

Dear Colleagues!

In my presentation I would like to mention the following.

According to the federal legislation of the Russian Federation one of the directions of action of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, as you know, is protection of marine environment from pollution and state control in this sphere.

What are the main issues of serious concern in this area?

1) Taking into account the perspectives of the marine regions development, currently the major concern is certainly the development of carbohydrates at the continental sea shelves.

The extraction of forecasted volumes of carbohydrates under the insufficient environmental protection basis of many oilfields can lead to serious negative consequences. They are reflected in the continuous pollution of marine environment under the technological processes as well as pollution under emergency cases. In such conditions pollution of marine environment in the locations of the carbohydrates extraction can lead to catastrophic impacts, especially for biotic resources of seas.

Therefore, the issues related to prevention of pollution of marine environment under development of carbohydrates at the continental shelves are undoubtedly the number one problem in environmental protection in the marine areas nowadays.

Thus one of the main questions that must be resolved under development of the carbohydrates resources at the continental shelves is creation of the environmentally safe technical means of extraction and technologies of exploration, construction and exploitation of carbohydrates fields at different stages of development. The method of "0" discharges is already practiced by the Russian platforms in Caspian and Baltic Seas.

2) The exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation is actively used by the water crafts of the transport, passenger and fishery fleets. The sea routes link the ports of Russia and other countries and reach the areas of traditional fishing.

Therefore, the marine navigation is a source of high danger to the marine ecosystems due to possible emergency situations in transportation of oil refinery products and liquid chemicals. We remember a loss of a 14-tons container with the chemically active plasticizer by Dupont company in August this year occurred in the Pacific Ocean and the consequences that this container caused to the seal-rookery in the "Komandorski" protected area.

The share of accidental oil outflows in total pollution of the environment of the great oceans is up to 13%. It is oil that causes the most environmental danger due to its high polluting capacity. The main sources of sea pollution nowadays continue to be the marine water crafts, first of all the oil tankers and petroleum production.

Clearly in the regions of carbohydrates extraction the complimentary industries are also actively developing, particularly transportation of hazardous cargo that leads to increasing pollution of the marine transportation means and marine environment, while the main potential danger is due to the forecasted emergency situations, particularly in the water crafts that transport highly dangerous categories of hazardous cargo.

3) However the most negative impact on the marine environment of sea shelves areas is caused by sea ports where the sea water is highly polluted due to high concentration of water crafts on the limited area of sea. Besides the high intensity of sea transportation especially at the entrances to sea ports increases the probability of emergency oil outflows.

The statistics shows that less than 10% of emergency situations occur in the open sea, while the major part of them occurs at the entrances to the ports and in the areas of higher navigation danger, such as narrowness and shoals.

Therefore the water crafts collisions and beaching are the main causes of accidents in the higher risk zones.

One of the most important directions of activity of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation is ***protection of water biological resources of the internal seas, territorial seas, continental shelves and exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation***. Such activity includes development of the corresponding legislative, regulatory and economic basis, implementation of the state ecological expertise, state ecological control and monitoring in protection of water bioresources and biodiversity conservation.

Reduction of population of the most massive and intensively exploited water bioresources is dealt with the massive overfishing above the allowed quotas as well as illegal (without permission) fishing. Outstanding scales of such illegal activity are related to some valuable marine bioresources such as crabs, salmon, etc.

Reduction of the quantity of quotas issued to the Russian fishermen is dealt with reduction of the population of the marine bioresources and, as a result, leads to social problems and reduction of wellbeing of the population of the sea coast regions.

Based on the experience of the control checking implemented by the special inspections of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation one can state that illegal fishing and export of water bioresources from the exclusive economic zone and continental shelves of the Russian Federation is a result of non-compliance with the requirements of bioresource protection and conservation of their biodiversity, and particularly overfishing above the existing quotas, violation of conditions of fishing (by regions, types of water bioresources, timing, means of catching, etc.), or fishing by the Russian and foreign water crafts without the corresponding permissions.

In result of that, the Russian state budget does not receive significant income from realization of marine bioresources, the quotas for the Russian fishermen are reduced, the social and economic situation in the subjects of the Russian Federation with the basements of fishing fleets and fishery enterprises is worsening.

In 9 months of 2003 the state inspectors of the special inspections of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation held 12455 inspections aimed at control of the compliance with the legislation on nature use and environmental protection under the economic and other activity in the sea and continental shelves.

In result of the control checking, 5436 cases of violation of the legislation of the Russian Federation on the nature use and environmental protection, 4159 of which were removed.

According to the acts of inspection and directives of the state inspectors the fines for violation of the legislation of the Russian Federation imposed directly or through courts amounted to some 10,0 mln roubles.

A number of administrative cases are under consideration now.

The requests for compensation of damage to the natural resources exceed 890 mln roubles, while about 66 mln roubles were already received.

The illegally caught objects and means of fishing were realized for 10,2 mln roubles.

91 requests to stop activity of the enterprises were issued.

Decline in the indicators of activities of the special marine inspections of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation in 2003 is dealt with the fact that according to the new Administrative Code of the Russian Federation from 1 July 2002 on the inspections lost their right to investigate and apply administrative responsibility for violation of the legislation of the Russian Federation on the marine bioresource use as according to the Articles 8.16, 8.17, 8.37 the responsibility for that is posed on the Federal Customs Service of Russia, that contradicts with the existing legislation of the Russian Federation (Federal Laws "On continental shelves of the Russian Federation", "On exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation", etc.). The Ministry of Natural Resource of the Russian Federation submitted its proposals on the changes to the Administrative Code (to the government of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Justice of Russia), however the proposals of the Ministry are not accepted by now.

The inspections held by the state marine inspectors of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation practically in all seas regularly discover the cases of violation of the legislation of the Russian Federation and international norms on prevention of pollution of marine environment.

The largest number of violations affecting sea pollution is dealt with violation of the accepted rules of prevention of sea pollution by oil containing and other sewage waters, solid and other waste from the water crafts (in ports and transportation) at bunkering, cargo loading and other works as well as at the emergency cases, etc.

The most often the violations are related to documentation on registration of the operations with the harmful substances, improper discharges of oil containing and other sewage waters and waste.

The violations related to protection of marine bioresources and biodiversity conservation that were discovered by the inspectors of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation are mainly dealt with non-compliance to the conditions of the permission documents by zones, regions, quotas, types of resources, timing of fishing, illegal fishing, use of illegal means of fishing, etc.

The most character is the violation dealt with overfishing and improper registry of fishing.

A large number of violations in the areas of protection and use of living resources is related to the absence of the permission documents on fishing, registration documents, use of improper consosaments with the stamps of nonexisting inspectors of the State Customs Committee of Russia.

The analysis of the information obtained in 2002-2003 about the character of collaboration of the special marine inspections of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and the State Procureess of the Russian Federation, particularly with the transport and environmental procurers allows to mention that in general, practically in all subjects of the Federation and regions of Russia there is a positive character of interaction between these structures. Such interaction is directed to identification and prevention of violations of the legislation of the Russian Federation in the area of nature use and environmental protection in the coastal areas, internal seas, territorial seas, exclusive economic zone and continental shelves of the Russian Federation.