Study of ichthyofauna and fishing potential from Gorgova – Uzlina complex of lakes in year 2007

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Abstract: Gorgova – Uzlina complex of lake cover a total surface of 5,845 ha including 26 lakes. Fish sampling was performed two times in June and September 2007 in Lakes: Isac (1098 ha), Uzlina (488 ha) and Cuibul cu Lebede (221 ha). Fish from open water was sampled with Nordic gillnets and from border lake line with electric fishing. The fish commercial catch was sampled at fishery landing point, Virtual Population Analysis method was used for fish stock estimation, and Léger-Huet methods for natural productivity estimation. The fish species richness was rather high including 31 species, from what 17 are for commercial fishing interest, the most being eurytopic and tolerant to habitat degradation. Bleak, perch, bitterling, roach and rudd are the most abundant species in June and bleak, roach, rudd, bitterling and perch in September, while in biomass, dominant species were perch and rudd for both months, followed by roach, bleak, tench and wels. Reporting to all sampling catch, only 10% in individuals and 62% in biomass were commercial species and size in June, respectively 7% and 49% in September. The commercial catch is fare dominated by gibel carp, other valuable commercial species are under recorded in catch statistics, being sold on black market. The gibel carp from 2007 commercial catch has a mean TL of 31.3 cm and TW 631 g, with 30 cm the most frequent TL, corresponding of 4-7 years classes. The stock is under exploited due to large mesh size of gillnets used (fishing mortality was 0.1 and Y/R 146 g). The fish productivity ranged from 150 kg/ha in Cuibul cu Lebede, 160 kg/ha in Uzlina to 170 kg/ha in Isac lake. Concluding, in 2007, Gorgova – Uzlina complex of lakes had a high fish species richness, a good fish natural productivity potential and catch, most based on exotic and opportunistic gibel carp species.