

point of view, the Sob' River has not yet suffered irreversible changes, fish continue to make their way up the river to their spawning grounds and the number of larvae to emerge from the roe apparently has not diminished. However, the hydrological parameters of the river show fundamental changes and what this may lead to is still not clear. There has been an abrupt increase in the number of commercially unimportant species of fish now competing with the whitefish. The question of restocking the river is still being worked out, and, although the rivermen have said that they are ready to start restoring the waterway, some people think that it may take between five and seven hundred years to return the waterway to its earlier condition.

Some departments have defined the value of the river in terms of tonnes of gravel. This supply is supposed to last for several more years. But there have also been others. When it comes to the question of real economic gain, it would not be amiss here to recall the data produced by "Sibrybprom". According to these data, the Sob' possesses considerable economic value as a spawning ground for the whitefish. At the same time, the marketable generation of the mature individuals, which can be caught without undermining the fish population, has been valued at five thousand centers annually.

But, over a period of four short years, an enormous spawning ground, which extended for more than thirty kilometers, was torn up by dredging scoops. Other bottom formations, which hampered free access to the sand and gravel deposits, were tumbled upside down into the shallows. In cases where the bottom-level feeding ground for the fish - the so-called benthos - wasn't torn up along with the gravel, it was buried under unneeded rock. Moreover,