

CENTENARY OF THE RESEARCH VESSEL “PERSEY”



The research vessel “Persey” was built a hundred years ago. It is a vessel with an interesting fate and a tragic end. First of all, it is the first Soviet vessel designed for marine scientific research. But it has another important historical hypostasis: it is the first vessel of the Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO).

There were two PINRO predecessors, two institutes – Plavmornin and GOIN.

Plavmornin (the Floating Marine Research Institute) was formed by the Government Decree signed on 10 March, 1921, by V. I. Lenin, the head of state. The main task of the institute was to carry out constant, systematic, and planned fisheries research in the northern seas. After a series of civil upheavals (World War I, the October Revolution, and Russian Civil War), in February 1920, when Soviet power was established in the North, the industry of the Kola Peninsula was destroyed, with fisheries being dramatically affected. After the revolution, Russia was politically isolated, and the country needed to show its presence in the Arctic and to begin economic development of the Barents Sea biological resources.

The scientific base of Plavmornin was located in Moscow, while the expeditionary one was located in Arkhangelsk, and it was there that “Persey” was built. The vessel construction is a separate layer of history. The RV was built in the hull of an unfinished wooden hunting schooner (an Arkhangelsk fisherman E. V. Moguchy began to construct it back in 1917). A unique research vessel was built in a short time. It had seven scientific laboratories, winches for various purposes, trawl equipment, and navigation instruments. The national flag was raised on 7 November, 1922. Prince V. M. Golitsyn, one of the first employees of the institute, created the expeditionary flag of the ship based on the constellation Perseus. Later, the blue seven-star flag became the official emblem of PINRO.

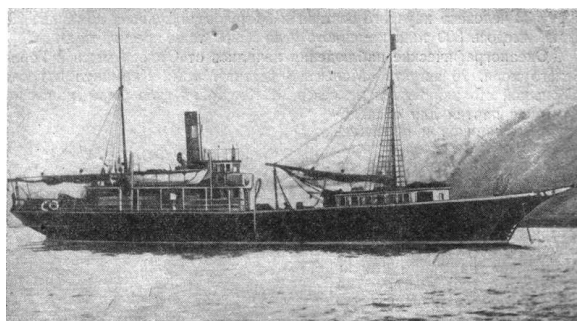
The expedition activity of the RV “Persey” began in 1923. For a long time, it was the only vessel of PINRO, and its deployment on the freezing White Sea created certain difficulties for the institute to work efficiently. Specifically, only after the White Sea was free from ice, it was possible to reach the Barents Sea.

In 1929, Plavmornin and the Murmansk Biological Station were merged – a new institute was created in the city of Aleksandrovsk. GOIN (the State Oceanographic Institute) was located on the coast of the non-freezing Ekaterininskaya Harbor of the Kola Bay (the Barents Sea). In 1934, after several reorganizations in the industry, a new institute began its work in Murmansk, with an abbreviation widely known in fisheries science – PINRO.

The RV “Persey” served the needs of science from 1923 to 1941. The ship was sunk on 10 July, 1941, during a German aerial attack, in the Eina Bay (the Motovsky Bay), when she was carrying military cargo for the defenders of the Rybachy Peninsula. Over 18 years of its scientific activity, “Persey” completed 90 research cruises to the White, Barents, Kara, and Greenland seas and determined the destiny of many people. The participants of the cruises later became academicians and corresponding members of the USSR Academy of Sciences, D. Sc., heads of large institutions, and founders of scientific directions. Such well-known researchers as I. I. Mesyatsev, N. A. Maslov, Yu. Yu. Marty, M. M. Adrov, I. G. Yudanov, N. N. Zubov, L. A. Zenkevich, S. A. Zernov, M. V. Klenova, A. I. Rossolimo, A. A. Shorygin, V. K. Soldatov, V. V. Shuleikin and many others worked on board the vessel.

For the history of fisheries science, the RV “Persey” is a legendary ship. Articles and books were written about her; poems and songs were composed; and the anniversaries were celebrated. The cruises aboard the RV “Persey” laid a solid foundation for continuity for future generations of researchers.

To discover more about the history of fisheries research cruises and about the RV “Persey”, you can turn on the video (see “Supplementary” tab: <https://marine-biology.ru/mbj/article/view/378>). The narrator is Tatiana Pashkova – leading specialist of PINRO scientific and organizational department and Honorary Worker of Fisheries of Russia.



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 (“PINRO” named after N. M. Knipovich)*

СТОЛЕТНИЙ ЮБИЛЕЙ НАУЧНО-ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКОГО СУДНА «ПЕРСЕЙ»

В 1922 г. было построено НИС «Персей» — первое советское судно, созданное специально для морских научных исследований, и первый корабль Полярного научно-исследовательского института морского рыбного хозяйства и океанографии имени Н. М. Книповича.