

Shortage of Cargo for Northern Delivery Leads to Difficulties for Lena River Shipping

Autumn has come to the Arctic, bringing with it some very changeable, unpredictable weather. In some areas snow has fallen; in others it has been raining for days on end. And of course there are frosts at night. Storms are becoming more and more frequent in the Laptev Sea. On the polar routes the Lena river transport workers have just about completed their first month of the Arctic navigation season. Today more than 200 river boats are delivering cargo of importance to the nation's economy along almost inaccessible arctic rivers - the Yana, Indigirka and Kolyma. Others are entering Tiksi Bay and weathering out the storm in Cape Bykov.

How is the river transport workers' arctic navigation season shaping up? What types of problems are they up against? This is the topic of our discussion with first assistant chief of the Lena Steamship Line, V. Arbatskii.

"I'm flying to the Eastern Arctic together with a group of business managers", says Vladimir Aleksandrovich. "They're part of the staff responsible for finishing up the navigation season in the Arctic, which was formed on the orders of the chief of the steamship line. A number of problems which have cropped up with the crews have to be resolved locally - the crews must be helped. I would like to note that the most difficult are at present in Olenek Bay. At the mouth of the Olenek River and in the approaches to the bay there is heavy ice. Nevertheless, three tankers were successfully guided through and unloaded. They are unable to leave, however, because of the ice. Right now there are two tugboats on the spot with two more headed for