

- And how does one choose the area in which to look for such an ice-floe? For the subsequent course of this ship of the elements is not known.

- In fact, it can be calculated to some extent - approximately, of course. Because we know the general direction of the drift in the Arctic Ocean. Moreover, our SP has thirty predecessors, and the itinerary of each of them was followed from start to finish. In our particular case, there are two main factors influencing the choice of a starting area for SP-31: first, we must find ourselves in the spring in the regions that the geologists want to study, and second, we must try to avoid running into Jeannette and Henrietta. These are two tiny islands of the De Long archipelago. At one time Henrietta broke up the ice-floe on which SP-14 was drifting, and the station had to be evacuated. This is why we need a floe to the north of 76 degrees.

- But accidents occur even without islands. Many ice-floes on which drifting stations were established, split into several pieces within a month or two.

- That is precisely why I will be looking not for an ice-floe, but for ice fields. When building a station, it is very important to have the area to create an ice strip. A single ice-floe, even a big one, provides no guarantees: a fissure may run through the strip, and then what can you do? But if there are several fields nearby, the strip can be created over and over again.

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