

for example, will be by the same team of longshoremen. The MS Tiksi, which sets out next, will be handled in the same way.

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This archipelago was so named by the well-known British navigator of the 18th century, James Cook. Our contemporary might add that it is also a "land of thick glaciers and burning stone" - and he would be right. The point is that over 60% of the surface of Spitzbergen is covered by an ice sheet, and local coal deposits are estimated by some scientists to be in the order of a billion tonnes. The main area of interest is the Spitzbergen archipelago, which has been the subject of a long and detailed study by the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry. They work under special conditions, for almost 100 days of the year the sun does not appear on the horizon and a heavy winter reigns for nine months. Our interview with N. A. Zhukov, general director of "Arkktikol", the USSR technical sciences, focuses on the problems of their settlements on Spitzbergen, the provision of public services and amenities, and the role of the human factor in the development of the natural resources of the island. With a necessary clarification, it is known that this archipelago belongs to Norway, and so could you please explain on what grounds the trust placed by you is entitling our economic activity there. N.G.: The story of man's penetration into Spitzbergen is an extremely interesting one and merits a separate discussion. I will only say that