



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

# Annual Report 2022

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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 Global Initiative (GI), a joint effort between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and industry. Activities and approaches follow industry's good practice guidance and draw on the experiences and lessons learned from the GI since its formation. 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 2022, demonstrating long-term progress by the countries.

The aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and the situation in Ukraine have imposed restrictions on the ability of OSPRI to deliver the Business Plan during 2022, due to travel and meeting constraints. Despite this, progress was possible in the Caspian Sea region through remote working and widespread adoption of virtual meetings and online collaboration.

Regional exercising under the Aktau Protocol continued using a virtual platform. This represents important progress 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 this virtual exercise programme with technical inputs. A further outcome was completion of translation into Russian of informative materials concerning oil spill claims.

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 2022. The location and timing of the next regional exercise is not yet decided.

OSPRI activity in Kazakhstan continued throughout 2022. Having the coordinator based in country serves to greatly increase OSPRI's ability to engage with the key authorities and other stakeholders.

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 continued to strengthen these relationships during 2022.

At the close of 2022 OSPRI's membership was eight companies. OSPRI's administration is provided by Ipieca (the global oil and gas industry association for advancing environmental and social performance across the energy transition).

## 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 TotalEnergies were the OSPRI members during 2022; 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.

The suite of the Ipieca-IOGP oil spill preparedness and response publications provide a significant resource for communications and outreach to authorities and other stakeholders. Most of this series of Good Practice Guidance publications 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 promoting the availability of the full response toolkit during the contingency planning process and on the organizational aspects of oil spill preparedness and response i.e. command and control frameworks incorporating 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 2022

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 2022 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 and the situation in Ukraine have restricted the ability of OSPRI to deliver the Business Plan. Despite the constraints, progress was possible through remote working and widespread adoption of virtual meetings and online collaboration.

<u>Area</u>	<u>2022 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>OSPRI Admin.</b>	Potential new members	No contacts made.	<b>On-going</b>
	RETOS knowledge base review and update	Peter Taylor engaged with the RETOS working group – new Web-based App expected to be launched in Q1 2023.	<b>On-going</b>
<b>Caspian Sea</b>	Support finalization and implementation of the regional plan of cooperation	OSPRI has engagement with the virtual exercise programme. Claims guidance was identified as useful during the exercise programme – translation of key IOPC Fund guidance into Russian was completed with OSPRI's support. Tehran Convention COP 6 did not lead to established of Secretariat in the region. Russia organized an exercise in August 2022, supporting implementation of the Aktau Protocol but international participation was limited and OSPRI did not attend.	<b>On-going</b>
	Engage to support feasible regional exercise under the Astrakhan Agreement	No exercise was held under the Astrakhan Agreement during 2022.	<b>On-going</b>
<b>Black Sea</b>	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 2022 and meeting are unlikely until the Ukraine situation is resolved.	<b>On-going</b>
	Support planning for next Black Sea DELTA exercise	The host country for the next regional Delta (full-scale) exercise is not yet finalized and unlikely to take place until the Ukraine situation is resolved.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Implementation of revised Eco-Code	Action on legal acts to implement amendments have commenced.	<b>On-going</b>
	Key authorities understand NEBA (i.e. SIMA methodology)	NCOC and KPO NEBA's have been approved through letter to Operators.	<b>Completed</b>
	Development of national sensitivity maps	A working group has commenced, with industry (and OSPRI) participation – international guidance has been shared.	<b>On-going</b>
	Develop monitoring system to identify, verify	No progress was made with this item.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>

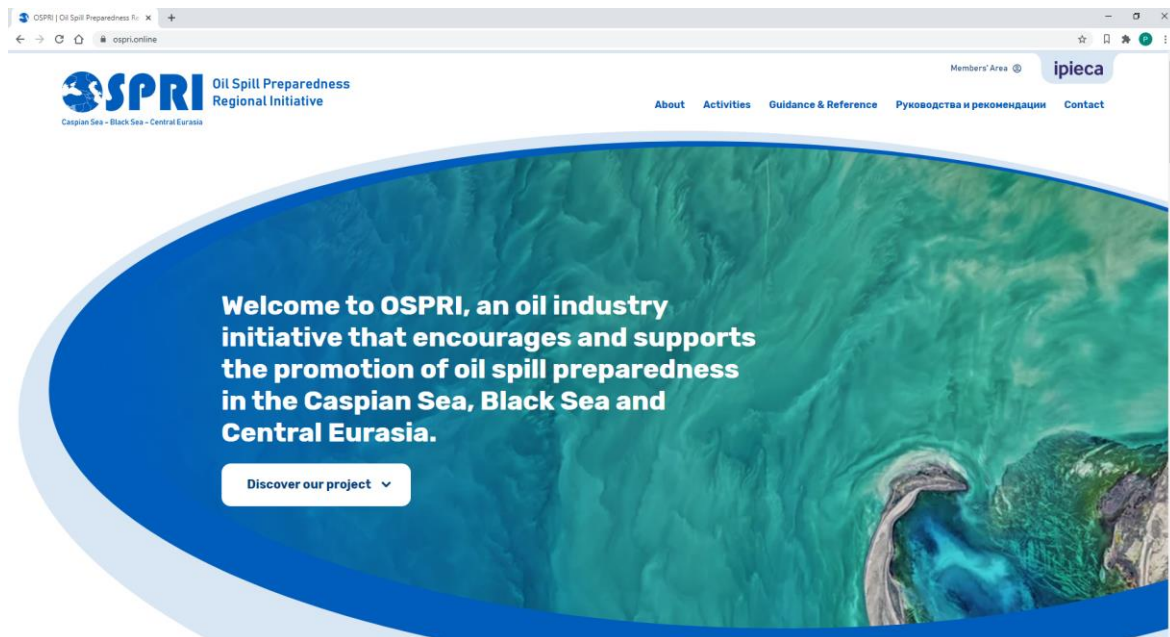
<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>2022 Business Plan</u></b>	<b><u>Action and outcomes</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
	and investigate spills and responsible polluter		
	Review of National Plan	There are proposed amendments to the Civil Protection Law; OSPRI's will encourage alignment between this Law and the Eco-code and Sub-soil Users Law, promoting the emergency authority taking a key role in oil spill preparedness – this may influence the national planning review.	<b>On-going</b>
	Signing of IMO conventions	The Bunkers Convention and the Civil Liability Convention are progressing through the ratification process.	<b>On-going</b>
<b><i>Azerbaijan</i></b>	Engagement with authorities with view to approval of (draft) national plan	No engagement on national issues during 2022.	<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 2022.	<i>Not yet addressed</i>
<b><i>Turkey</i></b>	Maintain engagement and communication support to strengthening preparedness in the Turkish Straits	No activities held during 2022.	<b>On-going</b>
	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.	<b>On-going</b>
<b><i>Bulgaria</i></b>	Support discussions around dispersant regulation	No progress with dispersant regulation in 2022.	<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.

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](http://www.ospri.online), disseminates general information about OSPRI to any interested parties.



Screen grab of the 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 the end of 2022 is shown in the table 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	2022	2003	2022	2003	2022	2003	2022
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 2023

Priority activities that are planned or proposed in 2023 include the following:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Caspian Sea | It is proposed by UNEP that the regional plan and exercise programme will continue to be implemented.   |
| Black Sea   | Engagement with the Black Sea Commission if meetings recommence.  |
| Kazakhstan  | OSPRI will continue supporting the implementation of oil spill response related regulation to implement the revised Eco-code, including support to the oil spill sensitivity mapping working group. |
| 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 2023, 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.

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## **7. OSPRI Network**

OSPRI maintains an active industry network to ensure broad engagement and ownership of activities and effective information sharing. There are monthly teleconferences with written notes and action items and an annual meeting. 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 and 'sister' GI regional groups are also active participants in OSPRI's network. OSPRI's wider communications network includes various international organizations.

## 8. International Organizations

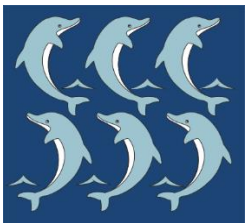
This section provides a brief description of the main international organizations with whom OSPRI works:



**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.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Europe Office currently acts as the Interim Secretariat for the Convention. OSPRI cooperates closely with UNEP on the implementation of the Aktau Protocol.



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

