

OCEAN POLLUTION AS A GLOBAL PROBLEM OF MODERN HUMANITY

ЗАГРЯЗНЕНИЕ МИРОВОГО ОКЕАНА

КАК ГЛОБАЛЬНАЯ ПРОБЛЕМА СОВРЕМЕННОГО ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСТВА

Ocean pollution is a major problem of our time. The core causes of pollution are wastewater and radioactive materials, emissions of domestic and industrial waste, poisoning with chemicals and herbicides. But the leading positions of this list belong to the pollution with plastics and oil spots. Thus, the object of our research is oil and plastic pollution of the ocean. The *main goal* of this study is to characterize the existing problem of the oceans. Therefore, we set the following *tasks*: to analyze the main sources of pollution, to study the methods of purification, to find the ways to prevent pollution of the oceans and to minimize the costs of prevention activities.

Oil enters the ocean during the collapse of tankers, during accidents at offshore oil fields and during oil production from the seabed. Obviously, the effects of intense marine pollution can be disastrous for ecosystems. Therefore, the *Intergovernmental Maritime Society* has already created an agreement under which oil can't be drained into the water 50 kilometers from the coast. But it doesn't solve the problem entirely. As a result we offer the following solutions: *firstly*, to sign multilateral agreements including measures of emission limitations of toxic substances into the ocean; *secondly*, to consolidate water quality standard; to introduce a pollution tax and oblige firms to pay fines if discharges aren't up to standard. All ships upon entering the port should be checked for a certificate indicating the serviceability of the hull and mechanisms. The entire world scientific community is actively developing measures to protect the ocean from devices collecting spilled raw materials in the ocean. The oil and fuel burnt products also cause damage. Therefore, we suggest using ships with equipment for collecting oil from the sea surface.

We can't but mention *plastic garbage* entering the ocean. Plastic waste is accumulating in the waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. Most of the garbage comes from densely populated areas of the coast. The record holders for the annual volume of non-recycled plastic waste are the countries of Southeast Asia. The countries

of the European Union are concerned about current situation; therefore they allocate a huge amount of funds at combating plastic. To combat pollution the companies created a special U-shaped trap. 28 European states have decided to ban the use of plastic products by 2021. In Belarus, educational and propaganda events are also held. They form the rational and environmentally-friendly sound behavior of people. This is a social advertisement.

A question arises of why developed countries take over the costs and measures to prevent pollution of the world's oceans, despite being landlocked. Therefore, we offer the following solutions: to introduce a strict ban on the use of plastic, stimulating poor coastal countries by the fact that developed European countries will use the funds saved from cleaning the ocean for their development. Another way is natural exchange. Many countries on the African continent suffer from a lack of water, and mutually beneficial relationships can be set up here, changing 10 kg of plastic per 1 liter of water. The next way to deal with the accumulation of plastic waste is to minimize the use. Therefore, start shopping with reusable bags; choose products with a minimum amount of packaging. If it is not possible, choose goods with recycled packaging.

Despite the success in finding effective means of eliminating pollution, it is too early to talk about solving the problem. The central task that needs to be addressed by all countries together is pollution prevention. Due to the result of the integrated work of the government, scientists and ordinary citizens the ocean can be protected.

Reference

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