

All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources of the Pacific Ocean, to speak about the status of research on northern mineral deposits. Gramberg is heading up a program of research to evaluate mineral resources in northern regions of the country.

Q. What is the main reason that scientists are studying the Arctic Ocean so closely?

"To the list of acute problems facing mankind we have to add the growing scarcity of mineral resources. Reserves of oil and many metals are running out rapidly and the discovery of large new deposits on land is becoming a rarer and rarer phenomenon. For this reason we need to get a head start on being concerned about the exploitation of mineral resources in the ocean. Geologists have determined that shelf zones comprise the continent itself and its margin, submerged in the ocean. All of the mineral resources found on land can also be found on the continental shelf."

"Let's look at the map ..."

"As you can see, many of the geologic structures of Western Siberia - our main source of oil and natural gas - do not stop at the coast but continue into the shelf zone. If we keep in mind that the most promising area of Western Siberia itself is the northern part, then we can assume that the underwater deposits will also be rather extensive. We should also note that a great number of major oil and gas deposits have been discovered on the opposite side of the ocean on the Canadian and Alaskan shelves. These deposits occur not only along the coast, but also in the waters of shelf seas, on the islands of Canada, and in the Beaufort Sea."