

One comes to this pessimistic conclusion upon better acquaintance with the opportunities for future development of lighter freighting in the Soviet Far North. As we all know, a lighter called the Aleksei Kosygin was built. While it was still in the design stage, its designers visited the ports in Chukotka and listened very carefully to the advice and requests of local specialists. They assured them that everything they had said would be taken into consideration. However, in actual fact this was by no means so. Just look at the Aleksei Kosygin's attempt to come in to Anadyr'. It was unsuccessful, since the shallowness of the Anadyr' stuary did not allow the sea-going vessel to get anywhere near the quayside.

Lighters could have been used to replace river vessels as well, if the designers had listened to the port workers' suggestions and built them with a draught not of three metres, but of one and a half. However, this did not happen. Everything stayed just the same as it was before these good ideas ever appeared.

RIVERS EXPERIENCING POLLUTION PROBLEMS

Protection of the environment and preservation of the ecological balance have become prime objectives in Chukotka.

Not everything is alright in this sense on river and sea-going vessels. Captain A. Koval'chuk of the M/S Onemen, told me a rather strange story. Apparently there is a strict procedure in force on the Anadyr' which aims at preventing the waters from becoming poisoned, and under which all bilge waters and sewage from the vessel must be handed over upon arrival in Anadyr' to a special purifying plant.