

The steamship line dates from 1939. On September 22, by decision of the Economic Council of the USSR Council of People's Commissars, and on the basis of Order No. 239 of People's Commissar of the Merchant Marine of the USSR, the dry-cargo "mini-steamers" "Msta," "Unzha," "Vishera," "Shelom'," "Andre Marti," "Spartak," "Kama," "Vytegra," "Sura," "Proletarii" and the cargo-passenger ships "Gertsen," "Subbotnik," "Sosnovets" were handed over to Murmanites from the Baltic and Northern Marine Steamship Lines. In 1941, the fleet already numbered 38 ships.

The history of the steamship line began...with the war. The Soviet-Finnish War broke out in November, 1939, and the ships of the newborn fleet were immediately reassigned for use as military transports. Shortly after this, the Great Patriotic War broke out, and some vessels were put under military command, with captains becoming commanders.

The hostilities in the North may be seen as battles for sea routes. The vessels of the steamship line made many important deliveries in these years, under fire of enemy aviation; surrounded by Hitler's U-boats and torpedo salvos; amidst the numerous mines placed along the route. By the end of the war, only 3 ships remained active. Hundreds of seamen had lost their lives.

Murmanites can boast of many feats. These include the fighting epic of the steamer "Staryi Bol'shevik," under the command of I. Afanas'ev, which moved with the PQ-16 convoy, as well as the feat of arms of the "A. Sibiryakov," which entered into unequal combat with the fascist raider "Admiral Sheer." Many heroic episodes of the Great Patriotic War have been recounted in books about the history of the Kola Region.