

## Biodiversity preservation

Gazprom Neft is implementing biodiversity preservation programmes and conducting environmental monitoring to assess its impact on ecosystems in the regions in which it operates.

The company is implementing a corporate programme to preserve biodiversity based on a list of plant and animal species that serve as indicators of the stable condition of marine ecosystems in the Russian Arctic. This programme includes measures implemented by the company around the Pirazlomnaya offshore ice-resistant oil-producing stationary platform and Gazpromneft-Yamal assets; it also involves wildlife monitoring along oil transportation routes.

Gazprom Neft is implementing the Aquatic Bioresources Reproduction Programme as part of its field development projects. Gazprom Neft subsidiaries operating in the Arctic breed rare fish species in northern rivers and seas. Millions of juvenile whitefish are released into the Ob, Konda and Severnaya Sosva

### **Monitoring of the Sea of Okhotsk ecosystem**

In 2019, Gazprom Neft conducted environmental monitoring of the grey whale population at the Ayashsky licence block, offshore from Sakhalin Island. Environmental monitoring of grey whales in the Sea of Okhotsk forms part of a joint programme being implemented by oil and gas companies operating on Sakhalin. The programme is being implemented with support from and in close cooperation with environmental organisations, including WWF. The findings of the 2019 expedition confirmed that the grey whale population in the Sea of Okhotsk had increased.

Rivers. In 2019, company enterprises released a total of over 71 million juvenile fish of commercially valuable species into water bodies. In 2019, the company and the government of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug-Yugra signed an agreement, under which Gazprom Neft will consider potential compensatory (remedial) measures, namely releasing juvenile Siberian sturgeon, sterlet, whitefish and broad whitefish bred at enterprises in the Okrug, as a priority.

### **'Narwhal Legend of the Arctic' expedition**

Being a leader in the development of the Russian Arctic entails a high degree of responsibility for preserving the region's unique ecosystem and biodiversity.

In the summer of 2019, Gazprom Neft successfully completed the first exploratory expedition as part of the 'Narwhal: Legend of the Arctic' project. The narwhal is a rare species of cetaceans (whales), which lives in the waters of the Russian Arctic and is included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

During a four-week research expedition to the Franz Joseph Land archipelago, researchers succeeded in obtaining unique data on narwhal habitats in the Russian Arctic, which will be used as a basis for a comprehensive programme of research into this species until 2022. This project will make it possible to assess the status of the narwhal population in the western sector of the Russian Arctic, and determine the size of the population and its distribution. The 'Narwhal: Legend of the Arctic' project is an environmental project forming part of a large-scale 'Time of the Arctic' programme launched by Gazprom Neft.

