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NEWS

NEW MATERIAL FOR COMBATING OIL-SPILLS

The material developed by Leningrad experts absorbs like a sponge oil products from the water surface. Experiments carried out at the Institute of Peat Industry showed that thermal treatment of peat makes it very light-weight and porous. Twelve-metre sections made of it and used for enclosing the polluted area weigh only 12 kilos. The weight of the oil they absorb exceeds their own weight by many times.

The material named "bertinat" can be used for combating oil spills. In Leningrad there is a fleet of

150 vessels fitted out with equipment for clearing the water surface, lifting the sunk timber and cutting seaweeds. There are "ecological" vessels at the disposal of many major enterprises with specified water area. Over a navigation season, more than 6,000 cargo ships pass through the Neva river, linking the largest European Lake Ladoga and the Gulf of Finland. (*Soviet Features*, Vol. XXV, No. 172, p. 5., 1986; Information Department, USSR Embassy in India, 25 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110 001).