

OSPRI

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

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

Annual Report 2019

An
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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 70% in 2019, demonstrating long-term progress by the countries.

Further discussions concerning the Caspian Sea's regional cooperation were held during 2018, with a e-meetings on the implementation of the Protocol and the finalization of the regional plan. The scheduled sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Tehran Convention, where formal approval of the regional plan is anticipated, was postponed from 2019 to 2020.

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 2019, due to administrative issues. 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 2019 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 2019, OSPRI supported activities to promote good practice with sensitivity mapping, the use of NEBA/SIMA in contingency planning and the inclusion of herders in the list of approved treatment products.

A workshop on the approval of dispersant products and the authorization for their use was organized by OSPRI in Azerbaijan. This brought together the key authorities to discuss how current practice might be reflect in the development of clear dispersant regulation.

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

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 2019 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>2019 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>Caspian Sea</i>	Support implementation of the regional plan of cooperation when approved by COP; encourage regional exercise programme	The sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Tehran Convention (COP 6) was postponed into 2020. OSPRI participated in preparatory meeting and related e-meetings to discuss finalization of the regional plan and associated exercise guidelines and programme.	On-going
	Engage with planned regional exercise under the Astrakhan Agreement	No exercise was held during 2019. BP attended major exercise hosted by Azerbaijan under the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) programme. This raised local awareness of importance of planning for international support.	On-going
	Technical workshop to share experiences across the region	Attended and presented at SPE Symposium in Nur-Sultan	Completed
<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 2019 to due broader administrative issues at the Commission.	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>	Improve clarity of Oblast/National response organization through functional, integrated command structure	Emergency Commission meeting concluded the national plan would benefit from re-working with input from the Emergency function of government, to make it more operational. This may be a route to enhanced clarity/integration of incident management structures within and between the authorities and private sectors.	On-going
	Territorial plan updated and exercise programme developed	Territorial plan is updated but it will be renewed and reviewed due to national plan's reworking. Exercises programme is not developed yet. A letter has been addressed from Ministry of Energy to Emergency Authority. There was no official letter received from emergency authority. Through oral communication they would like to consider it in 2020.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>
	National plan implementation schedule	A Working Group under the Emergency Commission is proposed to consider the	On-going

<u>Area</u>	<u>2019 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
		national plan re-working, with OSPRI included in the membership	
	Availability of full OSR Toolkit	Oil spill response related amendments to the Eco-Code sent to Parliament for final approval at end of 2019	Completed
	NEBA methodology based on SIMA and embedded in the Eco Code and OSR methods regulation	A workshop was held in Nur-Sultan with live links to Atyrau and Aktau. This workshop and the previous events have laid a solid foundation of awareness and understanding of NEBA and related technical oil spill response issues. OSPRI can now support and engage with the authorities on clarifying the NEBA approvals process within the legislative framework – both in the planning and incident response contexts. There appears to be willingness to commit to a series of table-top NEBA / SIMA scenario discussions, incorporating approval / procedural issues.	On-going
	Sensitivity mapping workshop	OSPRI organized a workshop to share international good practice with the relevant authorities. An information letter was sent to the new Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, highlighting the need to manage on national level and allocate budget money as well as possible ways to provide legal framework	Completed
	Herder for ISB; OP-40 product included in the list of approved oil spill treatment chemicals	Engagement with authorities to share experience with herders and promote their inclusion as oil spill treatment products in a NEBA framework.	On-going
	Border and customs control procedures embedded in procedures	Exercise was proposed to check border and custom control procedures. Was not supported by emergency authority.	Not yet addressed
	Signing of IMO conventions	The Ministry of Justice raised questions concerning convention texts; OSPRI facilitated IMO response and continued promotion of the ratification process working with KMG-SS. OSPRI facilitated and drafted jointly with transport authority a clarification letter addressed to the Ministry of Justice	On-going
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	Engagement with authorities with view to implementation of (draft) national plan and suite of response tools	Workshop on approval dispersant products and authorization of their use held in Baku, with authorities' attendance. Outcomes included OSPRI recommendations to develop dispersant regulation and address approval of national plan.	On-going
	Sharing international good practice and Caspian regional experiences (e.g. research in RoK)		

<u>Area</u>	<u>2019 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>Romania</i>	Engage with proposed review of national plan	The proposed review and development of the national plan did not progress in 2019.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>
<i>Turkey</i>	Maintain engagement and communication support to strengthening preparedness in the Turkish Straits	No activities held during 2019.	On-going
	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
<i>Bulgaria</i>	Support discussions around dispersant regulation	No progress with dispersant regulation reported.	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. 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 2019.

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, 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.

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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 2019 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	2019	2003	2019	2003	2019	2003	2019
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 2020

Priority activities that are planned or proposed in 2020 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 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 are anticipated in 2020, 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.

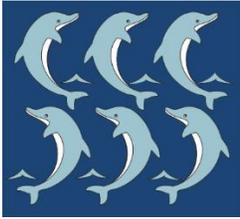
OSPRI plans to redevelop its website during 2020, to provide easier access to information and materials to members and other interested parties.

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 2019, 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

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.