

Seasonal activities of female barbel

Two female barbel *Rutilus rutilus* (L.) were tagged with implantable radio transmitters and tracked in the Ourthe River (Southern Belgium) from April 12th to July 7th, 1989 to study their movements and activity rhythms during the spring-summer period. Both barbels defined a 1.6 km home range and occupied four residence areas. Greatest average daily movements within the home range limits occurred during the prespawning and spawning periods and were associated with variations of mean daily water temperature and level. Barbel 2 made a 9.6 km excursion from its spring home range and homed a week later in its residence area. Barbels displayed dusk and dawn activity patterns, characterized by the occupation of riffle areas. The activity timing was found to be dependent on water temperature while the size of daily activity area was more influenced by river flow conditions.

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