



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

Annual Report 2024

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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 2024, 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 2024, particularly in relation to Black Sea region. Despite this, progress was possible and continued in the Caspian Sea region. The adoption of virtual meetings and online collaboration continues to be a feature of working practices.

An important milestone for the Caspian Sea region was the finalization of the regional contingency plan for cooperation under the Aktau Protocol. This was achieved a regional meeting held in Aktau in November, alongside a table-top exercise and discussion on a programme to implement the Protocol.

Arrangements for regional cooperation in the Black Sea falls under the Bucharest Convention and its Emergency Protocol. IMO organized a sub-regional workshop (all countries except Russia, plus Moldova) in August. This facilitated the first discussions between participating countries since in pandemic. It included the development of proposed activities, including a potential full-scale exercise in Romania during 2025.

OSPRI activity in Kazakhstan continued throughout 2024. Having the coordinator based in country serves to greatly increase OSPRI's ability to engage with the key authorities and other stakeholders. Progress continued with the consideration of key IMO Convention ratification.

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 2024 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, January 2019, and January 2024. bp, Chevron, ENI, ExxonMobil, KMG, NCOC, Shell and TotalEnergies were the OSPRI members during 2024; 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 2024

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 2024 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>2024 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
OSPRI Admin.	Potential new members	No contacts made.	On-going
	RETOS launch and translation	New Web-based App launched and translation into Russian completed.	Done
	Update to OSPRI Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)	New MOA available.	Done
Caspian Sea	Support implementation of the regional plan of cooperation	Regional plan finalized for approval at next COP. Schedule of implementation activities is proposed under Aktau Protocol.	On-going
	Engage to support feasible regional exercise under the Astrakhan Agreement	No exercise was held under the Astrakhan Agreement during 2024.	On-going
Black Sea	Maintain engagement with Black Sea Commission through attendance at appropriate meetings	Sub-regional workshop organized by IMO allowed engagement with BSC and all countries excluding Russia. Proposals for future national and regional activities were developed at the meeting.	On-going
Kazakhstan	Track development of marine rescue group	Marine rescue group is established as an 100% state owned company dedicated to the operation oil spill response activities by Decree dated from August 29, 2024, titled as Teniz Jassagy. This group will inherit KMG S&S facilities. Personnel/ staff are not yet identified.	On-going
	<i>Potential update to regulations relating to oil spills</i>	The Ministry of Emergency is relying on the Teniz Jassagy to address all issues on oil spill regulation. NCOC exercise report and custom clearance case shall be used as a lesson learned.	On-going
	<i>Review of National (Oil Spill) Contingency Plan</i>	The Ministry of Emergency is relying on Teniz Jassagy to address all issues on oil spill regulation. NCOC exercise report and custom clearance case shall be used as a lesson learned. KMG also provided exercise to check the system's national feasibility.	On-going

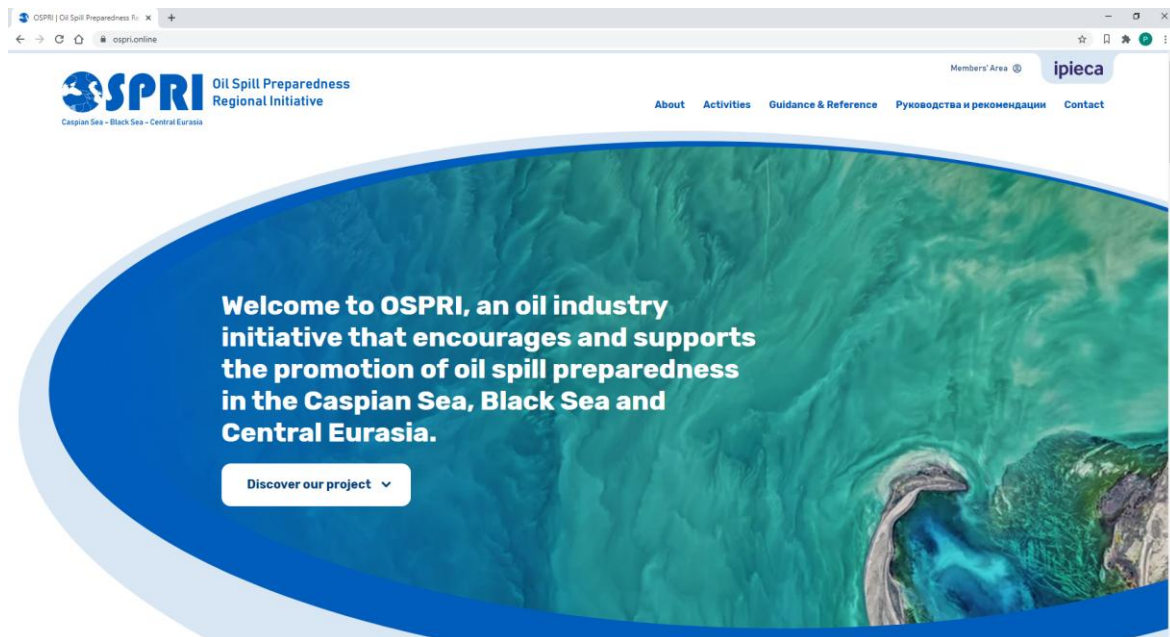
<u>Area</u>	<u>2024 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
	<i>Develop monitoring system to identify, verify and investigate spills and responsible polluter</i>	The sub-regional GEF project that was initially proposed to develop a monitoring system has moved to an in-kind support such as purchasing equipment for Kazhydromet. The monitoring project has not been recognized as a priority for GEF support.	On-going
	Development of national sensitivity maps	Sensitivity maps are ready and have been developed with industry support, i.e. NCOC. The Ministry of Environment reapproved the working group to review the map and verify the maps, to identify priority areas/resources of protection.	On-going
	Signing of IMO conventions		
	<i>CLC 1992 and Bunker 2001</i>	Bunker 2001 is in the process of ratification process, waiting for the Government rotation expected in the beginning of the year. CLC 1992 should follow.	On-going
	<i>OPRC Convention</i>	During the regional workshop in Aktau with the help of IMO a need for ratification of IMO conventions was raised. The Ministry of Environment addressed an official letter to the Transport authority about the possible ratification of OPRC.	<i>Pending</i>
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	Engagement with authorities with view to approval of (draft) national plan	No engagement on national issues during 2024.	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 2024. A full-scale exercise has been proposed for 2025.	On-going
<i>Türkiye</i>	Maintain engagement and communication support to strengthening preparedness in the Turkish Straits	MOIG workshop organized in November provided opportunity in Ministry of Transport and receive update on national preparedness.	On-going
	Track development of national centre in Tekirdag and implementation of regional centre in Antalya	National centre visit was part of workshop held in November. The extent of equipment and capabilities were viewed.	Done
<i>Bulgaria</i>	Support discussions around dispersant regulation	No progress with dispersant regulation in 2024.	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. Ipieca has established a SharePoint site for OSPRI documentation.



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 2024 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	2024	2003	2024	2003	2024	2003	2024
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 2025

Priority activities that are planned or proposed in 2025 include the following:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Caspian Sea | Continued engagement with the implementation of the regional plan through its exercise programme. |
| Black Sea | Support to the proposed follow up to sub-regional workshop (all States excluding Russia), including proposed exercise in Romania. |
| 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. 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

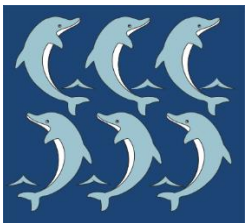
This section provides a brief description of the main international organizations with whom OSPRI works:



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.

