

# OSPRI

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

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

## Annual Report 2018

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 2018, demonstrating long-term progress by the countries.

Further progress was made with the Caspian Sea's regional cooperation during 2018, with a workshop on implementation of the Protocol and regional plan held in June. A regional emergency exercise incorporating oil pollution was held under the Astrakhan Agreement and OSPRI undertook efforts to encourage synergy between this Agreement and the Protocol.

Arrangements for regional cooperation in the Black Sea falls under the Bucharest Convention and its Emergency Protocol. The relevant Advisory Group met during 2018, with OSPRI participation. The location and timing of the next regional exercise is not yet decided

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 2018 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 2018, OSPRI supported continued development of oil spill response related regulation and the implementation of the national plan. OSPRI also supported activities to promote use of NEBA in contingency planning and the testing of herders in conjunction with in-situ burning.

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.

A new Memorandum of Agreement (2019-2023) was developed during 2018, for the continued administration and functioning of OSPRI.

## 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, January 2014 and January 2019. BP, Chevron, ENI, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total were the OSPRI members during 2018; all 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 2018

OSPRI has undertaken activities in both the Black Sea and Caspian Sea during 2018. 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 2018 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>2018 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>Caspian Sea</i>	Support workshop on the implementation of the Aktau Protocol	OSPRI attended the regional workshop held in Baku in June, along with other international organizations (Un Environment, IMO and OSRL).	<b>Completed</b>
	Support implementation of the regional plan of cooperation when approved by COP; encourage regional exercise programme	OSPRI attended parts of the Preparatory meeting for the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Tehran Convention (COP 6) in Baku during the week September. This included discussion of the Aktau Protocol implementation. COP 6 is scheduled to be held in May 2019.	<b>On-going</b>
	Engage with planned regional exercise under the Astrakhan Agreement ('Teniz 2018')	OSPRI attended the combined fire-fighting, salvage and oil pollution exercise in August. Participation included resources from Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. NCOC participated and OSRL also observed.	<b>Completed</b>
<i>Black Sea</i>	Support planning for next Black Sea DELTA exercise	The host country for the next regional Delta (full-scale) exercise is not yet finalized.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>
	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 in April. Chevron participated on behalf of OSPRI.	<b>On-going</b>
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	Improve clarity of Oblast/National response organization through functional, integrated command structure	The NCOC tier 3 exercise provided an opportunity to demonstrate incident management system and how this could integrate with the local and national framework.	<b>On-going</b>
	Engage with exercise 'Teniz 2018' planning	OSPRI supported NCOC's engagement in the exercise planning process.	<b>Completed</b>
	NCOC tier 3 exercise	OSPRI attended the Exercise Altyn Qyran in September as evaluators.	<b>Completed</b>
	Availability of full OSR Toolkit: develop methodological recommendations (ISB and dispersant) based on international practice	Proposals made to amend the Eco Code to provide more flexibility in the approval process for dispersant and in-situ burn, under a NEBA framework. Also working with the relevant authorities to obtain listing of herding products in the regulation covering approved oil spill response chemicals.	<b>On-going</b>
	Share SIMA methodology with authorities (workshop)	Workshops were held in Atyrau and Astana during April, with support from Shell and KMG.	<b>Completed</b>

<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>2018 Business Plan</u></b>	<b><u>Action and outcomes</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
	Possible use of herders for ISB; sharing results with authorities	Successful field trial held at Damba during November. Results to be collated and shared	<b>On-going</b>
	Embed Caspian Regional Plan (under Aktau Protocol) implementation in national context	Revised national plan was approved in 2018 and this is aligned with requirements of the Protocol.	<b>Completed</b>
	Signing of IMO conventions	CLC 92 and Bunkers are in the process of ratification.	<b>On-going</b>
<b><i>Azerbaijan</i></b>	Promote availability of ISB in national plan and develop national procedures	Contacts made with authorities and SOCAR, suggesting joint activities to develop procedures for ISB (and formalization of dispersant regulation).	<b>On-going</b>
	Sharing international good practice and Caspian regional experiences (e.g. research in RoK)	Presentations made at the Caspian Oil Spill Control conference in Baku during November. This covered the RoK legal framework, dispersant and herder-ISB studies, and the wider the outcomes from recent JIPs.	<b>On-going</b>
<b><i>Romania</i></b>	Engage with proposed review of national plan	The proposed review and development of the national plan did not progress in 2018 as anticipated. OSPRI attended the Black Sea Oil & Gas Conference in November to maintain contacts in Bucharest.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>
<b><i>Turkey</i></b>	Maintain engagement and communication support to strengthening preparedness in the Turkish Straits	OSPRI attended the MOIG regional workshop in November and liaised with the key Ministries. Suggestions were made for future joint activities.	<b>On-going</b>
	Track development of national centre in Tekirdag and implementation of regional centre in Antalya	It remains unclear how the facilities will be run and when pollution response equipment will be procured. At the close of 2018 the centre was not reported as open.	<b>On-going</b>
<b><i>Bulgaria</i></b>	Support discussions around dispersant regulation	OSPRI liaised with EMSA, who reported they obtained Ministerial permission for use of their stockpiled dispersant (Radiagreen), 18 m <sup>3</sup> of which was transported to Bulgaria as standby for a leaking wreck (but not used).  There does not appear to be a formal regulation for the approval and use of dispersants. Only case by case approvals.	<b>On-going</b>

#### 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 (UNEP), IMO and Oil Spill Response Limited through 2018.

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 2018 is shown in the tables below. Ratification of these conventions has moved from 28% to 68% over the period, demonstrating commitment by the countries to address the issues associated with oil spill preparedness.

Country	OPRC 1990		1992 CLC		1992 Fund		Bunker 2001	
	2003	2018	2003	2018	2003	2018	2003	2018
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

## 6. Activities Planned for 2019

Priority activities that are planned or proposed in 2019 include the following:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Caspian Sea | It is anticipated that the regional plan and exercise programme will be approved at the Tehran Convention Conference of Parties, leading to implementation activities.  |
| Black Sea   | Continued engagement through the Black Sea Commission is planned and support will be given to a regional DELTA exercise, if one is organized.   |
| Kazakhstan  | OSPRI will continue supporting development of oil spill response related regulation and the implementation of the national and territorial plans. Specific activities are planned in relation to development of NEBA methodology (SIMA), herder approval and sensitivity mapping. |
| Azerbaijan  | Opportunities will be investigated to engage proactively with the relevant authorities on approval and implementation of the draft national plan.   |
| Romania     | Activities to review and amend the national plan are anticipated in 2019, 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 2018, this formal OSPRI annual meeting was held in Baku during January. 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 (OPRC) Convention, the Conventions relating to oil spill compensation from shipping (Civil Liability Convention, the Fund Convention and the Bunker Convention).

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



**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.