STUDY ON THE TAXONOMY, BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF THE HUCHEN (*HUCHO HUCHO*) IN THE MOLDOVA REGION

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Abstract

This paper presents a synthesis of the specialist literature on the huchen (Hucho hucho, Linnaeus 1758), the largest salmonid of mountain watercourses, with populations also recorded in the Moldova region, along the Bistrița, Dorna and Bistricioara rivers. The taxonomic position of the species is reviewed, together with its main biological features its piscivorous feeding behaviour and reproductive habits as well as its historical and current distribution. Particular attention is given to its current conservation status: the species is listed on the IUCN List as endangered, and populations in the Moldova region face an ongoing decline, driven mainly by dams fragmenting the habitat, by water quality deterioration and by uncontrolled fishing. The synthesis underlines the need for sustained conservation measures, grounded in rigorous biological monitoring of the regional populations.

Key words: *Hucho hucho, salmonidae, ecosystem*