

The importance of crayfish in Poland and the need to protect them

Summary

In the past, the noble crayfish (*Astacus astacus*) was an important export commodity in Poland. As a result of pollution and crayfish plague, the situation in Poland has changed. Despite the fact that the species is protected by law, *Astacus astacus* is currently present in only a few dozen habitats. In order to improve their prospects it is important to continue work on breeding and restitution of the population.

KEY WORDS: *Astacus astacus*, crayfish, restitution