

This story of buying and selling salmon resources on the largest and cleanest river of the Kola Peninsula is not new. At the beginning of this summer a business group - the Oblast Agro-industrial union Oblagropromsoyuz, the Kola Regional Association for Commercial Cooperation with Foreign Countries, the Leningrad Civil Aviation Administration, and the "Murmanrybvod" (Murmansk Fisheries Administration) requested the rural soviets of the river villages Krasnoshchel'ye and Kanevka to allocate a section on the river for the purpose of organizing sport fishing.

The village assemblies' decision was unequivocal: no sections would be granted. The waters of the Ponoï are a state fishing preserve.

But in asking the villagers' permission, the business people were merely being devious. The Agropromsoyuz and its collaborators had already concluded an agreement with a Finnish tourist firm to develop sport fishing for foreigners on the Ponoï. Among those who signed the agreement, as it turned out, was K. Budanov, head of the "Murmanrybvod" Administration, the chief protector of salmon rivers and the poacher's chief "enemy". But it was different with his subordinates - the fishery inspectors. When they discovered the first tourist camp and its eight occupants (of which only one was a foreign tourist, the others being residents of Leningrad), they filed a report charging them with cutting thirty trees, storing illegal fishing equipment and hunting firearms on the preserve, and being in possession of freshly caught and cleaned salmon.

A scandal broke out. The oblast executive committee that had earlier taken the decision about the preserve got involved in the matter. And what happened? They decided to make an exception and allow the Agropromsoyuz to keep the tourist camp on the Ponoï until the end of the contract with the Finnish firm.

From early June to mid-September foreign tourists "vacationed" on the shores of the northern river. Afterwards, nobody calculated the damage they had done to the preserve. Instead, the profits were divided up among each of the partners in this illegal venture, to each according to his contribution. The Leningrad Civil Aviation Administration received \$18,000 through its Murmansk Air detachment. Ten thousand dollars went to the local "Pemyat Lenina" Sovkhoz, the representative of the Ablagropromsoyuz. For its "non-interference" 400 dollars befell the coffers of the Lovozerskii Raion Executive Committee. The firm paid \$2,000 to the "Murmanrybvod" Administration, and \$200 to the Kola Regional Association.

And now, there's a new contract. This time with the American-Finnish company "G. Loomis Outdoor Adventures Inc." Under the terms of the contract the company would have exclusive rights to sell