

region has experienced incomparable losses. In the last 10 years alone, more than 800 thousand hectares of land have been removed from the pasture rotation system, and yearly losses experienced by the fishing industry due to water pollution are close to 5 million roubles.

This is the cost of the boring "shaft". The fact is that the drillers care not so much for oil and gas as they do for the footage of the boreholes. For them, the footage plan is the law. As a result, every second hole that they drill in the tundra is barren. And even though in geological prospecting, as in science, a result is a result whether it be a negative or a positive one, it would be better if there were fewer misses. Each of these barren holes costs over 3 million roubles - this is almost half of the yearly amount allocated for the social development of Nenetskii villages. It would be better to give at least part of this money to the impoverished polar villages.

The executive committee of the regional council, adopting the resolution regarding zones of limited economic activity, has proposed to geologists that they concentrate their activity in areas which look promising with respect to oil and gas extraction. For example, there is the Kolvin megashaft, where the first oil field in the Nenetskii tundra is about to begin operating. Oil and gas reserves are not needed today at all. Why explore reserves when it is doubtful that they will be developed even half a century from now?

It must be said that the economic approach taken by the local council has received the support of some of the geologists.