

Report of the Russian Federation on implementing the provisions of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty 2009-2010 (in compliance with Article 17)

An analysis of meeting the requirements of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (Protocol) is presented in the form of a structured Report on fulfilling the provisions of the Protocol itself and its Annexes (I-V) and covers the period of activity of the 54th wintering and 55th seasonal Russian Antarctic Expedition (from May 2009 to April 2010).

PROTOCOL

1. Legal and administrative actions to provide observance of the Protocol

In order to implement control for observance of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Roshydromet designated observers of the activity of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area from the participants of the Russian Antarctic Expedition:

- From January to April 2010 – **Mr. Alekseyev Leonid S.**, Head of the Seasonal Team of the 55th Russian Antarctic Expedition (RAE);
- From January to April 2010 – **Mr. Pogorel'sky Andrey I.**, Deputy Head of the Seasonal Team of the 55th RAE on geological-geophysical work;
- From January to December 2010 – **Mr. Voyevodin Andrey V.**, Head of the Wintering Team of the 55th RAE.

The observers are guided in their activity by the Provision on the order of designating observers of the activity of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area and fulfilling the functions they are entrusted with, adopted by the Order of Roshydromet of 07.12.99 No. 139.

Roshydromet has also designated responsible representatives of the Russian Federation in the Antarctic Treaty Area:

Serov Dmitry G.	- Head of Mirny Observatory - in the operation area of Mirny Observatory;
Yelagin Aleksander M.	- Head of Vostok station – in the operation area of Vostok station;
Dobroskokov Sergey A.	- Head of Progress station – in the operation area of станции Прогресс;
Novikov Veniamin P.	- Head of the airfield group of Novolazarevskaya station – in the operation area of Novolazarevskaya station;
Vinogradov Viktor M.	- Head of Bellingshausen station– in the operation area of Bellingshausen station;
Borzenkov Sergey R.	- Head of the field base Progress-1 – in the area of operation of the field

	base Progress-1;
Ivanov Nikolay A.	- Head of Druzhnaya-4 field base – in the operation area of Druzhnaya-4 field base;
Benivolensky Sergey Ye.	- Head of the team – in the area of the Vestfold Oasis;
Skoroumov Aleksander N.	- Head of Traverse – in the area of conducting sledge-caterpillar traverses Progress-Vostok;
Kaloshin Mikhail S.	- Captain of the R/V “Akademik Fedorov” - in the operation area of the R/V “Akademik Fedorov”;
Gandyukhin Viktor V.	- Head of the cruise of the R/V “Akademik Aleksander Karpinsky” - in the operation area of the R/V “Akademik Aleksander Karpinsky”.

The representatives carried out their activities in accordance with the functions indicated in the Provision on the order of designating responsible representatives of the Russian Federation in the Antarctic Treaty Area and of fulfilling the responsibilities they are entrusted with, adopted by the Order of Roshydromet of 07.12.99 No. 139.

Based on the results of the reports received from the representatives of the Russian Federation, no breaches of the Protocol requirements and no discrepancies of the implemented activity with the activity applied for by the Russian individuals and legal entities were revealed for the reporting period.

RAE personnel were provided with necessary information under the Protocol and briefings on the Antarctic environmental protection were held among the personnel of stations and bases.

Preparedness of the rapid response groups for elimination of emergency situations and their consequences was checked on a regular basis.

No causes requiring interruption of activity under the RAE programs were revealed and no interruption itself of activity by the Representatives was undertaken.

The information obtained was submitted to the Secretariat of the Commission on consideration of applications for activity in the Antarctic at Roshydromet. This information allows the Commission to control the activity of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area, make it more orderly and draw their attention to the need of obtaining a national permit for activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area.

2. Plans of actions in emergency

All Russian marine ships that have a Permit for activity in the Antarctic also have the Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plans to combat pollution with oil products of marine areas corresponding to the requirements of MARPOL 73/78.

The plans of action in emergency for the Russian Antarctic stations are available in the form of the approved instructions onboard the ships. Team training and exercises are undertaken on a periodical basis.

ANNEX 1 Environmental Impact Assessment

3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

After issuance of the Decision of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 11, 1998 No. 1476 “On adoption of the Order for consideration and issuance of permits for activities of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area”, all kinds of activity in the Antarctic must undergo the corresponding procedures prior to their implementation. They are presented in the Regulations of the Commission for consideration of applications for activities of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area and issuance of conclusions on them. This Commission, based on the submitted documents (including the EIA), makes a decision about a possibility of issuing a permit for the activity.

The EIA preparation is a mandatory condition for obtaining a permit by individual persons and legal entities, including private and state organizations.

4. List of the Permits issued for activity in the Antarctic and the corresponding EIAs performed from January to December 2010

During this period the Commission issued 5 Permits for implementing the activity in the Antarctic Treaty Area:

No. of permit, date of issuance	To whom it was granted	Type of activity	Area (route)	Period of validity
063 01.06.2010	OJSC “Murmansk Shipping Company”	Provision of icebreaking support by the icebreaker “Vladimir Ignatyuk” to the M/V “Ivan Papanin” in Prydz Bay	Prydz Bay, Larsemann Hills Oasis, East Antarctica	1 September 2010 – 1 February 2012
064 01.06.2010	OJSC “Murmansk Shipping Company”	Operation of the M/V “Ivan Papanin” for supply of the Indian Antarctic stations in Prydz Bay and Leningradsky Bay	Prydz Bay, Larsemann Hills Oasis, Leningradsky Bay, barrier of the Nivlisen ice shelf (70 4.9’S 012 24.64’E), East Antarctica	1 September 2010 – 1 February 2012
065 22.11.2010	FGUP GosNIIGA (Flight-Trial Center)	Exploration flights of heavy transport aviation in the area of Queen Maud Land (East Antarctica)	East Antarctica, Queen Maud Land, area of Schirmacher Oasis (Novolazarevskaya station). Area of the Gjelsvikfjella and Jutulsessen mountains (Troll station)	30 November 2010 – 30 November 2015
066 22.11.2010	FGUP GosNIIGA (Flight-Trial Center)	Paradrop of cargos onto the glacial cover in Antarctica	In the area of the glacial cover of Antarctica	30 November 2010 – 30 November

		according to the programs of exploration flight in Antarctica		r 2015
067 23.11.2010	SI “Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute” of Roshydromet	Water sampling from the subglacial Lake Vostok	Central Antarctica	1 December 2010 – 1 March 2012

5. Monitoring

In compliance with Article 5, Annex 1, monitoring of environmental key parameters is carried out to assess and check the impact of implemented activity for the purpose of early prediction of unfavorable development of the process and prevention of environmental damage.

In the area of Mirny station, biological observations were carried out that showed the numbers of nesting birds to remain stable with a tendency for an increase. This is an important indicator of long-term ornithological monitoring performed in the nearby Specially Protected Area No. 127 “Haswell Island”.

At Progress station in the season of the 55th RAE, hydrobiological work was carried out resulting in collection of materials on bottom sediments, flora and fauna in freshwater Lakes Reid, Stepped and Scandrett, and establishment of the basis for hydrobiological monitoring, which will allow us in the future to follow the dynamics of marine ecosystems in order to determine the influence of anthropogenic pollution and climatic fluctuations on marine biota.

Material on phyto- and zooplankton was collected in Prydz Bay and in freshwater lakes near Progress station”.

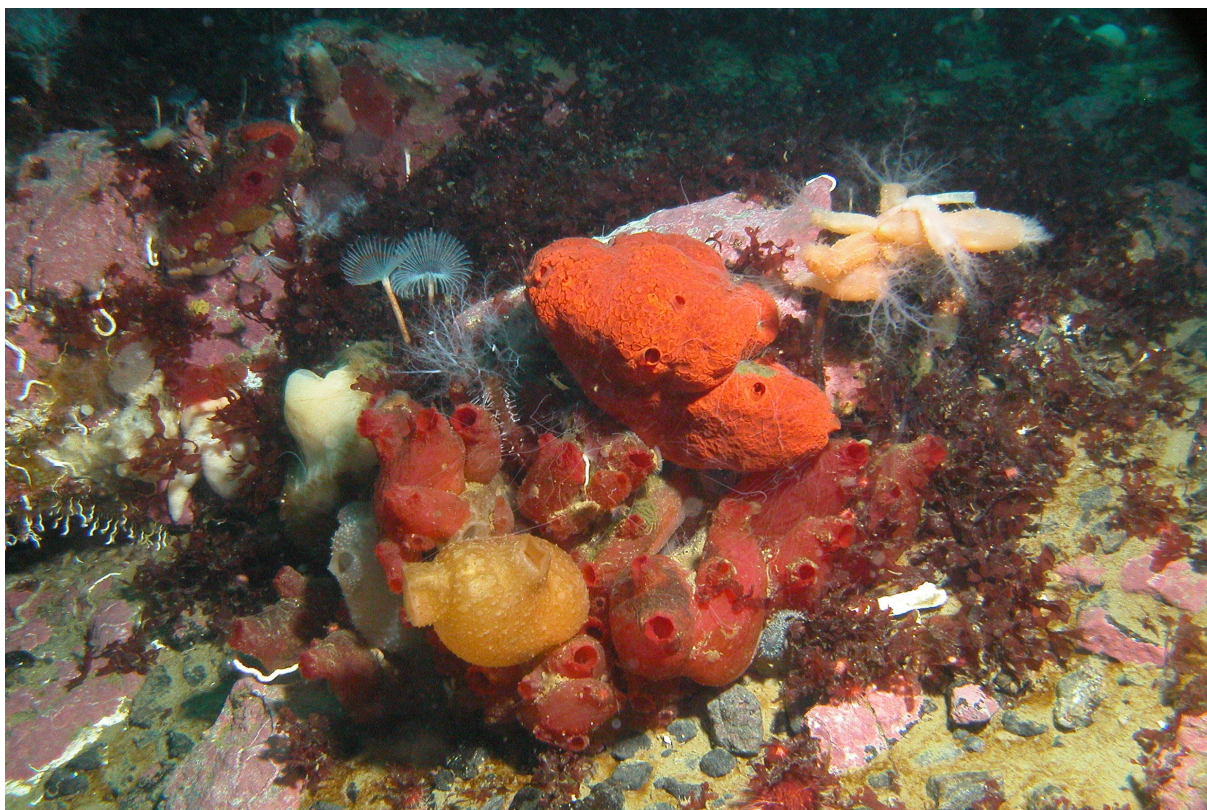


Fig. Marine organisms in the coastal zone of Larsemann Hills (Progress station)

In the course of the cruise of the R/V “Akademik Fedorov”, study of biochemistry of the Antarctic environment under the conditions of anthropogenic load was carried out. The aim of the

work is control of the concentration of some hydrocarbon compounds (HC) in natural media. The studies carried out during the season of the 55th RAE showed low HC concentrations in snow and lake water at Molodezhnaya and Novolazarevskaya stations as compared with the previous years. This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that fluctuations of HC concentrations are determined by a local decrease of anthropogenic load and natural processes — emission of aerosols from soot.

Likewise low HC concentration compared to the previous studies was noted in media of Lake Stepped at Progress station. Constant monitoring of water parameters of this lake is important as it is used for station supply with potable water.

ANNEX II. Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna

6. Exchange of information on flora and fauna

In compliance with Article 6, Annex II:

Banding and registration of earlier banded skuas, sampling of biomaterials according to the program of ornithological studies of RAE were carried out during the reporting period. No takings of animals or plants for the other needs were undertaken during this period.

7. Quantity and character of permits related to flora and fauna

During the reporting period, no permits related to flora and fauna were requested and issued.

ANNEX III. Waste Disposal and Waste Management

8. Preparation of the Waste Management Plans

The garbage disposal at the stations and onboard ships is made in strict compliance with the existing instructions.

9. Introduction of the Waste Management Plans

The waste disposal at the RAE stations and onboard the RAE ships is realized in accordance with the adopted instructions.

In compliance with the Protocol, the methodology of waste disposal planning for the RAE stations and ships was developed.

10. Inventory of past activities

There is ongoing work on inventory of waste.

11. Waste disposal

In compliance with the requirements of the Decision of the Government of the Russian Federation of 24.09.01 No. 685 (paragraph 3.1 of the Plan of Actions) and the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, work on cleaning the territories, collection and removal of waste was continued at the stations during the reporting period. The work was carried

out both during the seasonal period under the special programs and during the wintering period by all personnel at each station.

In total, 227 tons of waste was removed from the Antarctic during the season of the 55th RAE onboard the R/V “Akademik Fedorov”.

ANNEX IV. Prevention of marine pollution

All Russian marine ships that have a Permit for activity in the Antarctic (including the research-expedition vessel “Akademik Fedorov” and the research vessel “Akademik Aleksander Karpinsky”) have shipboard garbage management plans, and are equipped with incinerators and treatment systems, corresponding to the requirements of MARPOL 73/78.

During the past period of wintering of the 54th RAE there was environmental accident at Bellingshausen station, presenting technical failure at the fuel pipeline from the fuel depot to the diesel-electrical power station and connected with a leak of about 10 cu. m of diesel fuel to Stantsionny stream and farther to Maxwell Bay. To eliminate the spill consequences, absorbents, floating booms, drums, spades and transport vehicles were used. Using a bulldozer, cleaning of the stream channel from contaminated snow and soil was made. In eliminating the consequences of the accident, personnel of Bellingshausen station and of the Chilean naval base “Fildes” participated, the latter providing absorbent and floating booms. By the present time the traces of visible soil contamination are removed. The contaminated soil is stored in drums, prepared for transportation from the Antarctic.

ANNEX V. Area protection and management

No work connected with the Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPA) was carried out, except for the program seasonal ornithological observations in ASPA No. 127 “Haswell Island”.

ANNEX VI. On liability

The Law “On regulation of activities of the Russian citizens and legal entities in the Antarctic” is undergoing the approval procedure in the Government of the Russian Federation.