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### **Threats to nature and landscape values of regulated rivers**

All regulation works carried out according to the rules of 'technical regulation' have a negative effect on the environment, especially on water biocenoses. The signs of this kind of effect are: species structure impoverishment, lowering the abundance of fauna aggregations populating the rivers and the changes in the species domination structure.

River regulation is usually connected with straightening the riverbed, removing the sediments along with land and water vegetation, as well as with placing concrete constructions of different kinds. Such measures lead to uniformization of morphological and hydrological conditions of the river, and usually also to deterioration of physical and chemical properties. As a result of environmental degradation, the taxons or whole classes of animals for which the introduced changes make it difficult or impossible to live are eliminated or reduced.

Traditional methods of river modification are now drawing more and more criticism. This criticism imposes searching for alternative solutions, which reduce the range of interference with river functioning. In EU countries environmentally friendly river regulation schemes are carried out, whereas in Poland traditional hydrotechnical and drainage work is done, which destroys priceless wildlife of river valleys, impoverishes the landscape and reduces its biodiversity.

Negative effects of using technical regulation are minimized by ecological (careful, environmentally friendly) method of watercourse regulation. The future of all regulation measures should lie in this new method. Ecological approach to all human activities towards the environment is becoming a prevailing trend in the modern world.