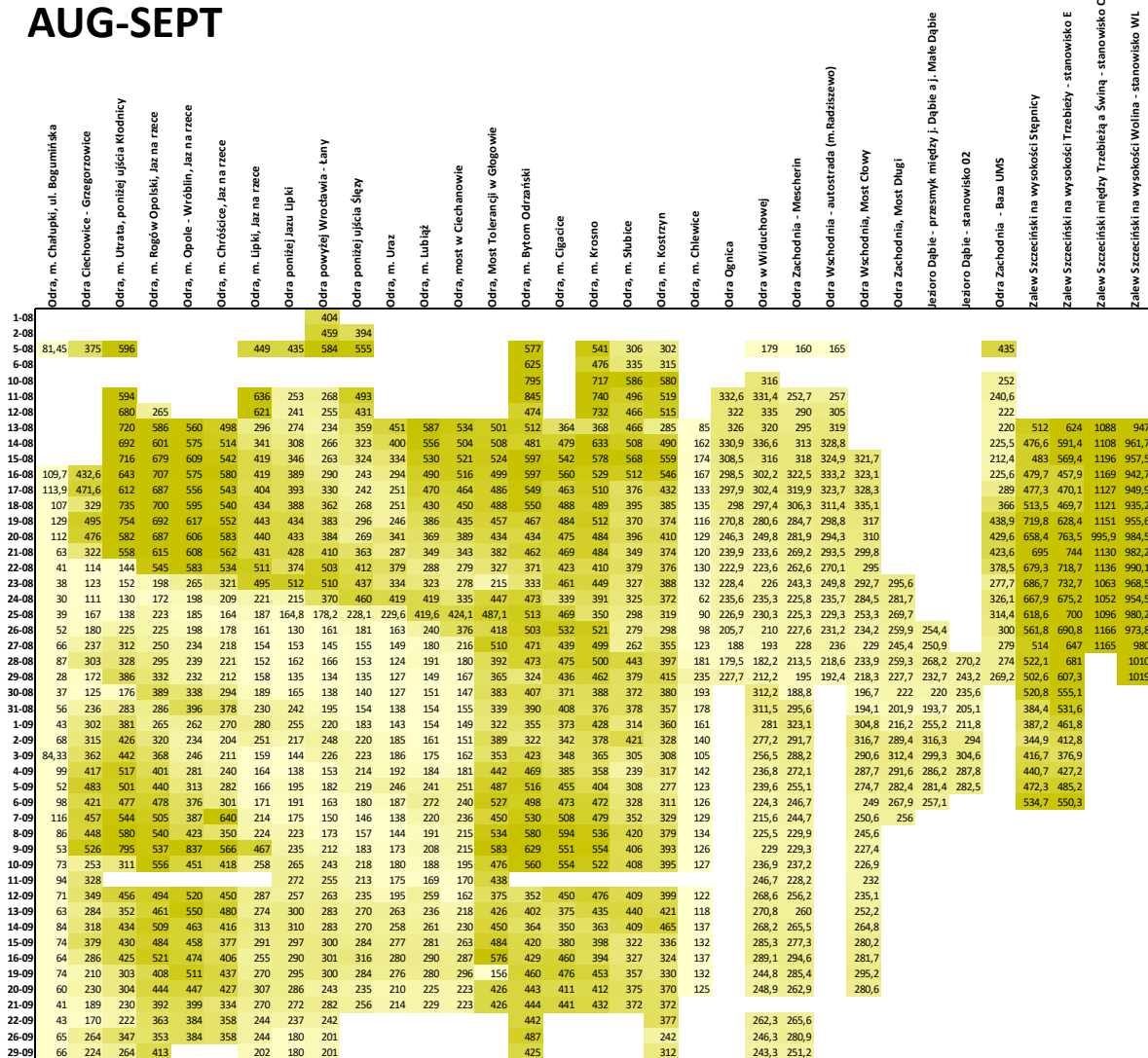


Range: 359-2680 µS/cm

SALINITY INDICATORS

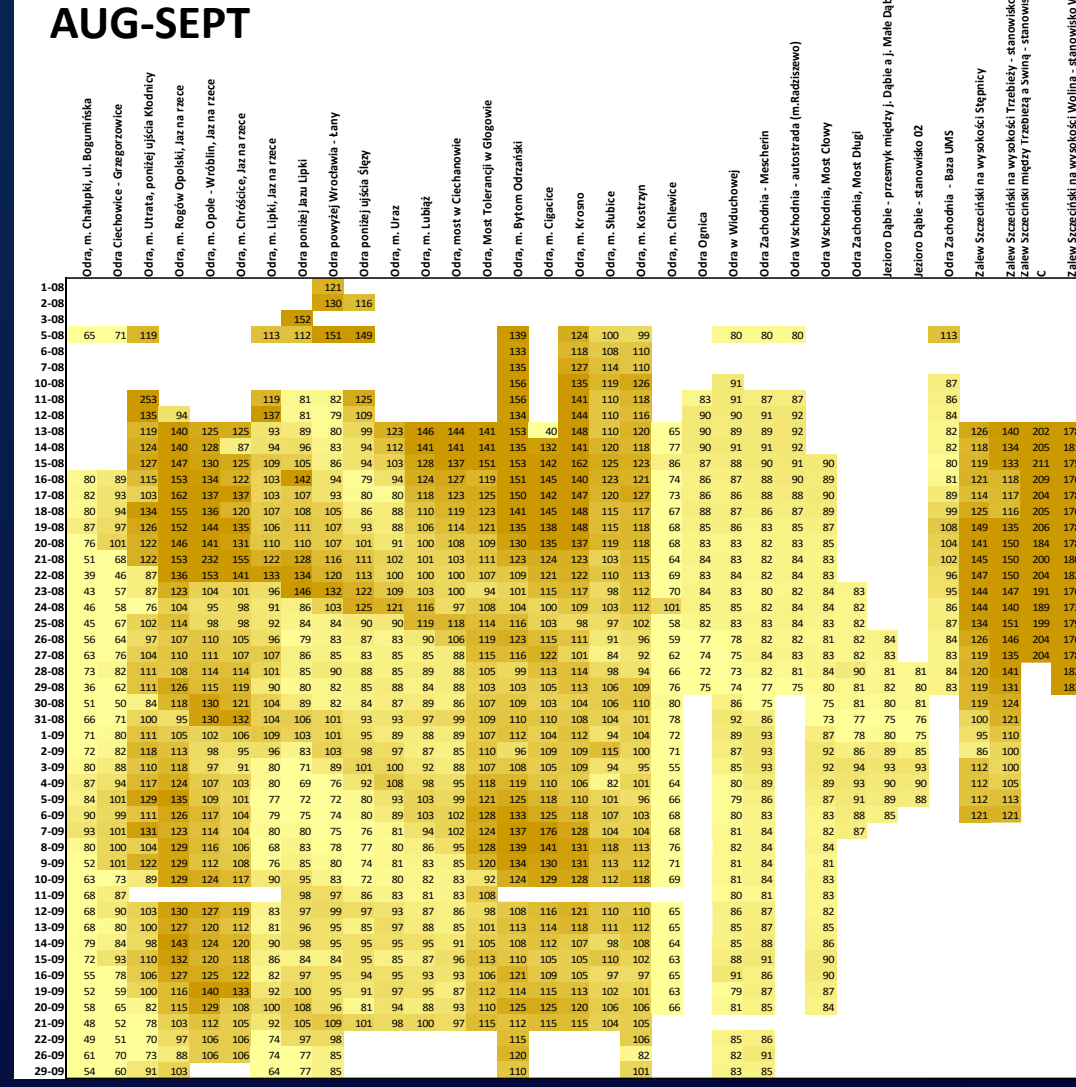
CHLORIDES

AUG-SEPT



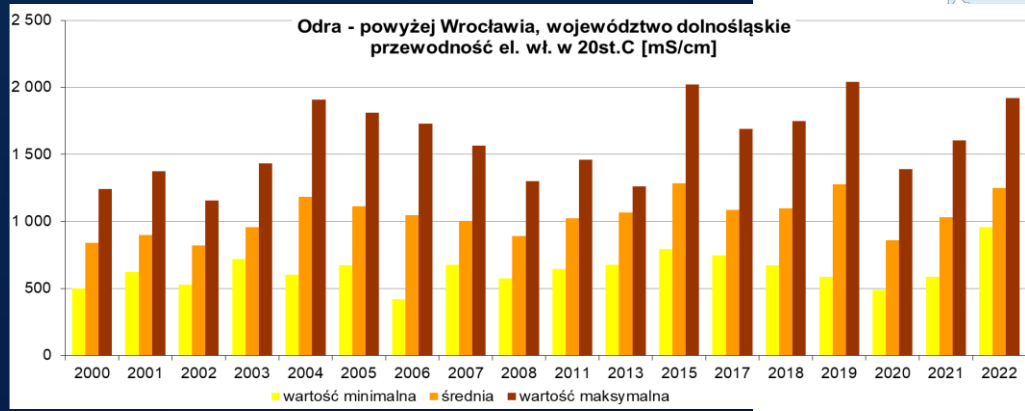
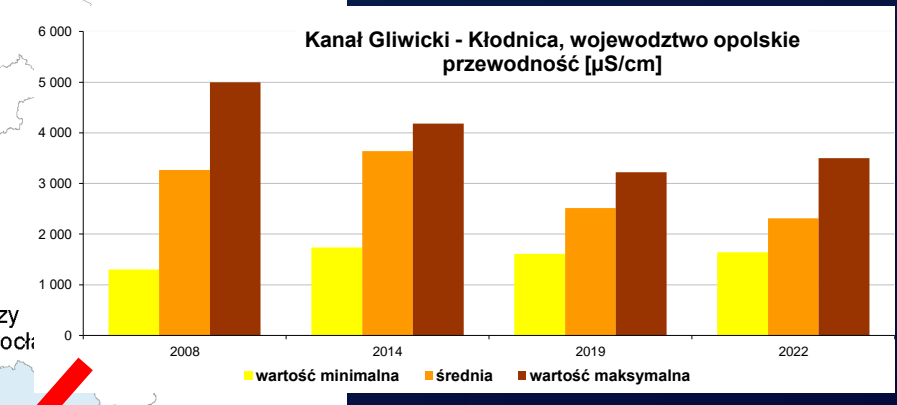
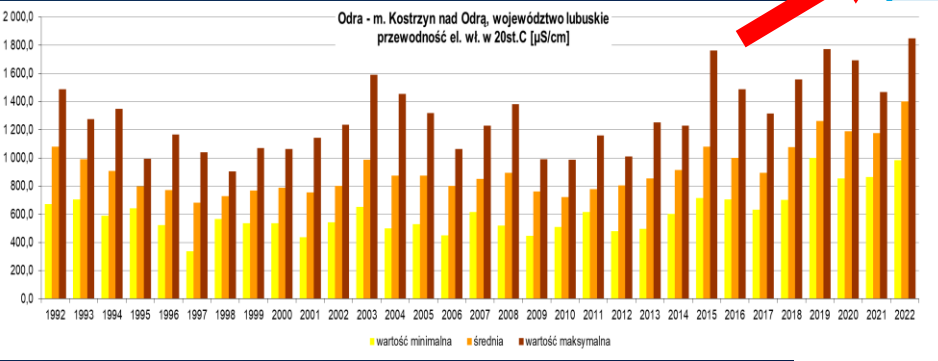
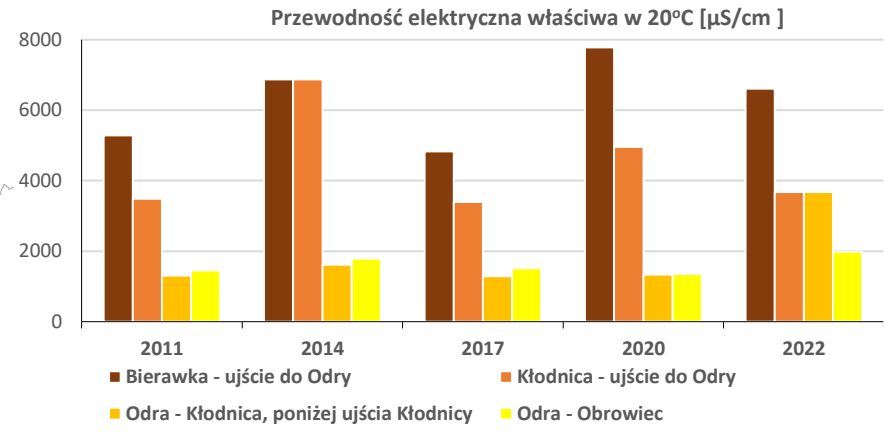
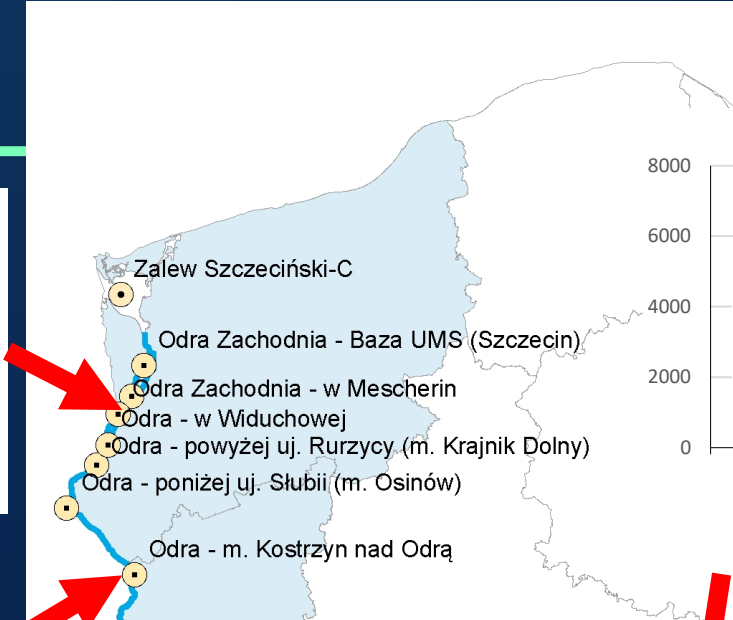
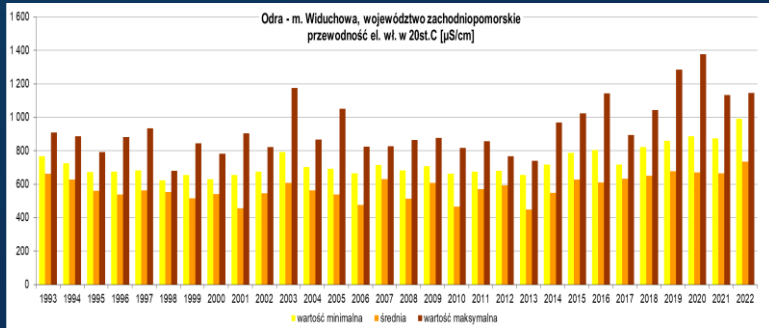
SULPHATES

AUG-SEPT



SALINITY INDICATORS

ELECTROLYTICAL CONDUCTIVITY



IDENTIFICATION AND RESEARCH OF *PRYMNESIUM PARVUM*



IDENTIFICATION OF *PRYMNESIUM PARVUM* IN THE ODRA RIVER

1. The "golden algae hypothesis" was formulated in mid-August;
2. In the period 12.08-8.09.2022, 211 water samples from various sections of the Odra River, and reservoirs, canals and tributaries were collected, and tested for phytoplankton;
3. In 165 (78% of the total samples), the presence of *Prymnesium parvum* was recorded and its number was calculated;
4. In the analyzed samples, the number of >50 million *Prymnesium parvum* cells/L was found in approx. 35% of the samples, of which >100 million cells/L in almost half of these samples, i.e. 22% of the entire sample pool
5. The presence and possible expression of genes encoding enzymes involved in the production of prymnesins in the examined samples were confirmed by the genetic tests.
6. Using liquid chromatography combined with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), three variants of type-B prymnesins were detected in the samples from Odra River.

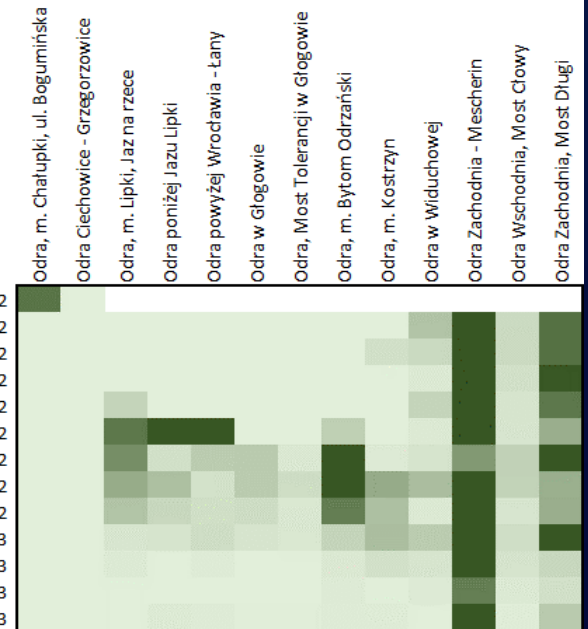
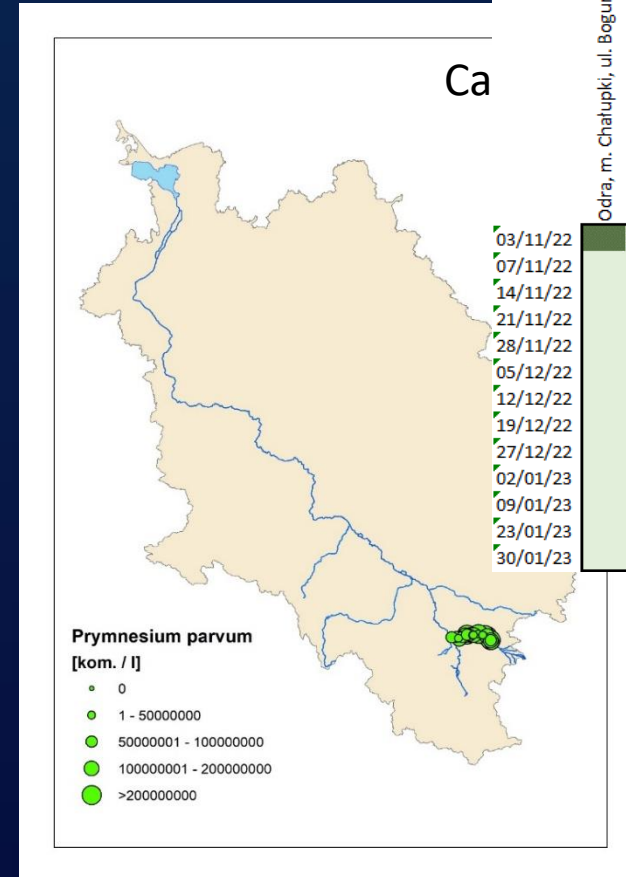
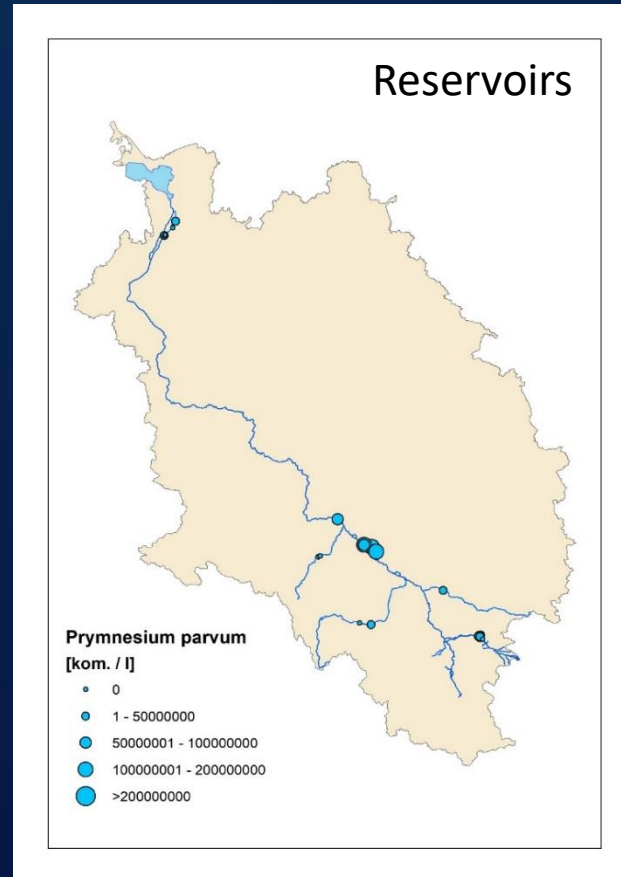
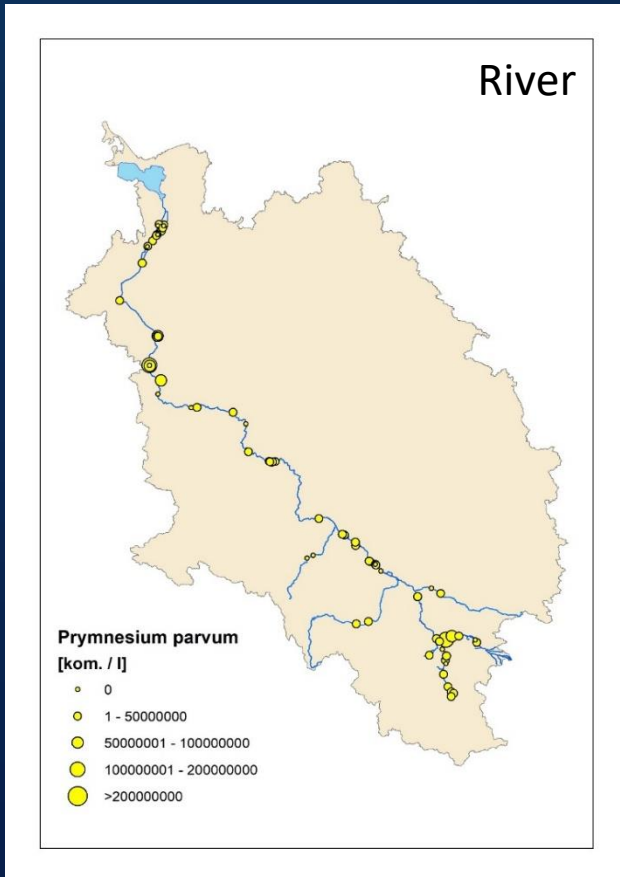


PRYMNESIUM PARVUM IN THE ODRA RIVER

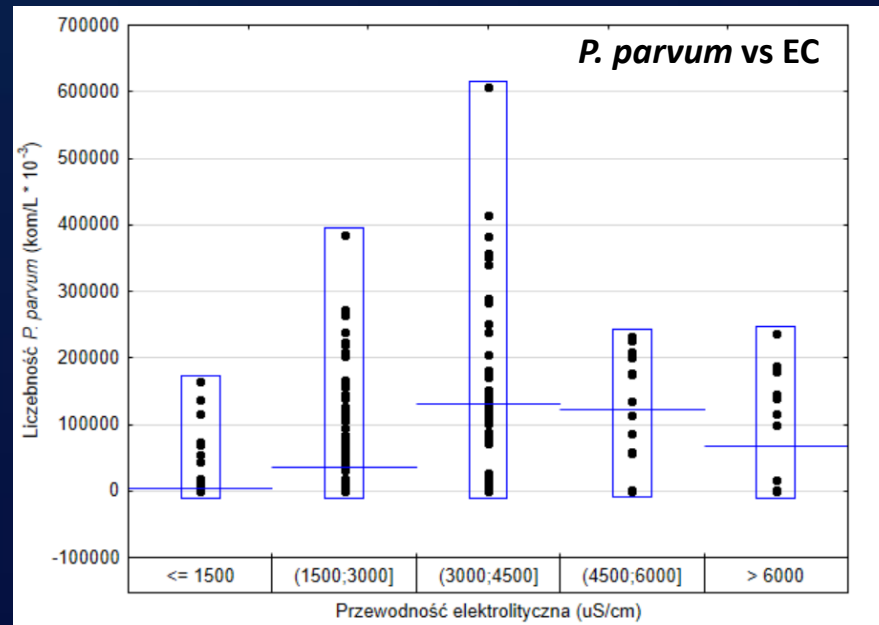
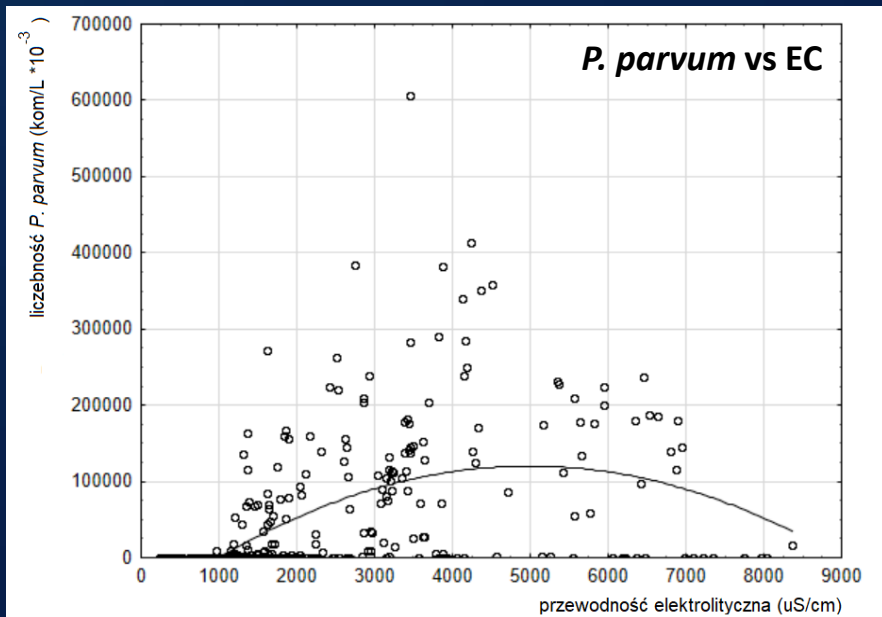
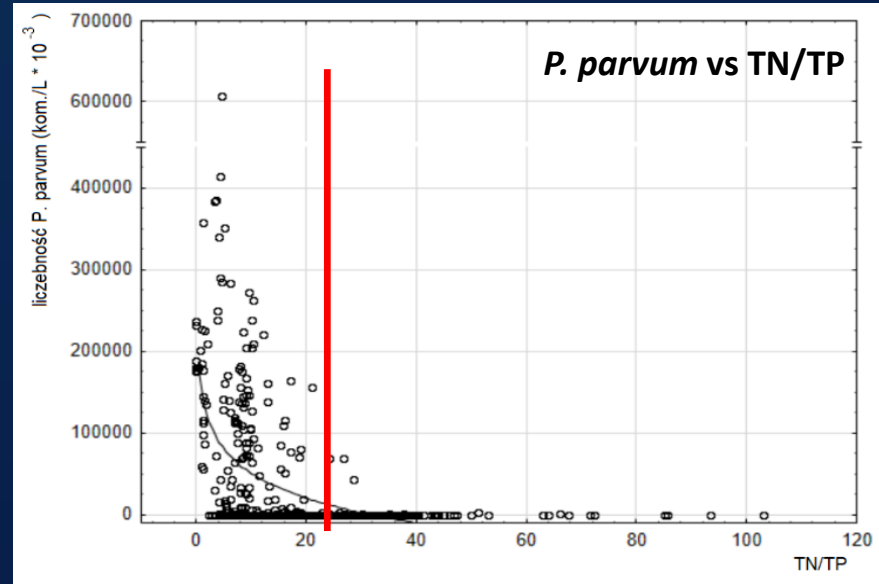
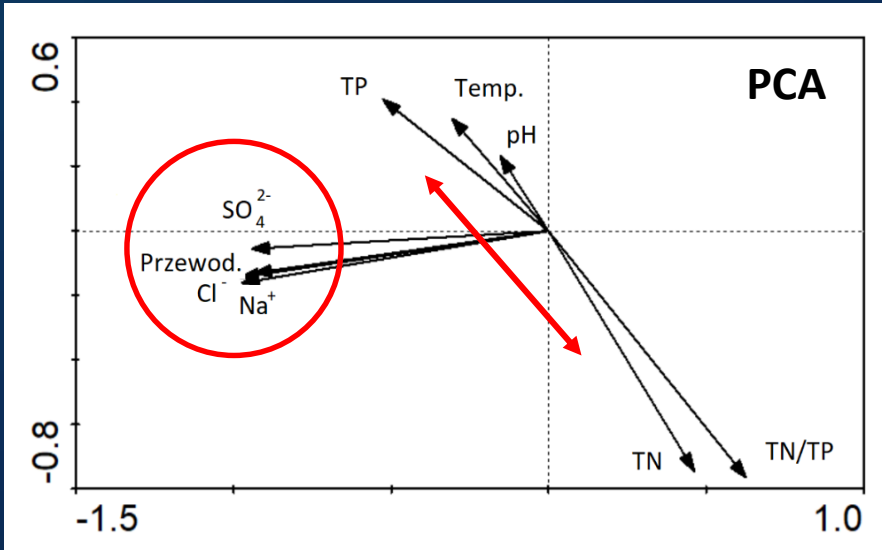
Water samples for the determination of *P. parvum* determination:

- 18.08-07.09 analysed by the IRS-PIB in an irregular regime (results in the report of 30.09)
- November to still, analysed by Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection **once a week**

Average abundance of *Prymnesium parvum* (cells/l) from August 12, 2022 to January 1, 2023

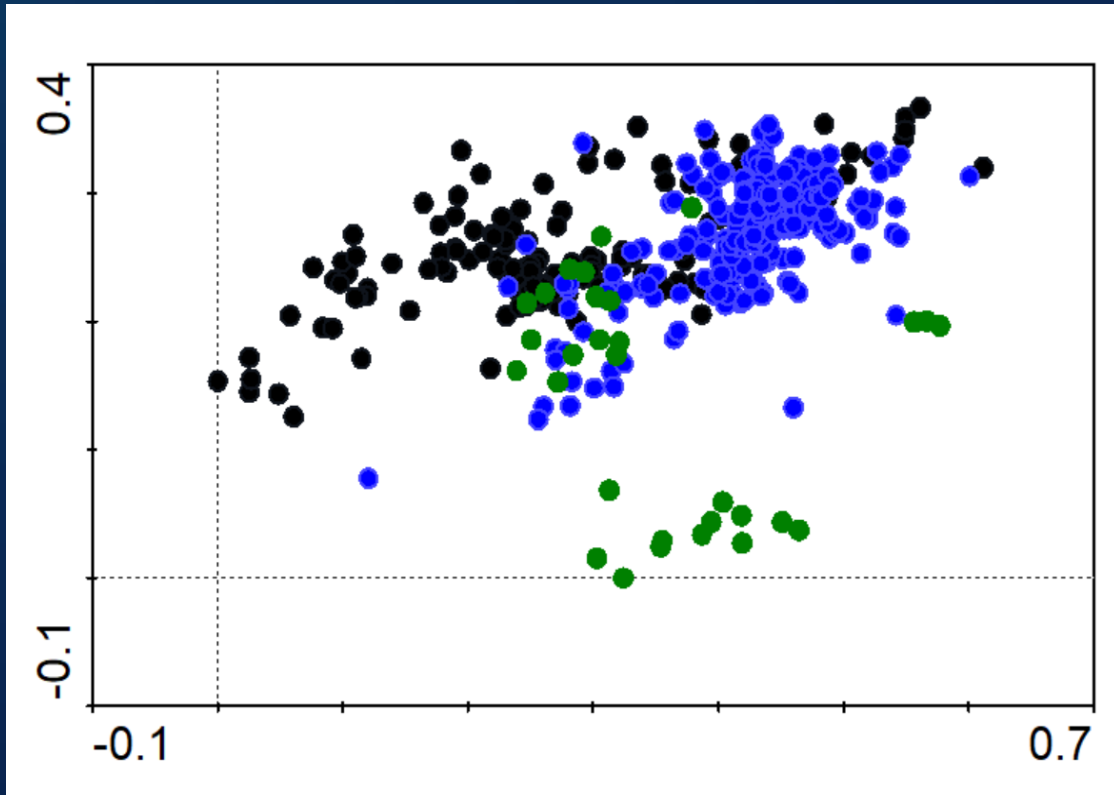


PRYMNESIUM PARVUM IN THE Odra RIVER



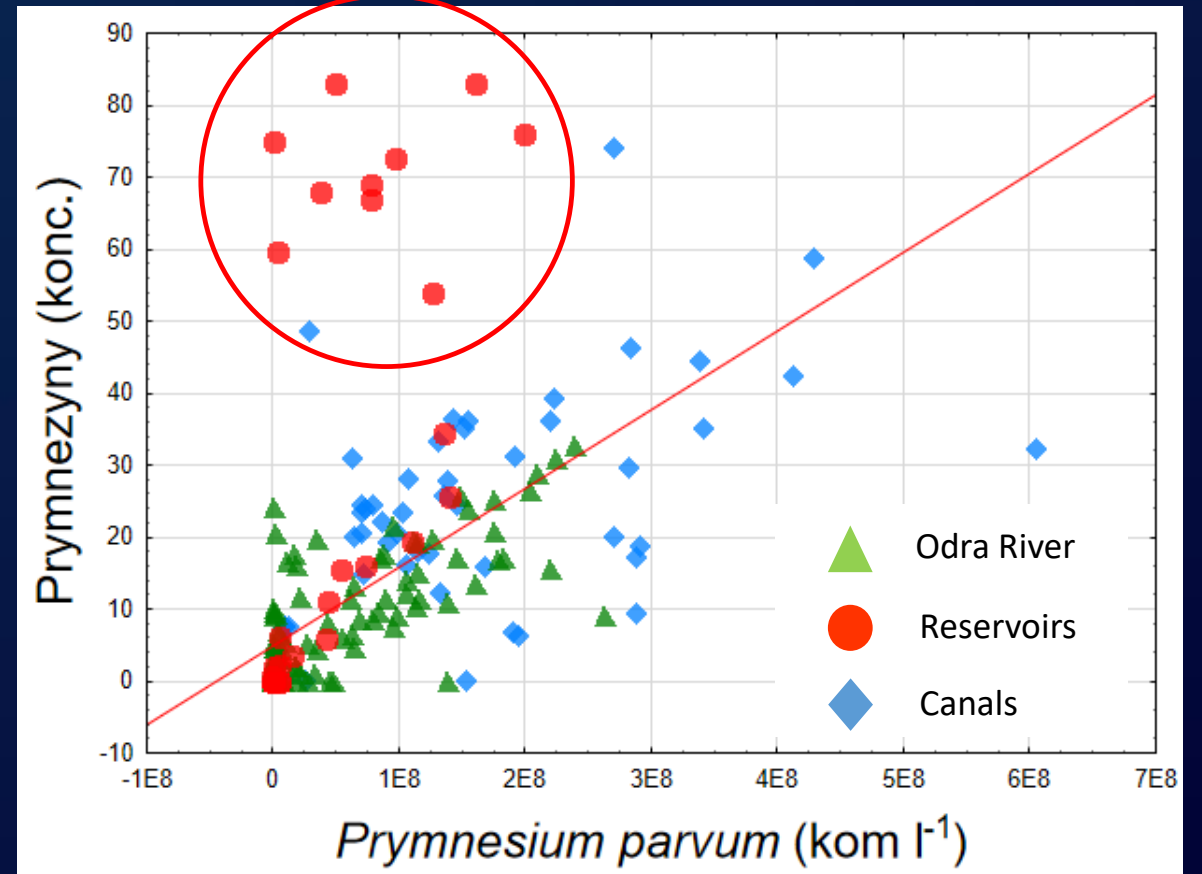
PRYMNESIUM PARVUM IN THE ODRA RIVER

Distribution of *P. parvum* samples (cells/l) in the DCA ordination space



- Odra River
- Reservoirs
- Canals

Relationship between *P. parvum* abundance (cells/l) and prymnesines



- ▲ Odra River
- Reservoirs
- ◆ Canals

SUMMARY



CONCLUSIONS

- Causes of the toxic bloom of *Prymnesium parvum* in the Odra River in 2022 were **multifactorial**.
- At the turn of July and August, the waters of the Oder had favourable conditions for the development of *P. parvum* and the development of toxicity, such as **significantly increased conductivity, high content of chlorides and sulphates, increased water temperature**, and significant fluctuations in water parameters over time.
- Our analyzes confirmed the multifactorial nature of the occurrence of the toxic bloom of *P. parvum* in the Odra River in the summer of 2022.
- Increased water salinity created **conditions favourable for the occurrence** of *P. parvum* but not necessarily determined its bloom. The highest number of the species were found in waters with conductivity in the range of 3.0-4.5 ths. $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, and at higher values the abundance was definitely lower. Samples without *P. parvum* occurred across the entire spectrum of conductivity values reported.
- *Prymnesium parvum* blooms are certainly affected by nutrient conditions and the TN/TP mass ratio at ~20 seems to be a promising alarming factor, particularly in the Gliwicki Canal.
- The hydromorphology of the Oder's waters is also significant here – the presence of reservoirs, canals, places where the flow is slowed down create conditions favourable to blooms. Further research taking into account the division into **categories of waters with different water flow/retention** time seems promising.

Recommendations

The first report presents a set of nine recommendations, among others:

- Creation of a system of **continuous water quality measurement** in terms of selected parameters;
- Continuation of **inspections of entities conducting the discharge** of polluted waters to the Oder;
- **Review and verification of the existing permits** for the discharge of sewage into the waters of the Oder basin,
- **Dependence of the discharge on the river current conditions**, introduction of an obligation to temporarily suspend or limit discharges in an emergency.
- **Implementing an early warning and response system**, streamlining crisis management procedures.
- Gradual **restoration of the fish population** and other groups of organisms affected by the disaster based on the best knowledge of experts.
-

All these recommendations remain valid



THANK YOU