

Quick facts

from Kamchatka

- **First step towards the effective management**

First Salmon River Basin Council was created in Kamchatka. The public Council provides an opportunity for general public to participate in the fishery management process.

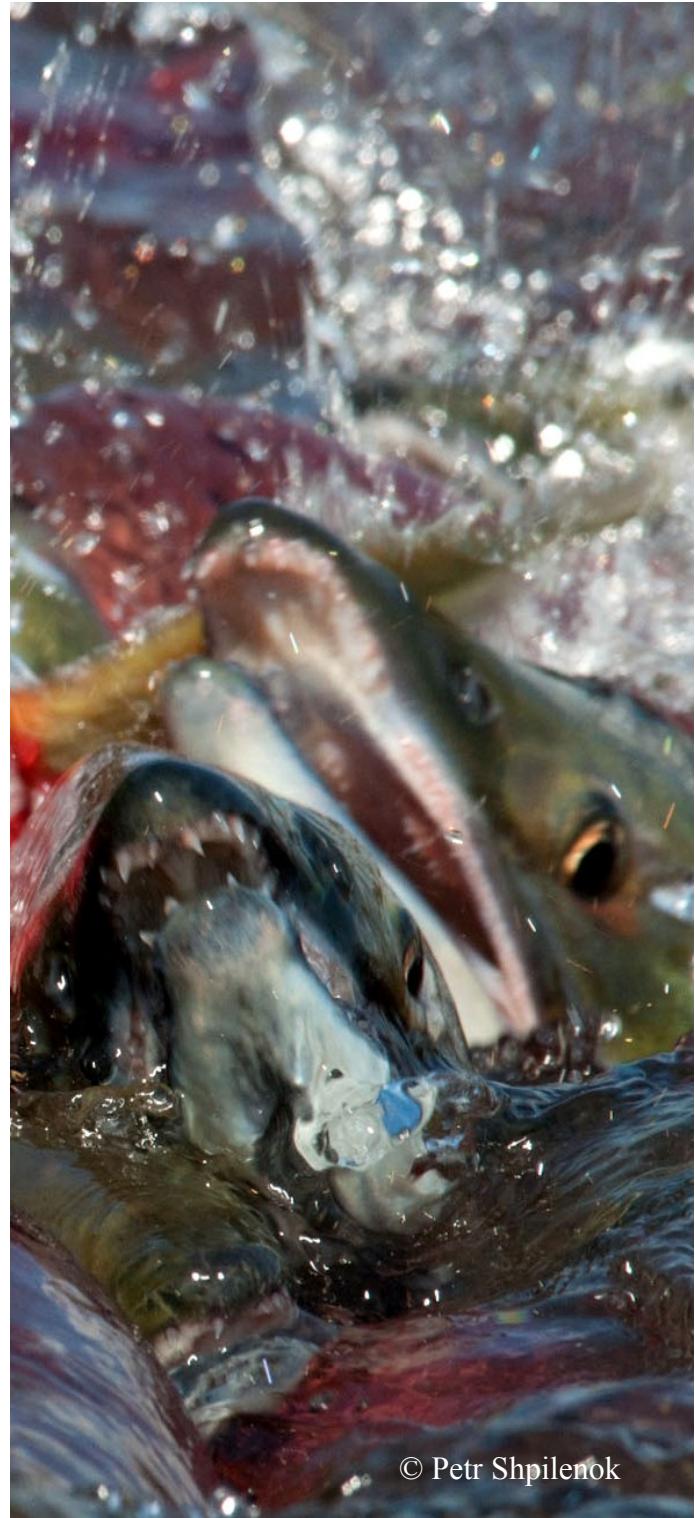
Local residents, fishermen, NGOs, local authorities and other stakeholders will work together to prevent poaching, improve legislation (или legislative system) and principles of quotas sharing. The Council has been created on initiative of Public Salmon Coalition "Save salmon together". WWF as the founder and active member of the Coalition will attend the first Council's meeting in February, 25, devoted to sport fishing and fishing for personal using.

- **How to conduct environmental monitoring by yourself**

Guide book "Conducting environmental monitoring in the fresh waters of Kamchatka" was published with support of WWF and other NGOs and scientific organizations.

Due to intensive extraction of mineral resources and development of other industrial activities, some rivers and lakes became polluted by industrial waste, radioactive substances, domestic sewage and toxic chemicals used in agriculture. The book designed for local citizens includes methodology of monitoring lakes, rivers and small streams.

Water monitoring is of great cultural and economic significance, the authors of the book noted. Permanent hydro biological control in areas with industrial activities is highly needed for salmon spawning ground protection.



- **Kizimen volcano could drive animals out of the nature reserve**

More than three months Kamchatka's giant has been powdering with ash the territory of Kronotsky Nature Reserve. WWF is anxious about the volcanic activity influence on vulnerable ecosystems.

Last year Kizimen volcano woke up in November and since then hasn't stopped throwing out steam and gas streams with huge amount of volcanic ash. An overview flight showed that the territory is covered with a layer of ash within a radius of several dozens of kilometers from the active volcano.

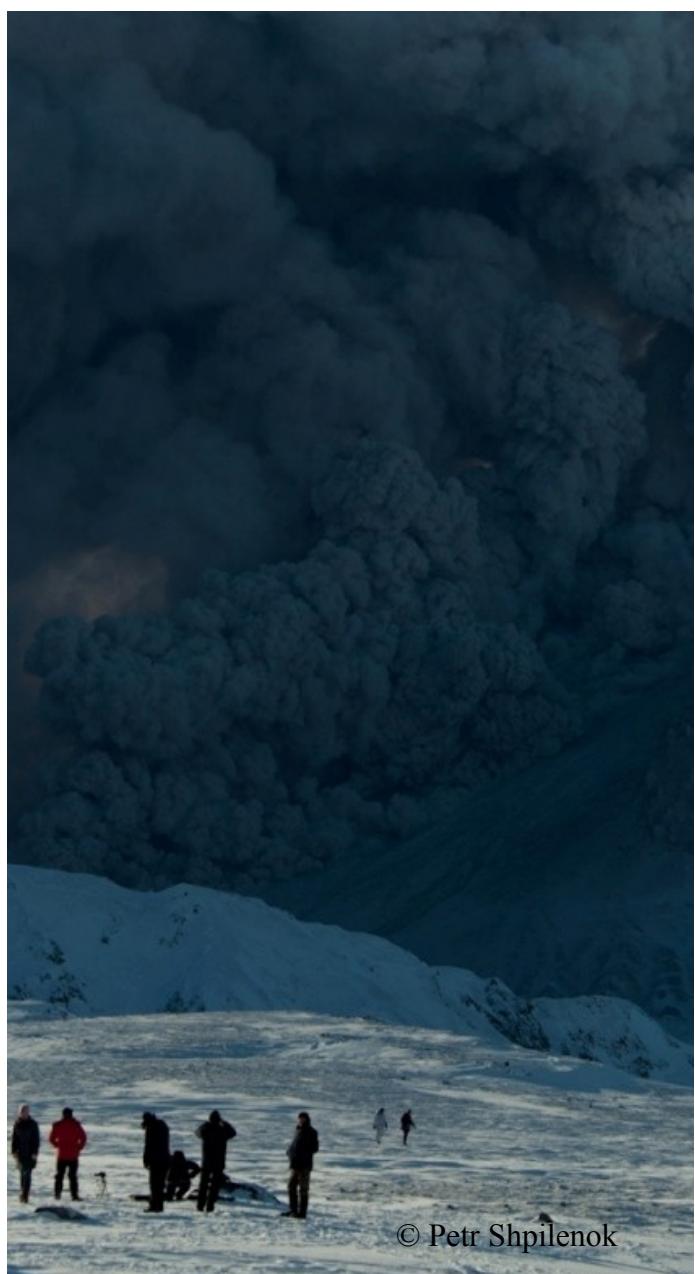
Now scientists point out the dramatic increase of seismic incidents that are volcanic eruptions with pyroclastic bombs, accompanied with the bursting of the local earthquakes. During the several days the number of such incidents grew from 200-300 to 1200.

According to scientist of Kronotsky Nature Reserve the snow will melt down faster this spring and that would lead to earlier vegetation. **Vladimir Mosolov**, the deputy science director of Kronotsky Nature Reserve, also points out that the animals inhabiting the volcano's area are at risk of mortality.

"Kizimen volcano is located at the border of Kronotsky Nature Reserve and ash trail is ordinary directed towards the protected area.

There is a probability some animals' groups which have to reside in unfavorable for them condition may abandon the reserve and lose the protection provided by nature reserve security" – Sergey Rafanov, the Head of Kamchatka Bering Sea ecoregional WWF department, said.

However the volcanic eruption is a natural process whose negative aftereffects humanity has no right to prevent.



- Best preventative measure is drastic punishment

WWF supports an initiative of Aleksey Kuzmitsky, the governor of Kamchatsky region, to make tougher the punishment for illegal transportation of endangered species listed in the Kamchatka's Red Book. WWF proposes a concrete project of changes for existing legislation.

Kamchatsky region's governor propounded with an initiative of toughening punishment for illegal transportation and keeping in captivity gyrfalcons and other rare species.

"Today the illegal hunting for gyrfalcons has spread almost all over the region, - Aleksey Kuzmitsky said. – But it is quite impossible to catch a poacher in the act of capture with a bird. The law machinery gets hold of carriers that deal with transportation and captivity of birds. But as a punishment current legislation stipulates for them the imposition only of the light penalty".

WWF has already worked out a number of amendments to the current legislation. The Russian Federation Code of Administrative Offences must impose penalty both for **getting and obtaining** endangered species and for their **transportation and captivity**.

It is highly necessary to raise the maximum fine and get an opportunity to confiscate **transport facilities used for animals' transportation**.

Transportation of these animals across the border must be considered as smuggling and punished in accordance with The Criminal Code of Russian Federation.

"We are glad that our point of view is in accord with the proposals of Kamchatka's governor. We hope that with joint efforts we will sooner succeed in their adoption by the State Duma", - Vladimir Krever, the WWF's coordinator of biodiversity program said.



- WWF announces sub-grants competition

Residents of Kamchatka can receive grants for protecting their rights to a healthy environment and monitoring of using of natural resources.

The aim of the competition is to unite indigenous peoples, youth groups and NGOs of Kamchatka region in solving environmental problems due to oil & gas extraction, mining and other industrial activities.

WWF holds this competition with support of the European Commission of Human Rights.

'Projects applying to grants should provide an active involvement of local people in decision-making process' - said **Ekaterina Khmeleva**, project coordinator, WWF advisor on environmental law. WWF also accepts applications aimed at organizing children environmental camps, public hearings and workshops for sharing experience in protection of the rights of citizens to a healthy environment.



- Russia could lose markets for fish products

The European market remains closed for non-certified russian fishing companies. WWF concerns that in the near future, China could close the doors for russian fish without clear records.

It is not a first year when European buyers of fish has been showing the real interest to buy wild Kamchatka salmon. Playing in the global market game they want to see certified products with clear chain of custody "from boat to throat". Now Russia is not ready to supply a big amount of such kind of fish to Europe, because there are just few certified fishery companies in this country.

"Obviously, China will soon meet European requirements for supplied fish and Russia might lose the main market for salmon harvested in the Far East of the country",

- said **Anatoly Dekshtein**, Coordinator of marine program of Kamchatka Bering Sea ecoregional department, WWF.

Nevertheless today Kamchatka is a member of the world market process with three Kamchatka fishing companies involved in the MSC certification. In May major European and Western buyers of seafood will meet in Brussels, Belgium. WWF hopes for active participation of Kamchatka companies in this event that will help them to find its niche in the rapidly developing market space.