

river. The fish had died in the "burnt out" water, which had flowed freely up the Ob' along the navigable channel.

The spring waters washed away this picture of death and once again the rivermen appeared at the mouth of the river full of good intentions and with the latest "urgent" permit.

You already know how the story ended. But is it really over?

So many agencies were involved in this affair: managers, clients and executives. And none of them wanted to know that their energetic activities boded economic disaster. Now the rivermen have turned out to be the last. They have repaid with interest their thoughtless exploitation and, according to the Director of the Ob'-Irtysk Steamship Line, A Lyuft, they will learn a lesson for the future from this incident. However, not one of those, whose signatures stand behind the permit documentation, is in any hurry to take on the responsibility for the fate of the Sob'.

The shortage of non-metal construction materials and the absence in the Oblast of any realistic, comprehensively thought out development programme continues to complicate an already critical situation. Is the Sob', or some other river, awaiting the next "urgent" onslaught?

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