

Year Round in the Arctic - Dudinka

On the morning of May first, 1987, the local radio station at Dudinka broadcast the news that in a few hours" time a convoy of ships would be arriving in port,

"From the high bank of the Yenisei," the harbour master L. Han recalls, "you had a good view of the icebreakers slowly breaking her way into port through the ice fields. After the May 1st rally, the entire population poured down to the mooring. We had been waiting for this final act of the first regular winter run for a long time."

It was a long and difficult voyage for the icebreaker "Kapitan Sorokin". The crew only took a break during meal times, otherwise the plates would have spilled off the tables from the blows of the ice hitting the hull. From Dikson to Dudinka the ship followed the same routine: a running start - a blow against the ice - stop. Then full steam astern - full steam ahead... This pattern was repeated almost six thousand times throughout the whole of the two hundred and eight Nautical miles of the ice routes.

Since that time the shipping season out of the sea port of Dudinka have been operating all year round.

This maintains an efficient rhythm for the shipment to clients of the products manufactured by the Noril'sk Combine. For these goods are awaited by many Soviet enterprises, as well as by foreign clients. In order to prevent even a pause in their operations, the port workers have concluded an agreement with their partners, the seamen employed by the Northern Steamship Line. They have set up three special conveyor lines for various cargo items.