

floes and help form the Great Siberian band of open water which remains navigable throughout the winter. But in the East, near the Chukotka coast, the opposite happens. The systems push the ice floes toward the shore creating the famous ice massifs, which have brought disaster to many ships. The corresponding area of the Arctic is structured absolutely symmetrically, with the open water along the shores of Canada, and the ice massifs opposite Greenland.

This situation has long been familiar to science. But does it only mean that these immense climatic systems in one set of circumstances create clear stretches of water and in other circumstances, ice pile-ups? Is it possible that they may also affect the central region of the Arctic?

Studying the question further, Kupetskiy came to the following conclusion. The air masses must disperse the ice flows in the area of the Pole of Inaccessibility. Then if this is so, ocean-going ships should be able to go directly over the pole from the Siberian area of open water to a similar one in Canada. And we (you should note!) are talking about the winter.

I am sure you agree that this is an attractive and courageous hypothesis. But probably it is only a hypothesis. It needs to be proven...

It appears that the first arguments in its favour already exist and should be taken seriously. The author himself brought them forward. Icebreakers, together with ships, he tells us, have already sailed into the region of the Pole several times. This happened in 1968 when the Leningrad, accompanied by the Amguema, landed the members of the