

listened to his words and thought to myself: it's really true that, in a situation of bureaucratic isolation in which people only think about their own problems, we stop looking at the big picture.

Take, for example, the documentation prepared for a meeting of the top officials of Minmorflot, which in June was studying the issue of developing the port system for the northwestern part of the country. It paints an impressive picture (only on paper, for the time being) for new port construction in the basins of the Barents and White seas. A major port on the northern coast of the Kola Peninsula in the vicinity of Pechenga, a bulk oil handling base in the Archangel region... We have to develop, of course, but is this the way to go? All of this will cost billions: the Pechenga scenario nearly 3 billion, and the Archangel variant 1.5 billion. In addition, the latter will require building a railroad and a whole lot more in a desolate region in order to support an industrial and social infrastructure. Meanwhile, virtually right next door is the high-capacity but idle port of Kandalaksha. And, by the way, are they aware at Minmorflot that the Kandalaksha port also has an oil depot serving the entire Kola Peninsula? And while the channel depth on the approaches to Kandalaksha is insufficient, the same is true for the Archangel region as well. So maybe it would be simpler, instead of new ports, to build shallow-draught ships, which have proven themselves here excellently.

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Kandalaksha

Vodnyi transport

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