

The helicopter, which was recently sunk in Lake Białe, is intended to aid training and become a local tourist attraction, especially for divers. Meanwhile, the sinking of the helicopter has so far only caused outrage and disgust among internet users and residents. They are asking directly: who allowed the lake to be littered?

"The State University of Biała Podlaska applied for permission to sink the helicopter last year," says Franciszek Panasiuk, head of the Department of Environment and Agriculture at the Włodawa County Office. "The helicopter's fuselage was thoroughly cleaned and washed with biodegradable detergents."

The wreckage donated by the school is intended to be used, among other things, for training its students. It is currently at a depth of approximately 20 meters. Officials assure that it will not pose a threat to anglers or those relaxing at Lake Białe.

Internet users, however, are not happy with this idea. On online forums, people are criticizing the helicopter's sinking and are also concerned about the negative impact of such an action on the environment: "I've been observing Lake Białe for a few years now and I'm becoming convinced that the lake's owners will destroy it themselves. The amount of investment being crammed into the lake, the concrete paving of the lake with paved paths (which, like paving stones, will eventually crumble because they'll be washed away). Now, dumping a helicopter into the lake," wrote one user on the Kurier Lubelski forum. Another added: "The prosecutor's office should be investigating whoever gave the permission from Monday."

Officials assure us that sinking the helicopter will not pose a threat to the environment. The helicopter's fuselage is made of aluminum, so according to district office employees, there's no question of it corroding. "The Lake District Water Management Authority (PSW) has committed to cleaning up the lakebed. I assure you, what people throw into the water is much more harmful to the environment than the helicopter's fuselage," says Panasiuk. He adds: "While there are many negative comments online about the helicopter sinking, no one has personally come to the district office with complaints."



The sunken helicopter is also intended to be used by rescuers and firefighters for training. "There's one group of divers in Lublin, and exercises on Lake Białe take place twice a year," says Tomasz Ważny, spokesman for the Chełm firefighters. Furthermore, there are plans to establish another group of divers in the Łączna-Włodawa Lake District. "Such a training area will be very useful for the fire department, especially since we have our own accommodation facilities there," adds Ważny.

One paramedic has a different opinion: "We don't have the authority to conduct underwater rescue operations," he says anonymously. "Claiming that the sunken helicopter will be needed for rescue training is clearly exaggerating."

Officials, however, are undeterred by the negative reviews. They hope the sunken helicopter will not only serve as a training aid but also become a tourist attraction, especially for divers.

The wreck rests roughly in the middle of the lake. The spot where it sank has been marked with a special buoy. A sailboat, its mast embedded vertically in the bottom, also rests at the bottom of the lake. Police have repeatedly warned beachgoers against diving in that spot.

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