

solutions to the problems posed by the Yamal Peninsula.

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Pechora River Salmon Headed for Extinction

When I was a child, my mother, Irina Afanas'yevna, used to tell me a fairy tale about "Czar Fish", which weighed 40 poods. And it was only many years later, when I grew up, that I discovered it wasn't a fairy tale. The journal "Komi Zemlya" (Komi Country), which appeared in the mid 1930's, reported that a giant 'losos' (type of salmon), weighing over 600 kilograms, had been caught at the mouth of the Usa River.

Not long ago I was visiting my home region and called on the last remaining commercial fisherman, Nikolai Andreevich Patrakov. As the custom is, he immediately put food on the table -- a bowl of capelin -- and, catching my look, waved his arms proudly. "This is the only thing we have in abundance now." And this happened in a village on the banks of the Kolva River, whose name in the Nenets language means "fish water". Patrakov used to be in charge of the processing plant in the village, which handled up to 25 tonnes of fish. Today, there is no work.

For ages, the Pechora River was famous for its 'semga' (type of salmon). It was caught here by young and old, and its silvery colour filled the waters endlessly. Before the Revolution,