

CONSTRUCTION

Archangel: Build Ice Bridges

"I shall build ice bridges such as the people will not build", affirmed Moroz-voevoda ("Governor Frost"), if we recall the poet Nekrasov's well-known lines.

But even Governor Frost, it turns out, needs support, an offer of which came from Arkhangel'sk scientists, P. Gagarin and V. Kharitonov, who have revived the ancient technique of building ice crossings.

We know that the slower the current, the faster the ice freezes over. So, from time immemorial, before the freeze-up on the Russian Baltic and White Sea coasts, people would prepare fences of willow and spruce branches on the river-bed at the places of future crossings. This was done to "slow down" a stream.

Today's scientists have designed different shapes of artificial obstacles. For example, in order to freeze over, on the upper reaches of the Pinega, a taiga river, a stable ice road for the Vyga logging enterprise, they cut ice holes and lowered special screens into them. With the help of these devices, the frost in two weeks built a bridge capable of holding heavy equipment.

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