



Caspian Sea – Black Sea – Central Eurasia

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

Annual Report 2020

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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 70% in 2020, demonstrating long-term progress by the countries.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a severe impact on the ability of OSPRI to deliver the Business Plan during 2020, due to local, national and international travel and meeting constraints. Furthermore, a number of the authorities who deal with emergencies were fully occupied with their pandemic response. This reduced their ability to engage with oil spill preparedness activities. Despite the constraints, progress was possible through remote working and widespread adoption of virtual meetings and online collaboration. The OSPRI website was redesigned and relaunched during 2020 at www.ospri.online.

Regional exercising under the Aktau Protocol commenced using a virtual platform. This represents an important step forward for the Caspian Sea region. A benefit of using the virtual environment is that greater numbers of personnel have been able to participate in events. OSPRI supported the exercise programme by developing a video tutorial on the completion and use of the regional pollution reporting (POLREP) system.

Arrangements for regional cooperation in the Black Sea falls under the Bucharest Convention and its Emergency Protocol. The relevant Advisory Group did not meet during 2020, due to administrative issues and the pandemic. The location and timing of the next regional exercise is not yet decided.

OSPRI activity in Kazakhstan continued throughout 2020. Having the coordinator based in country serves to greatly increase OSPRI's ability to engage with the key authorities and other stakeholders. During 2020, online collaboration allowed the finalization of amendments to the Eco-Code and drafting of legal acts for their implementation.

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. The use of virtual communication has served to strengthen these relationships during 2020.

The annual budget is split equally amongst OSPRI members and excludes their in-kind support to OSPRI's activities. At the close of 2020 OSPRI's membership was eight companies – KMG joined in 2020. OSPRI's administration is provided through IPIECA (the global oil and gas industry association for advancing environmental and social performance).

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, KMG, NCOC, Shell and Total were the OSPRI members during 2020; 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. These documents are posted on OSPRI's website to promote their use.

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 2020

OSPRI's activities and actions undertaken are driven by the Business Plan; they are assessed below in relation to the Plan's targets and priorities as set at the commencement of 2020 and adapted through the year. The following table highlights actions and outcomes in relation to priority areas under the Business Plan.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a severe impact on the ability of OSPRI to deliver the Business Plan, due to local, national and international travel constraints. A number of the authorities who deal with emergencies were fully occupied with their pandemic response. Despite the constraints, progress was possible through remote working and widespread adoption of virtual meetings and online collaboration.

Area	2020 Business Plan	Action and outcomes	Status
<i>OSPRI Admin.</i>	Re-develop OSPRI website	A new website was developed and launched at www.ospri.online .	Completed
	Potential new members	No contacts made.	On-going
	Consider a design of OSPRI logo	A new logo was designed with the website.	Completed
<i>Caspian Sea</i>	Support finalization and implementation of the regional plan of cooperation when approved by COP	The sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Tehran Convention (COP 6) was postponed into 2021.	On-going
	Engage to support feasible regional exercise under the Astrakhan Agreement	No exercise was held under the Astrakhan Agreement during 2020.	On-going
	Engage with governments through e-meetings to share experience across the region	Virtual exercises were held under the regional plan implementation process, with OSPRI participation. OSPRI developed a short video tutorial to assist understanding of the pollution reporting system (youtu.be/K8f5sRBTrnI). OSPRI presented at the virtual SPE Caspian technical conference.	On-going
<i>Black Sea</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 was not held during 2020.	On-going
	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>
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	Implementation of revised Eco-Code	New draft of Eco-code progressed through Parliament and approval anticipated in 2021. Work on legal acts to implement amendments underway in 2020 (covering sensitivity mapping, herder approval and SIMA)	On-going

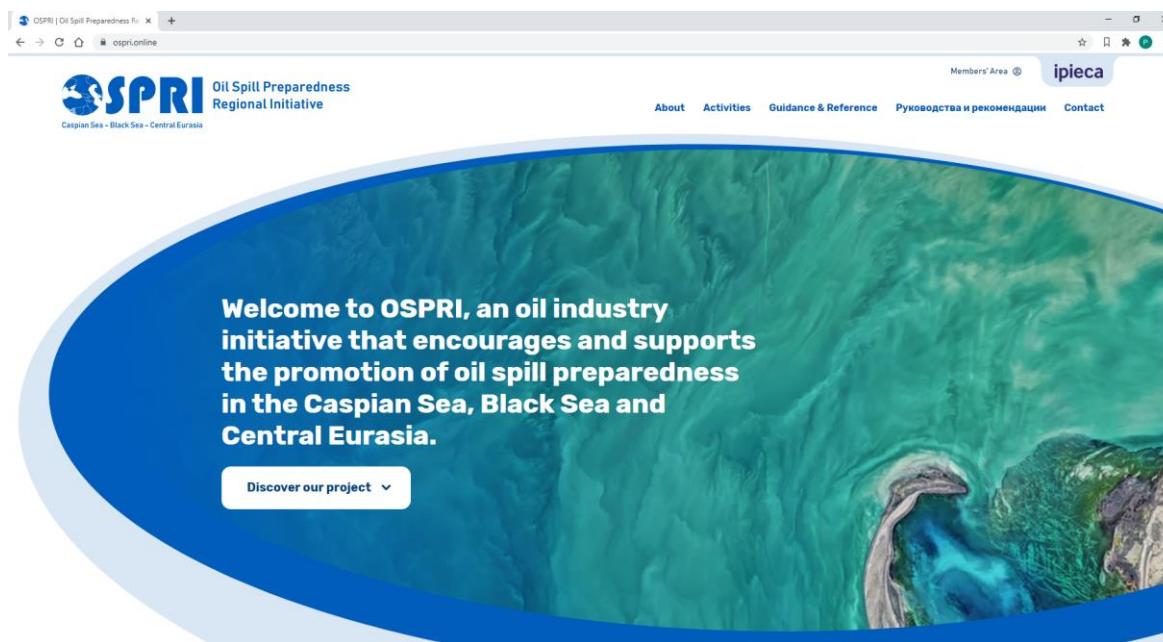
<u>Area</u>	<u>2020 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	Review of National Plan	Limited progress – amendments in regard to the titles of the authorities provided by Ministry of Energy. Positive engagement from Ministry of Emergencies at close of 2020 for oil spill issues. Discussions commenced on review of Mangystau territorial level plan.	On-going
	Signing of IMO conventions	Parliament anticipated to approve the Nairobi Convention by early 2021 – this will set a precedent for expediting Bunker Convention and CLC.	On-going
<i>Romania</i>	Engage with proposed review of national plan	No engagement on national issues during 2020.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>
<i>Turkey</i>	Maintain engagement and communication support to strengthening preparedness in the Turkish Straits	No activities held during 2020.	On-going
<i>Bulgaria</i>	Track development of national centre in Tekirdag and implementation of regional centre in Antalya	National centre officially opened in 2019. Feedback indicates the equipping and staffing of the centre is not yet clarified.	On-going
	Support discussions around dispersant regulation	No progress with dispersant regulation reported in 2020.	On-going

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.

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.online, disseminates general information about OSPRI to any interested parties.



Screen grab of the redesigned website's Home page

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 2020 is shown in the tables below. Ratification of these conventions has moved from 28% to 70% 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	2020	2003	2020	2003	2020	2003	2020
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 2021

Priority activities that are planned or proposed in 2021 include the following:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Caspian Sea | It is anticipated that the regional plan and exercise programme will be approved at the sixth meeting of Tehran Convention Conference of Parties (COP 6), leading to enhanced 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 the implementation of oil spill response related regulation and review/update of the national plan. |
| Azerbaijan | Opportunities will be investigated to follow-up with the relevant authorities on approval and implementation of the draft national plan. |
| Romania | Activities to review and amend the national plan may occur in 2021, including the incorporation of a new offshore regulator into the national framework. |
| Turkey | The development of the national response centre will be tracked, including possibilities to engage with authorities undertaking implementation activities. |

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.

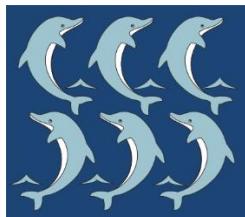
Further details concerning aims and activities are described in the OSPRI Business Plan.

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 2020, this formal OSPRI annual meeting was held in Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan) 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. OSPRI's wider communications network includes various international organizations.

8. International Organizations

This section provides a brief description of the main international organizations with whom OSPRI works:



Black Sea Commission (BSC) - www.blacksea-commission.org

A Black Sea region inter-governmental 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



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

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.