



This morning, 136,000 grayling juveniles weighing at least one gram each were released into the waters of the Yenisey River. The fingerlings were reared at the Maltat fish breeding farm located in the Primorsk settlement, Balakhtinsky District, Krasnoyarsk Territory. The project that cost nearly RUB 3.5 mln was carried out by the ecologists of Norilsk Production Support Complex (part of Norilsk Nickel Group).

According to Alexander Nouss, Deputy CEO for the Reproduction of Aquatic Bioresources at Maltat, fish stocking takes a lot of time and skill. This time, fish releasing lasted almost 24 hours. “The distance between the farm and the release point is almost 300 km. The juveniles were transported in special 2.3 cu m isothermal cubitainers for live fish equipped with an oxygenation system. Our experts ensured ongoing monitoring of their condition during the trip,” said Alexander Nouss.

The two-month old grayling juveniles fared the move well. At the time of the release, the water temperature in the Yenisey River was 12–14 °C — perfect conditions for acclimatisation, according to ecologists and fish farmers. What is more, thanks to strong feeding instincts and well-developed defence mechanisms of the fingerlings, the adaptation is expected to go smoothly, and the fish have a high chance of surviving in the natural habitat.

Norilsk Production Support Complex organises artificial fish propagation in the Yenisey river on an annual basis. The company specialises in sand extraction on the Seredysh Island located 85 km up the Yenisey. Russian laws require that such companies ensure the replenishment of lost bioresources. Norilsk has been cooperating with the full-cycle fish breeding complex for four years, having released a total of 1,041,092 fingerlings of grayling and sturgeon into the Yenisey River.

“Every year, we work to preserve and increase the population of valuable fish species in the Yenisey River. This project contributes to the support of the entire Krasnoyarsk Territory’s ecosystem,” said Yury Semenov, Head of Industrial Ecology Department at Polar Division.

*25 September 2020*