

for two decades in southern seas, turned out to be unsuitable for arctic navigation. As a result, in time holes developed in its hull and the holds filled with water. And on the trawler were tons of diesel fuel, fuel oil, ammonia... In the summer of 1988 a storm cast the "Mongoliya" onto the rocks along the shore, leaving it lying on its port side. Even now one can see the contents of its fuel tanks pouring into the sea. Dozens of commissions have visited the arctic village. They hotly debated projects to save the trawler and the sea. But the projects have remained on paper.

Today there are nearly 3,000 people living in Dikson. Five-storey buildings with conveniences are being built in the village. But it is precisely this situation that is adding to the uneasiness. In the 75-year history of Dikson no purification facilities have been built here. This means that all of the industrial and domestic effluents are still being discharged into the Kara Sea.

"In the five years that I have lived here I have become convinced that nobody is interested in building purification facilities," says Galkin. "Nobody has any intention of doing it."

In Dikson there is a conflict between the interests of numerous ministries and government agencies, each of which thinks only of how much it can extract from the Arctic and doesn't give a damn about the place itself. But the principal "users" of the high latitudes are still branches of the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the State Committee on Hydrometeorology. They also haven't allocated any funds for construction of purification facilities. They are frightened of the high costs. Building anything in Dikson is two to three times more expensive than in central parts of the country. And the local soviets cannot make any headway in this. Dikson is under the jurisdiction of Krasnoyarsk Krai only on a territorial level. In fact, it is managed from Moscow, Leningrad and Murmansk. The local budget doesn't permit the incurring of such expenditures.