

**Trophic and Parasitic Relationships  
Between Fishes and Other Aquatic Species  
in the Selenga Delta of Lake Baikal**

*Abstract*

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The watershed of the Selenga River, the main inflow of Lake Baikal occupies a surface area of 447,000 km<sup>2</sup>; 82% of the Lake Baikal watershed. The delta of the Selenga River occupies a surface area of 1,800 km<sup>2</sup> is in the shape of a fan (500 km<sup>2</sup>). This report presents some excerpts from the authors' two books, right now in the process of being printed: N.M. Pronin, A.N. Matveev, V.P. Samusenok et al. Fishes of Lake Baikal and its watershed. 2007. L.M. Sorokovikova, N.M. Pronin, Z.V. Khazeeva et al. Delta of the Selenga River as a biofilter and indicator of the state of Lake Baikal. 2008. Many years of research has led us to reveal that:

- Of 57 species of fishes in Lake Baikal, in the ichthyofauna of the Delta it has been established that there are 13 widely common species, 2 Baikal neoendemic, and 4 invasive species. In the Selenga shallow water the ichthyofauna is enriched to the account of generation-littoral and trophic-pelagic sculpins
- Specific trophic interactions between bentophages and euryphages exist
- The expansion of the range of the Amur Sleeper *Perccottus glenii* and of *Elodea canadensis* and resulted in a noticeable transformation occurred in the trophic interactions of the delta ecosystem.
- The transition from “river > delta > lake” one can notice significant transformations in the composition of parasites and the level of fish infections, based on the trophic interaction with aquatic species and the ecological valence of parasitic organisms to hydrological conditions