

Even before this, experts had described the appearance of a hideous growth found in the local endemic molluscs and crustaceans, a sure sign of the presence of negative process in the lake.

In general, the damage can be traced to the Baykal'sk and Selenga pulp and paper enterprises. Experts predict that, given current rates of pollution, mineralization of the water will increase to 1.5-2 milligrammes per litre by the year 2000. Nitrogen and phosphorus content will increase by 12 and 15 percent respectively.

This gravely threatens the ecosystem of Lake Baykal, and especially its unique species of flora and fauna, which cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

Therefore, everyone who truly values this "glorious sea" approves of the measures for protecting Baykal that were issued in May of last year in the decree from the Central Committee of the CPSU and the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Measures for the Preservation and Rational Utilization of Natural Resources in the Lake Baykal Basin over the Years 1987-1995". This document calls for the respecialization of the Baykal'sk Pulp and Paper Combine, transferring it to a form of ecologically pure production. But this will all be done in 1993, where compensatory capacities will be built at the Ust'-Ilimsk Timber Industry Complex. The plan is to put the Selenga Pulp and Paperboard Combine on a closed-water cycle. This will cost a great deal but there is no 100% guarantee that it will work.

This means that the Baykal'sk Pulp and Paper Combine will continue to pollute the lake with its