

# OSPRI

Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative  
*Caspian Sea – Black Sea – Central Eurasia*

Promoting Proven, Credible, Integrated and Sustainable  
Oil Spill Response Capability

## Annual Report 2017

An  
**IPIECA**  
Initiative

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## 1. Executive Summary

The Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI) for the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Central Eurasia is a voluntary oil industry effort with a mission to work with governments and other key regional and international organizations to promote the adoption of effective oil spill preparedness in the region. OSPRI's effort is fully aligned with the joint International Maritime Organization (IMO) / industry Global Initiative (GI). Activities and approaches follow industry's good practice guidance and draw on the experiences and lessons learned from GI since its formation in 1996. Across the Caspian Sea and Black Sea, the ratification of the four key IMO Conventions relating to oil spill preparedness has moved from 28% in 2003 to 68% in 2017, demonstrating long-term progress by the countries.

Further progress was made with the Caspian Sea's regional cooperation during 2017, with a meeting held to finalize the regional plan of cooperation under the Aktau Protocol. A further workshop on implementation of the Protocol and regional plan is scheduled for May 2018.

Arrangements for regional cooperation in the Black Sea falls under the Bucharest Convention and its Emergency Protocol. The relevant Advisory Group met during 2017, with OSPRI participation, and commenced discussions for the next regional exercise, scheduled for 2018.

OSPRI continues to focus efforts on ensuring the availability of the full suite of response methods during the contingency planning process and also organizational aspects of oil spill preparedness and response (i.e. command and control frameworks with clarity of roles and responsibilities). This involves supporting development of both national contingency plans and regional cooperation plans, plus their implementation and testing through a structured and coordinated programme of exercises.

OSPRI activity in Kazakhstan remained high throughout 2017 and this workload justified the retention of a local OSPRI coordinator based in Astana. This role serves to greatly increase OSPRI's ability to engage with the key authorities and other stakeholders in the implementation of the national oil spill contingency plan. During 2017, OSPRI supported continued development of oil spill response related regulation and the implementation of the national plan.

To ensure consistency of approach and adopted practices, OSPRI recognises and supports coordination between Global Initiative regional groups (GI SEA and GI WACAF) and intergovernmental organizations.

## 2. Introduction

The Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI) was created out of an industry effort to coordinate improved oil spill preparedness in the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Central Eurasia (see Figure 1). OSPRI was formalized by a Memorandum of Agreement through the IPIECA network on 1 August 2003 which was subsequently renewed in January 2009 and January 2014. BP, Chevron, ENI, ExxonMobil, INPEX, Shell and Total were the OSPRI members during 2017; OSPRI's direct expenditure is shared equally between them.



Figure 1: The Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Central Eurasia showing the littoral States.

OSPRI ensures alignment between its members to achieve consistent engagement with government agencies and other key regional and international organizations. It promotes the adoption of tiered response and mechanisms to facilitate efficient use of tier 3 resources for major incidents. OSPRI's effort is fully aligned with the joint International Maritime Organization (IMO) and oil industry Global Initiative (GI), which strongly supports the ratification and implementation of key IMO Conventions relating to oil spill preparedness. Activities and approaches follow industry's good practice and draw on the experiences and lessons learned from the GI since its inception in 1996.

The outputs of the IPIECA-IOGP Oil Spill Response Joint Industry Project (2011-16), now under custodianship of IPIECA's Oil Spill Group, provide a significant resource for communications and outreach to authorities and other stakeholders. The series of Good Practice Guidance publications from this Project have been translated into Russian language, which is particularly useful for OSPRI.

Activities focus on ensuring the availability of the full suite of response methods during the contingency planning process and organizational aspects of oil spill preparedness and response i.e. command and control frameworks with clarity of roles and responsibilities.

The OSPRI mission:

*Encourage and support industry and governments to work cooperatively, promoting the adoption of proven, credible, integrated and sustainable national, regional and international oil spill response capability.*

### 3. Activities and Achievements in 2017

OSPRI has undertaken activities in both the Black Sea and Caspian Sea during 2017. The actions undertaken are driven by the Business Plan and are assessed below in relation to the Plan's targets and priorities as set at the commencement of 2017 and adapted through the year. The following table highlights actions and outcomes in relation to priority areas under the Business Plan.

<u>Area</u>	<u>2017 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>Caspian Sea</i>	Support finalization of regional plan of cooperation (workshop).	OSPRI was ready to participate in a regional workshop held in Iran during April 2017, which aimed to finalize the text of the draft regional plan. Unfortunately, the Iranian authorities did not issue a visa to the OSPRI Manager in time for him to attend the event. The workshop did achieve its aim of finalizing the regional plan. The reference to a regional mechanism in the regional plan was kept in square brackets, pending a final decision by the Conference of Parties to the Tehran Convention.	Completed
	Support implementation of the regional plan of cooperation when approved by COP; encourage regional exercise programme.	In November 2017, UNEP circulated a final draft project document on <i>Building the capacity for and organizing the implementation of the Aktau Protocol</i> . This will form the basis for implementation, including the joint organization with IMO of a regional workshop in May 2018 and cooperation with industry. OSPRI will be involved in the preparations and has promoted a regional exercise programme as a key implementation tool.	On-going
<i>Black Sea</i>	Support planning for next Black Sea DELTA exercise.	The host country for the next regional Delta (full-scale) exercise was not finalized. The schedule identifies Bulgaria in 2018 but this is to be confirmed. The Black Sea Commission has agreed that its budget may be used to support attendance at regional exercises by non-host country representatives.	Not yet addressed
	Maintain engagement with Black Sea Commission through attendance at appropriate meetings.	The Black Sea Commission's Advisory Group on Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AG ESAS) meeting took place on 19-20 April in Istanbul. Peter Taylor (OSPRI Manager) plus Alan Adamson and Grgo Skaro (Chevron) attended.	On-going
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	Support clarification of national and Oblast organization and promote functional response compatible with IMS	OSPRI has worked closely with the Ministry of Energy throughout the year on development of the new Sub-soil Users Code, incorporating oil spill response issues aligned to the Aktau Protocol and international good practice. At the close of 2017, the Code had been signed off by the President.	On-going
	Facilitate national and regional exercising/training to	Continued engagement was maintained with KMG Systems and Services, Kazenergy, Atameken and others to encourage alignment with international good practice.	On-going

<u>Area</u>	<u>2017 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
	highlight and address key organizational issues		
	Support the work of interested parties to consider creation of Tier 2 Association MoU. Focus on mutual aid agreement (initial step)	The Tier 2 Association Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been formally extended. KPO joined the Mutual Aid Agreement, formulated under the MoU process.	<b>On-going</b>
	Continue to promote full response toolkit in NEBA context i.e. practical implementation of Order 247 on response methods	OSPRI supported NCOC in their commencement of a herder and ISB project, with field trials proposed for 2018. OSPRI also supported NCOC in their consideration of strategy development using NEBA, with a view to feeding outcomes into the NEBA guidance used by the authorities.	<b>On-going</b>
	Encourage and support signing and ratification of OPRC, Bunkers, CLC and Fund Conventions	Ratification of OPRC convention suffered misunderstanding concerning its relation to the Aktau Protocol of senior management in the Transport Committee and was excluded from ratification plan. CLC 92 and Bunkers are in the process of ratification.	<b>On-going</b>
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Support national plan sign-off	The Azerbaijan State Maritime Administration undertook a study visit that included engagement with IMO and IOPC Funds. Other than an indication that the delegation found the visit useful, there was no specific report/update on approval of the national plan.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>
	Facilitate implementation of effective and integrated Incident Management System with appropriate Governmental authorities i.e. MES	Azerbaijan MES held an emergency response exercise under the 'Agreement on cooperation in the field of prevention and liquidation of emergency situations in the Caspian Sea' (the 'Astrakhan Agreement') with participation of all Caspian littoral States and the private sector in November 2017.	<b>On-going</b>
	Promote effective approval of dispersants in global dispersant stockpile	BP has obtained letter of approval from MENR for the import of five dispersants, including the global stockpile dispersants. These are eligible for use subject to incident by incident approval	<b>Completed</b>
	Promote availability of ISB in national plan and develop national procedures		<i>Not yet addressed</i>
<b>Romania</b>	Engage with proposed review of national plan, including finalization of Ministerial dispersant Order	In early 2017 the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forestry was split, causing re-organization disruption. It is proposed that the draft dispersant regulation will now be incorporated into the revised national plan as an annex.  The proposed review and development of the national plan did not progress in 2017 as anticipated. This is understood to be awaiting the	<i>Not yet addressed</i>

<u>Area</u>	<u>2017 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
		on-going formation of the offshore industry regulator and their implementation of the EU Offshore Safety Directive.	
<i>Turkey</i>	Maintain engagement and communication support to strengthening preparedness in the Turkish Straits	ITOPF indicated plans to undertake training/seminar activity in Turkey but this did not materialize in 2017.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>
	Track development of national centre in Tekirdag and implementation of regional centre in Antalya	The representative from the Turkish Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications indicated at the regional meeting in April that the national response centre in Tekirdag will be completed in the near future. He showed some photos which showed a campus-like facility with a large test pool / basin, including a wave machine. However, it is not clear how the facility will be run and when pollution response equipment will be procured. At the close of 2017 the centre was not reported as open.	<b>On-going</b>
<i>Other</i>	OSPRI undertakes various planned and ad hoc activities to promote its work or support events aligned to the business plan and mission	Dinara Amanzholova concluded proof-reading the Russian language translations of the JIP's Good Practice Guidance.  OSPRI supported the successful application of scholarship attendance at the International Oil Spill Conference by representatives from the Romanian Ministry of Environment and the Kazakhstan Ministry of Energy.	

## 4. OSPRI's Profile

OSPRI has developed a consistent profile with key stakeholders and is recognized as the primary voice on oil spill issues for IPIECA members in the region. Interaction with governments and regional bodies demonstrates this profile, along with representation at various workshops and conferences. At the regional and international level, OSPRI has worked closely with the Black Sea Commission (BSC), Tehran Convention Interim Secretariat (UN Environment), IMO and Oil Spill Response Limited through 2017.

The OSPRI Manager engages with the coordination efforts between Global Initiative (GI) regional groups, and intergovernmental organizations. This role allows information exchange and facilitates sharing of good practice and ideas across the groups.

A website, [www.ospri.moonfruit.com](http://www.ospri.moonfruit.com), disseminates general information about OSPRI to any interested parties.

**Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI)**  
Caspian Sea - Black Sea - Central Eurasia

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Protection of the region's environmental and economic resources underpins OSPRI work

**Welcome to OSPRI, an oil industry initiative that encourages and supports the promotion of oil spill preparedness in the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Central Eurasia.**

This region has emerged as one of the most important new sources of world oil supply, attracting development and providing vital new export revenue. With more growth and investment certain, the countries of the region are able to rely increasingly on the benefits arising from uninterrupted exports. As more oil is handled in the region, the shared desire is to eliminate any spills from these operations. Further to a strong commitment to apply preventive measures, a group of oil companies - working in cooperation with governments - also believe it is prudent to undertake actions that can significantly reduce the consequence of such an incident.

Learn more [ABOUT US](#) and [OUR ACTIVITIES](#) on this site.

An **IPIECA** Initiative

## 5. Ratification of key IMO Conventions

Encouraging the ratification and implementation of IMO Conventions relating to oil spill preparedness is a fundamental objective of the IMO/industry Global Initiative, with which OSPRI is fully integrated. Many of OSPRI's activities are linked to the implementation of the OPRC Convention.

The status of four key Conventions at OSPRI's inception in 2003 and at 2017 is shown in the tables below. Ratification of these conventions has moved from 28% to 68% over the period, demonstrating increasing commitment by the countries to address the issues associated with oil spill preparedness.

Country	OPRC 1990		1992 CLC		1992 Fund		Bunker 2001	
	2003	2017	2003	2017	2003	2017	2003	2017
Bulgaria	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓
Georgia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×
Romania	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓
Turkey	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
Ukraine	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×
Russia	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
Azerbaijan	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	✓
IR Iran	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓
Kazakhstan	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Turkmenistan	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×

✓ = Convention signed, × = Convention not signed

**OPRC 90** = International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990

**1992 CLC** = 1992 Protocol to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage

**1992 Fund** = 1992 Protocol to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage

**Bunker 2001** = International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution, 2001

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**6. Activities Planned for 2018**

Priority activities that are planned or proposed in 2018 include the following:

**Caspian Sea** A workshop to commence implementation of the regional plan of cooperation is planned to take place in May 2018.

**Kazakhstan** OSPRI will continue supporting development of oil spill response related regulation and the implementation of the national plan. An international (government driven) tier 3 exercise is planned for July 2018. Continue to support NCOC projects i.e. Herders, NEBA, feasibility study of ISB/dispersants use.

**Azerbaijan** Opportunities will be investigated to engage with the relevant authorities on the finalization and approval of the national plan.

**Romania** Activities to review and amend the national plan are proposed in 2018, including the incorporation of a new offshore regulator into the national framework.

**Bulgaria** The impetus of the planned offshore industry developments may provide opportunity for OSPRI to support dispersant approval/regulation considerations.

Activities may also take place in countries within the OSPRI region that are not listed above, depending on opportunities arising. There are potential restrictions on OSPRI support in Russia and Iran, due to on-going sanctions.

Further details concerning aims and activities are described in the OSPRI Business Plan.

## 7. OSPRI Network

OSPRI maintains an active industry network to ensure broad engagement and ownership of activities and the effective sharing of information. There are monthly teleconferences with written notes and action items, ad hoc meetings associated with various events and a full OSPRI members' annual meeting. In 2017, this formal OSPRI annual meeting was held in Kiev during February. All general communications are copied to the OSPRI email distribution list. The persons on this list include a cross-section of the regions' operating companies and joint venture interests of the OSPRI participant companies. Oil Spill Response Ltd is also an active participant in OSPRI's network.

A brief description of the main international organizations with whom OSPRI works:



### **Black Sea Commission (BSC) - [www.blacksea-commission.org](http://www.blacksea-commission.org)**

A Black Sea region intergovernmental organization, established under the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention). All six Black Sea littoral States are Party to this Convention. The BSC's Advisory Group on Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AG ESAS) is the forum under which is the Convention's Emergency Protocol and its associated regional plan of cooperation (the Black Sea Contingency Plan) are implemented.



### **International Maritime Organization (IMO)-[www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)**

The IMO's purpose is to provide machinery for cooperation among Governments in the field of governmental regulation and practices relating to technical matters of all kinds affecting shipping engaged in international trade; to encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practical standards in matters concerning maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and prevention and control of marine pollution from ships.

IMO has been in collaboration with the oil industry to help improve oil spill preparedness, response and cooperation for a long period, especially through the Global Initiative. The IMO is custodian of the Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation Convention and the Conventions relating to oil spill compensation from oil tankers (Civil Liability Convention and the Fund Convention).

OSPRI signed a Statement of Intent with IMO in 2010 to capture existing cooperation. OSPRI and IMO communicate and cooperate regularly.



### **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe -[www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)**

Economics and Environment is one of OSCE's three 'Dimensions'. The participating States work towards restoring and maintaining a sound ecological balance in the air, water and soil. The OSCE works on the following environment-related priorities: promoting integrated water resource management, supporting the disposal of hazardous waste, implementing the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), promoting and supporting energy security dialogue.



### **Tehran Convention Interim Secretariat - [www.tehranconvention.org](http://www.tehranconvention.org)**

The Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (the 'Tehran Convention') is the first legally binding regional agreement signed by all five Caspian littoral States, laying down the general requirements and the institutional mechanism for environmental protection in the Caspian region. The Oil Pollution Incidents Protocol ('Aktau Protocol') to the Convention was signed in 2011 and entered into force in 2016.