

Fish distribution in reservoirs is not homogeneous. Fish usually occur in upper parts of reservoirs on the longitudinal axis, where is also the greatest concentration of nutrients. Fish abundance and biomass as well as the trophy are declining towards the dam part. On the vertical axis, most fish occur above the thermocline, where temperature and concentration of dissolved oxygen reach the highest values. Fish community is changing also in time. Shortly after impoundment, the riverine species are dominating the community and later, generalist species prevail. Generally, we can distinguish pelagic and benthic habitats within the reservoir. There are species in reservoirs that occur almost strictly in pelagic habitat like asp and bleak and benthic species like ruffe and perch. Most species occur in both types of habitats (bream, roach, pikeperch, European catfish, white bream). Migrations between habitats occur on daily and on seasonal basis. On daily basis, we distinguish diel horizontal migration, in which fish shift between pelagic and benthic habitats. Diel vertical migration, when fish change depths, is not so significant in Czech reservoirs. Motivations for these diel migrations are food availability, predation pressure and water temperature. Seasonal migrations comprise spawning migrations and winter migrations, during which important part of fish community leaves usual home ranges for spawning grounds or for overwintering places in deeper parts of reservoirs. The importance of various habitats for fish in reservoirs has been so far little studied, therefore our knowledge of fish habitat preferences is limited. Recent studies about underyearling littoral communities suggest that differences in use of various habitats by different species are considerable. Nevertheless, the knowledge of habitat selection is essential for estimation of overall fish community in a reservoir.