



Atlas of Natural Resources of the Russian Arctic

Атлас «Природные Ресурсы Российской Арктики»

Ninth St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, 15 June 2005

Девятый Петербургский международный экономический форум, 15 июня 2005 г.

Ocean Futures has announced a proposal to collaborate with Russian partners to produce an *Atlas of Natural Resources of the Russian Arctic*. The announcement was made on 15 June 2005, during a presentation at the ninth St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia (www.economforum.iacis.ru).

Ocean Futures is organizing a project planning meeting to be held in Norway in early autumn. At the meeting, Russian and Norwegian project participants will discuss the project's scope, work plan, organization, management and financing.

The future economic and societal potential of the Russian North relates to the challenge of developing its extensive natural resources. These resources are significant also for the future economy of the Russian Federation, and they form an important basis for new international economic cooperation in the European North.

Knowledge is a prerequisite for major investment in resource development. Yet, the information necessary to make responsible investment decisions in the Russian North is scattered across numerous locations and is not readily accessible. The Natural Resources Atlas proposed by Ocean Futures will contribute to building the essential foundation of knowledge by locating, compiling and synthesizing information necessary for commercial resource development in the region.

The Atlas will give as comprehensive a description as possible of the region's living (renewable) and non-living (non-renewable) resources and the activities based on them. It will cover both offshore and on-shore resources across the entire Russian Arctic. In addition, the Atlas will include information on infrastructure and logistics relevant to resource development, as well as information on legal and administrative factors pertaining to commercial activities. It is envisioned that the Atlas will be prepared in a variety of formats to suit the needs of commercial enterprises and public institutions both inside and outside Russia.

Creating the Atlas will be an exciting and rewarding challenge. Ocean Futures looks forward to collaborating with old friends and new. We encourage those who are interested in participating to contact us at ocean@ocean-futures.com.

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