

ENVIRONMENT

On the Pollution of Lake Ladoga

Lake Ladoga is the largest body of fresh water in Europe and it plays a considerable role in the overall ecological development of the Baltic Sea. The status of Ladoga is discussed by Candidate of Biological Sciences Valentin Ikonnikov, an associate of the USSR Academy of Sciences' Institute of Lacustrine Studies:

"Especially worrisome is the overloading of Ladoga with chloro-organic compounds, which are extremely persistent in the biosphere and capable of accumulating in the tissues and organs of animals, and which possess pronounced carcinogenic and mutagenic properties.

There are several sources of chloro-organic pollutants. In the Ladoga basin are the Svetogorsk and Syas pulp and paper combines, where chlorine is used in the bleaching of the pulp. Other contributors to the polluting process include trash incinerating plants, as well as persistent pesticides that were used in agriculture in Leningrad Oblast until recently and a certain portion of which were washed into the lake by streams, rivers and rainfall.

Monitoring data indicates that 99% of water samples taken from waters flowing into the lake and from the lake itself contain chlor-organic compounds, and hexochlorocyclohexan in particular. And this despite the fact that the State standard stipulates that this pesticide "must be absent" in waters used for the purpose of fishing.