

located in the very heart of the Pechora-Ilych Nature Reserve, facilities designed to protect the river are not in operation.

Unprincipled conduct in the matter of nature protection is showing itself even at this very moment. Quite recently, at last, a new republican organization - the State Committee on Nature - was created. Its chairman is N. Balin, former director of the Syktyvkar LPK (Lumber Industry Complex). There can be little doubt that Nikolai Nikolaevich will be understanding in dealing with the "difficulties" of the Pechora's major polluters - oil and lumber industry workers and geologists. All the more so since the enterprise he headed until recently contributed in no small way to the deterioration of water reservoirs in the Vychegda Basin.

The time has come to build fish hatcheries on the Pechora. And to build them as rapidly as the oil fields and factories were built. The money for this should come from the ministries and other entities which have done the most to destroy the river. It is time that all the terms of the famous decree on protection of bodies of water in the basin of the Volga River be extended to the Pechora. Millions of tonnes of oil or cubic meters of timber or natural gas will not be enough to pay for the loss of such a unique resource. A good example is Norway, where, thanks to the creation of a network of fish breeding enterprises, the losos catch has already grown to 30,000 tonnes a year. Plans call for increasing this to 80,000 tonnes by 1990.

Are we not ashamed of ourselves? Before the Revolution our grandfathers were already conducting