



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

Annual Report 2023

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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 2023, demonstrating long-term progress by the countries.

The situation in Ukraine has imposed restrictions on the ability of OSPRI to deliver the Business Plan during 2023, particularly in relation to Black Sea region. Despite this, progress was possible in the Caspian Sea region. The post-pandemic adoption of virtual meetings and online collaboration continues to be a feature of working practices.

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 guidance.

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 2023. The location and timing of the next regional exercise is not yet decided.

OSPRI activity in Kazakhstan continued throughout 2023. Having the coordinator based in country serves to greatly increase OSPRI's ability to engage with the key authorities and other stakeholders. OSPRI was a key contributor to a sensitivity mapping workshop held in Astana.

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.

. At the close of 2023 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 2023; 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 2023

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 2023 and adapted through the year. The following table highlights actions and outcomes in relation to priority areas under the Business Plan.

The situation in Ukraine has restricted the ability of OSPRI to deliver the Business Plan. Despite the constraints, progress was possible. The use of remote working and widespread adoption of virtual meetings and online collaboration is now embedded into normal working practices.

| <u>Area</u> | <u>2023 Business Plan</u> | <u>Action and outcomes</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| OSPRI Admin. | Potential new members | No contacts made. | On-going |
| | RETOS knowledge base review and update | New Web-based App launch is delayed to 2024. Translation into Russian to be considered when live. | On-going |
| Caspian Sea | Support finalization and implementation of the regional plan of cooperation | OSPRI has engagement with the virtual regional exercise programme. There was limited activity due to [Rotating] Secretariat establishment issues. These issues have been partially resolved, enabling Aktau Protocol implementation activities to re-commence in Q4. | On-going |
| | Engage to support feasible regional exercise under the Astrakhan Agreement | No exercise was held under the Astrakhan Agreement during 2023. | On-going |
| Black Sea | 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 2023 and meeting are unlikely until the Ukraine situation is resolved. | <i>Pending</i> |
| Kazakhstan | Track development of marine rescue group | Considerations continue for the establishment of the group; OSPRI remains in touch with both the Ministries of Energy and Emergencies offering technical information. | On-going |
| | Potential update to regulations relating to oil spills | Shall be considered upon National Contingency Plan (NCP) review. | <i>Pending</i> |
| | Review of National (Oil Spill) Contingency Plan | Ministry of Energy supported the need to review the NCP. Exercise is accepted as an appropriate option to verify its feasibility and actuality. Industry shall provide Tier 3 exercises with participation of authorities representing government command. | <i>Pending</i> |
| | Develop monitoring system to identify, verify and investigate spills and responsible polluter | Avenues to finance monitoring system project are being investigated. One of the possible options is GEF technical program | On-going |
| | Development of national sensitivity maps | OSPRI supported a mapping workshop and avenues to finance a national mapping project | On-going |

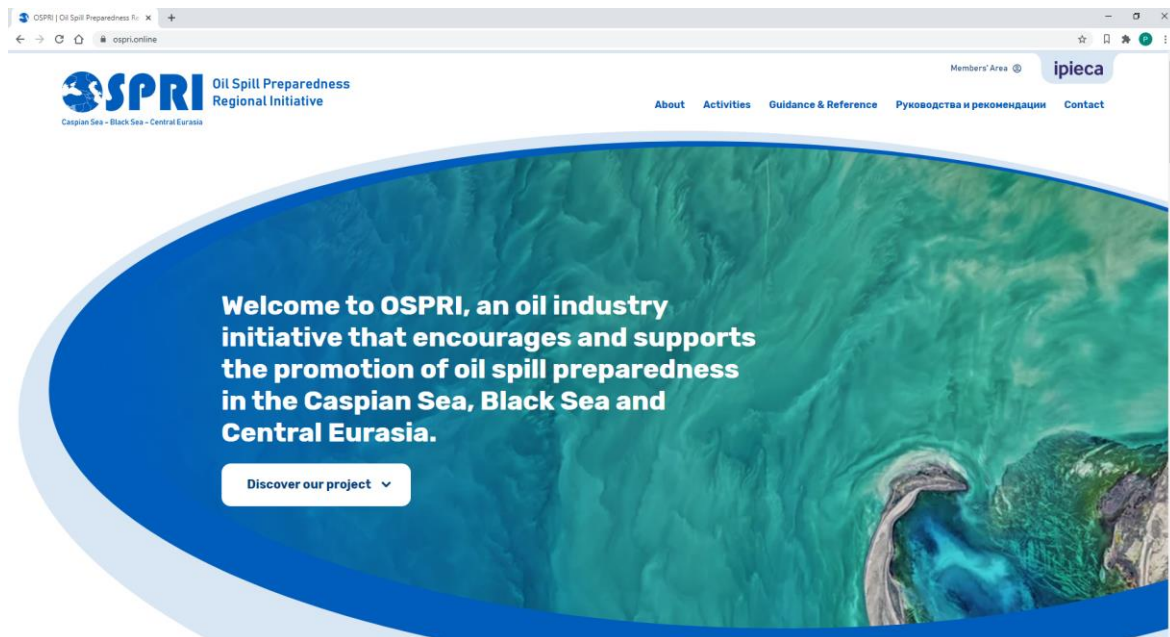
| <u>Area</u> | <u>2023 Business Plan</u> | <u>Action and outcomes</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--------------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| | | are being investigated. One of the possible options is GEF technical program. | |
| | Signing of IMO conventions | See below | |
| | CLC 1992 and Bunker 2001 | The law to enact the bunker convention may be passed during early 2024; consideration of CLC 92 ratification is anticipated during 2024. | On-going |
| | OPRC 1990 | The process has not yet begun. | <i>Pending</i> |
| <i>Azerbaijan</i> | Engagement with authorities with view to approval of (draft) national plan | No engagement on national issues during 2023. | On-going |
| <i>Romania</i> | Engage with proposed review of national plan | The anticipated review and development of the national plan did not progress in 2023. | <i>Pending</i> |
| <i>Türkiye</i> | Maintain engagement and communication support to strengthening preparedness in the Turkish Straits | A delegation visited the UK in late 2023 and it is understood that the national plan is under review and revision. | On-going |
| | Track development of national centre in Tekirdag and implementation of regional centre in Antalya | The extent of equipment and personnel at the national centre has not been verified. | On-going |
| <i>Bulgaria</i> | Support discussions around dispersant regulation | No progress with dispersant regulation in 2023. | 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 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 2023 is shown in the table below. Ratification of these conventions has moved from 28% to 73% 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 | 2023 | 2003 | 2023 | 2003 | 2023 | 2003 | 2023 |
| Bulgaria | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Georgia | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Romania | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Türkiye | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| 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 2024

Priority activities that are planned or proposed in 2024 include the following:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Caspian Sea | Continued engagement with the finalization and implementation of the regional plan through its exercise programme. |
| Black Sea | Support to the proposed sub-regional workshop (Georgia, Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria) and engagement with the Black Sea Commission if meetings recommence. |
| Kazakhstan | OSPRI will continue supporting the national implementation activities. |
| Azerbaijan | Opportunities will be investigated to follow-up with the relevant authorities on approval and implementation of the draft national plan. |
| Türkiye | The review of the national plan will be tracked and opportunities to engage investigated. |

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 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 (see Table 1). 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 connections in OSPRI's network. OSPRI's wider communications network beyond this list includes various international organizations.

8. International Organizations

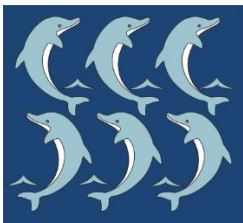
This section provides a brief description of the main international organizations with whom OSPRI works:



Tehran Convention Interim Secretariat - www.tehranconvention.org

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

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 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.

