

October 19, 2022

Visit to the Department of Protection of Aquatic Bioresources in Yuzhno-Kurilsk (Sakhalin-Kuril Territorial Administration, SKTU)



On October 19, a meeting was held with Yuri Perekotiy, head of the Kuril Interdistrict Department of State Control, Supervision and Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources and their Habitat (in Yuzhno-Kurilsk). The meeting was attended by Anna Avdeeva, a representative of the company PCF Yuzhno-Kurilsky Ryibokombinat Co., Ltd. (YKRRK).

Interview with Yuri Perekotiy

Lyudmila: Please tell us how widespread is poaching in Kunashir?

Yuri: Poaching is not as widespread in Kunashir as in other areas of the Sakhalin Region. I believe this is due to the lack of a large number of fish. However, the day before yesterday we caught a poacher fishing for Chum and Whitespotted Char. This is the only case so far for 2022. A man was detained who was fishing with gill nets on Lake Serebryanoe. He caught 11 Chum Salmon and 23 Whitespotted Char. The damage amounted to 65 thousand rubles (~ \$1,000). Since the actions of the said man showed signs of a criminally punishable act, the investigative group of the police from the South Kuril District was called to the scene. The case materials were transferred to the police for consideration and decision-making in accordance with articles 144 and 145 of the Russian Criminal Code. (*Lyudmila's note: later this information appeared on the SKTU website and was available at the following link: <https://sktufar.ru/2022/18566/>*)



Fig 1. Chum salmon caught by a poacher on the Serebryanoe Lake.

Lyudmila: How many years have you been working in the system of fish protection services? And how many such cases were there during this period?

Yuri: I have been working for 15 years and this case is the second in all my work.

Lyudmila: Please tell us about PCF Yuzhno-Kurilsky Ryibokombinat Co., Ltd. Were there any violations of fishing regulations on the part of the company? Have preliminary warnings ever been issued, and have any fines been imposed?

Yuri: No, the company had no violations, no warnings were issued to them. They were not noticed in poaching activities. On the contrary, the company always provides assistance if we turn to them. Employees of the Ford private security company, who perform the functions of protecting Lagunnoye Lake and the fish hatchery, have the status of a "Freelance employee of SKTU".

Lyudmila: You have been living in Yuzhno-Kurilsk for many years and working in the system of fish protection services. Why do you think the fish is gone?

Yuri: It's hard to say, I'm not a researcher. Perhaps some currents affected, or commercial overfishing, or, perhaps, earthquakes. For example, in 2007, after a strong earthquake in Nevelsk, a lot of pink salmon entered our rivers. There have never been more such a good return.

Lyudmila: How do you feel about the construction of fish hatcheries on Kunashir?

Yuri: I regard this fact positively. In modern conditions, fish hatcheries perform the function of restoring populations. Of course, the final assessment can be given in ten years, when we see the returns of hatchery fish.

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October 27, 2022