

PROSPECTS OF BOATING DEVELOPMENT IN KALININGRAD REGION

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Abstract: *Prospects of Boating Development in Kaliningrad Region.* This article is about present situation in sphere of boating in Kaliningrad region. Also there is information about future projects of boating development in Kaliningrad. Author shows all troubles about progress of boating in Kaliningrad: closeness of Kurshsky and Kaliningradsko-Vislinsky gulfs for foreign citizens; there is no developed infrastructure for service of yachts of various classes, including the economy class; absence of quantum satisfaction of border entry points for a water transport.

Key words: boating in Kaliningrad region, projects of boating development, poor yacht infrastructure, problems with legislation about boating

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Because of developed system of seaports, the rivers and gulfs of the Kaliningrad region are a transport knot which can provide tourist streams between the European countries and Russia. Yachting is very popular in Europe, it gathers pace in Russia, but it has no place yet in the Kaliningrad region. Here you can swim on a boat on the river or a gulf, but this kind of entertainment is very rare in our region and, therefore, it is not enough to attract tourists.

In the Kaliningrad region there are no yacht-clubs. Hence, even when all the problems with our legislation are solved, foreign tourists will still not be able to visit our region on their yachts and boats, as they simply will have nowhere to stop. The same problem exists for the inhabitants of the Kaliningrad region who can afford a purchase of yacht, but who have no berth to moor this yacht, have not checked up routes in the Kaliningrad and Kurshsky gulfs, where it is possible to sail. Just few people with all their hearts devoted to sails, who have yachts, build slipways and put out to a gulf.

Despite all the possible geographical and economic profits of the yachting, we, unfortunately, have only projects now.

One of the most grandiose projects to create a yacht-club in the Kaliningrad region is «the project of Pionersky». Shall we consider this project as the most perspective in our region?

There is a strong reason for Pionersky to develop sailing (yachting), and this reason lies in the fact that the basic line in the strategy considers the development of the port as a yacht marine. Now the government of Kaliningrad accepts and approves the program of

reconstruction of the port of Pionersky in a high-grade modern yacht-club for 950 vessels. Existing constructions allow already placing 350 vessels, and construction of a new mole between already existing East mole and a mouth of a small river "Salmon" will give the opportunity to place 600 more yachts. Each anchorage of the new port will be provided with the advanced systems of communications (TV, the Internet, electricity and water supply). The modern system for refueling of big yachts will be created; for vessels of smaller tonnage a filling station will be also constructed. At last, the huge shipyard can offer yacht owners all possible technical services in maintenance and transportation of vessels. At a coastal zone near Pionersk shopping complexes, slipways, a marine passenger's terminal, underground car park and a mooring line for 950 yachts will be built. Terraces with exits to the top bench will stretch out along the sea. On this top bench the amphitheatre will be constructed. Buildings of modern hotels will descend stepwise to the beach. The open access to the Baltic sea, certainly, will make the port of Pionersky attractive to fans of yachting.

Moreover, the development of "Amber coast"— a united recreational infrastructure of the Kaliningrad region is being planned. The successful realization of the project depends not only on building of the modern harbour with the terminal for passenger vessels, but also on construction of new attractive buildings, and especially revival and restoration of already existing sights of our region which could attract passengers (tourists), including passengers of cruise liners, and, therefore, contribute to the development of accompanying branches. For example: during a cruise in each port 2 - 3 various excursions are offered; taking into account that the passenger capacity for a modern cruise liner is 2500 passengers, we can say that local tour operators should provide not less than 30 - 40 couches. If visiting of the main sights of our city during the excursion is planned, we should provide the tourists with the convenient couch parks. If excursion is for the whole day, we should arrange meals in the city, but this problem requires a special approach. And what if there are several cruise liners at the port at the same time?

It would be desirable to introduce this project not only for foreign cruiser companies, but also for the Russian tour operators, and, moreover, to make the terminal and harbour a starting point for cruising liners from Russia to Europe and further.

Also there is a large project of development of the infrastructure of boating in Mamonovo. The people there resolved to bring into life a courageous project. Local authorities have conceived to construct the whole tourist complex which will resemble a ship anchor from above. There will be two hotels for 80 guest rooms, an aqua park, a bar, a restaurant, a solarium and a fitness centre. All this is necessary not only for foreign tourists, but also for the inhabitants of our region who can rest with their families in the harbour. Three hectares are already allocated for a building site. While the documents are being conformed, there are searches for a serious investor.

In addition to the grandiose complex, there is an intention to create infrastructure in Mamonovo for a transit of small vessels between Poland and Lithuania through the Kaliningrad region. Erection of "Krasnoflotskaya gavan" with border entry points for a water transport will be the first step of Mamonovo in the development of boating. Another interesting plan is nurtured in the Museum of the World Ocean in Kaliningrad. They have decided to build a mooring for yachts. They have even found a place for it: the moorage for boats and motor boats will be built on a site between a building of the maritime administration and the double-level bridge bridge.

In summer 2009 a full-scale international exhibition of boats and yachts with a participation of domestic-owned and foreign firms is planned for 7 - 10 days in Kaliningrad. It was originally supposed to hold the exhibition in «Fish village»; participants of the exhibition from the European countries were supposed to come to

Kaliningrad by sea. However for such a full fledged exhibition the infrastructure in the area of «Fish village» is still not ready. It is not reasonable to hold a full-scale international exhibition of boats and yachts in summer 2009 in Kaliningrad. Pionersky has better provisions for carrying out of the given event, than «Fish village» in Kaliningrad. Pionersky has a possibility to accommodate with a place not only mooring of yachts, but also their sales, demonstration of possibilities of yachts with their putting out to the Baltic sea, carrying out of sport competitions, etc. This is a very entertainment and interesting event.

Tourist routes and the legislation of foreign countries limit night transitions of yacht owners, especially those on boats. The most widespread (average) class of a vessel could not run the distance of 200 miles from Gdansk or Elblong to Klaipeda in the day time. Therefore, they will have to put in to the territory of the Kaliningrad region. But today they can not do it because of the absence of yacht harbours.

It is possible to get to more than 20 countries on the yacht from Kaliningrad. One can go round the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, and Poland within a week. Or, if you bear north, you can visit Iceland. Routes are very interesting.

The registration data given by the State small boat inspection (SSBI) say that only in the previous year (2008) the number of boats registered was as much as that for all the preceding years. At the same time, there are more yachts in Poland, then in Russia. And chiefly they are "kids" and mid-sized ones (6 - 10 metres).

Here are the main obstacles in popularization of yachting:

1. Yachting is an entertainment which is not mass and not cheap.
2. There is no developed infrastructure for service of yachts of various classes, including the economy class.
3. The infrastructure should have a differentiated character with respect to the price and be focused on various classes of the population.
4. Bridges in the city of Kaliningrad are the next problem. Bridge spans are rather low, bridges can not be drawn. Unfortunately, many motor boats and yachts, cannot pass further than double-level bridge.
5. An eternal problem - absence of a modern filling station for motor boats and yachts. Everything is done in the old way: motor boats and yachts are filled up from oilcans.
6. Closeness of Kurshsky and Kaliningradsko-Vislinsky gulfs for foreign citizens. Despite the agreement signed in December, 2007 between Russia and Lithuania which concerns navigation on the Kurshsky gulf and the river Neman, there still no frontier point in Rybachiy. Water tourists can get a frontier crossing stamp only in Sovetsk. If a water tourist has come into the Kurshsky gulf and has passed the frontier control at the equipped check point (which in reality does not exist still), he or she can not move further as it is forbidden by the current legislation. The tourist can go neither to Zelenogradsk, nor to Polesk, he or she can stay only in the water area of the Kurshsky gulf.
7. The same rule exists for movements of foreigners by internal water routes of our region. The solution of these problems lies in the sphere of the world policy; therefore it goes ahead very slowly.

There are some improvements in the resolution of the questions of navigation in internal waters of the Kaliningrad region; there are even the preliminary agreements on the first steps towards opening of these water spaces. Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia work assiduously. The big interest in the solution of these problems is shown also by the representatives of diplomatic departments of the border countries.

There is a hope that in 2009 the solutions will be found. A lot of other questions, such as opening of sea check points (SCP) depend on them, as well as the organization of

work of boundary and customs services. Such a check point already exists in Baltiysk. It is also necessary to open SCP in Mamonovo and Polessk. All this will allow attracting a considerable quantity of water tourists to the region.

Despite all the difficulties, the market supply of small floating craft grows steadily in the Kaliningrad region, and so does the demand; the infrastructure for small floating craft is being built in the Kaliningrad region. Forecasts are very optimistic!

Child's sailing develops rapidly in spite of the fact that regional and municipal budget means for this purpose are very modest. Generally, the development goes by means of enthusiasts.

In Yantarny the child's section of sailing develops with an active participation of the head of the urban district. There is a hope that there will be a further development in the child's section in Baltiysk — a city where it is possible to open school of preparation of an Olympic reserve yacht sportsmen for Russia.

Yachting, in the full-grade kind should finally start to function in the Kaliningrad region. While there are any defects in the legislation, yachting will be fixed in the local market, will gain popularity, success, constant clients, it will train yacht skills of a considerable number of people and will be completely ready to an input into foreign waters with its head high. With the formation and the development of yachting in the Kaliningrad region, boating will have possibility of development and attracting of foreign visitors to our region.

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