

Marine reserves and marine protected areas. How can the seas surrounding the Russian Far East and the world's oceans be safeguarded against human interference?

KEY CONCLUSIONS

The resources of the world's ocean are limited

"The ocean is boundless, but not bottomless, its resources are huge, but they are finite. The ocean is 97% of water resources," Elena Zharkova, Representative of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC).

PROBLEMS

Anthropogenic activity disrupts the balance of the ocean

"Everyone talks about plastic waste, chemical waste, but there is still such a factor as noise pollution. <...> Whales and other mammals get off the route due to the hum of the engines of large liners and cargo carriers. <...> Only 1% of the world's ocean is protected from anthropogenic activity. <...> Only 13% of the world's water is pristine," Elena Zharkova, Representative of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC).

"Even nature reserves of Primorye Territory have four landfills of marine soils," Vladimir Rakov, Marine Biologist.

There are no specialized educational programmes on environmental protection

"Why are there not enough of them – educational programmes? The economy enters the picture, because in words the heads of TV companies say "Yes, yes, yes, of course, we all need this very much, this is very interesting," but in deeds, when it comes to some expenses on the production of such programmes, you can see it for yourself, that the cheapest operator equipment is not going to cut it here, and you need divers," Vladimir Oshchenko, Associate Professor, FEPU.

SOLUTIONS

Mandatory environmental audit certify projects, goods and services

"We primarily have an environmental audit at the heart of certification. Only after we go through all the port documentation and all the processes and an audit report has been prepared, only after this we can say how environmentally friendly the port is, how it fulfils the requirements of environmental legislation for the bulk materials handling," Olga Kharkova, Project Group Leader, Clean Seas International Environmental Foundation.

"In any case, such serious projects under construction or already operating, must undergo a very thorough state environmental expertise, not only in Moscow, which is often done by project design bureaus, because they know that Moscow is far away and they do not see the actual situation here, it is easier to get the approval," Vladimir Rakov, Marine Biologist.

Environmental education at all levels

“There is no environmental education through lectures, classes in school, television programmes. Everything begins in the family,” Vladimir Oshchenko, Associate Professor, FEFU.