



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

# Annual Report 2025

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**Contents**

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....3**

**2. INTRODUCTION .....4**

**3. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025 .....5**

**4. OSPRI’S PROFILE.....7**

**5. RATIFICATION OF KEY IMO CONVENTIONS .....8**

**6. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2026 .....9**

**7. OSPRI NETWORK.....10**

## 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 2025, demonstrating long-term progress by the countries.

The situation in Ukraine has continued to impose restrictions on the ability of OSPRI to deliver the Business Plan during 2025, particularly in relation to Black Sea region. Despite this, progress was possible in the Caspian Sea region. The adoption of virtual meetings and online collaboration continues to be a feature of working practices.

The Caspian Sea region continued its on-going regional exercise programme and discussion on a programme to implement the Aktau Protocol. OSPRI worked with the Azerbaijan authorities to deliver dispersant and RETOS workshops.

OSPRI activity in Kazakhstan continued throughout 2025. Having the coordinator based in country serves to greatly increase OSPRI's ability to engage with the key authorities and other stakeholders. Activity included a sensitivity mapping workshop to keep the key authorities engaged on the issue.

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 2025 OSPRI's membership was seven companies; a member company gave notice that they would not renew in 2026 due to changing their risk profile. 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 2025. bp, Chevron, ENI, ExxonMobil, NCOC, Shell and TotalEnergies were the OSPRI members during 2025; all OSPRI's direct expenditure is shared equally between them.

TotalEnergies gave notice that they would not renew OSPRI membership in 2026 due to changing risk profile.



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 2025

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>2025 Business Plan</u>	<u>Action and outcomes</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>OSPRI Admin.</b>	Potential new members	Dialogue with Socar has been opened.	<b>On-going</b>
<b>Caspian Sea</b>	Support implementation of the regional plan of cooperation	Next meeting of Operational Authorities is scheduled in Spring 2026. OSPRI will be invited.	<b>On-going</b>
	Support regional exercise under the Astrakhan Agreement	No exercise was held under the Astrakhan Agreement during 2025.	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Black Sea</b>	Maintain engagement with Black Sea Commission	No regional meetings or activities are anticipated until Ukraine conflict is resolved.	<i>Pending</i>
	Sub-regional activities	EMSA held a sub-regional exercise under BCSEA II in Sept. 2025, but OSPRI was not invited.	<b>On-going</b>
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Development relations with 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 August 29, 2024, titled as Teniz Jassagy. This group will inherit KMG S&S facilities. Personnel/ staff are not yet identified.	<b>On-going</b>
	<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. Custom issues are in NCOC's action plan to prepare for the well control exercise schedule in September 2026.	<b>On-going</b>
	<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. Custom issues are in NCOC's action plan to prepare for the well control exercise schedule in September 2026.	<b>On-going</b>
	<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.	<b>On-going</b>

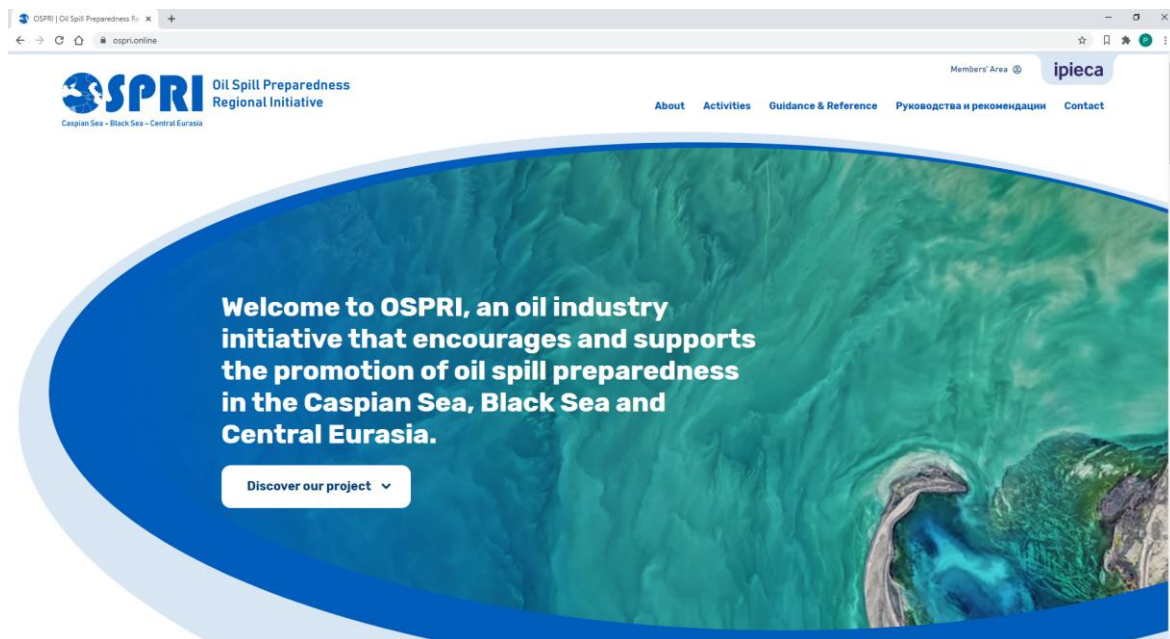
<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>2025 Business Plan</u></b>	<b><u>Action and outcomes</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
		The monitoring project has not been recognized as a priority for GEF support.	
	Development of national sensitivity maps	OSPRI supported a workshop in 2025.	<b>On-going</b>
	Signing of IMO conventions	The progress with ratification was shelved in 2025 due to Ministerial priorities.	<i>Pending</i>
	<i>CLC 1992 and Bunker 2001</i>		<i>Pending</i>
	<i>OPRC Convention</i>		<i>Pending</i>
<b><i>Azerbaijan</i></b>	Engagement with authorities with view to approval of (draft) national plan	Meetings held with key authorities in April and Dispersant and RETOS workshops were held in December. Potential actions as follow up during 2026 were captured.	<b>On-going</b>
		OSPRI attended a national full-scale exercise on civil protection facets in June 2025. This initiative is implemented under the umbrella of International civil defence organization (ICDO).	<b>Completed</b>
<b><i>Romania</i></b>	Engage with proposed review of national plan	The proposed full-scale exercise during 2025 did not happen.	<i>Pending</i>
<b><i>Türkiye</i></b>	Maintain engagement with General Directorate of Maritime Affairs (UDEB)	No opportunities for direct engagement arose during 2025.	<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. OSPRI's Manager and Coordinator attended the Interspill Conference and Exhibition held during 2025. OSPRI also remains closely involved with the Ipieca Marine Spill Group meetings.

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 2025 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	2025	2003	2025	2003	2025	2003	2025
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

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**6. Activities Planned for 2026**

Priority activities that are planned or proposed in 2026 include the following:

**Caspian Sea** Continued engagement with the implementation of the regional plan through its exercise programme. A meeting of Operational Authorities is scheduled in Spring and OSPRI will be invited.

**Kazakhstan** OSPRI will continue supporting the national implementation activities.

**Azerbaijan** Opportunities will be investigated to follow-up on the dispersant and RETOS workshops held in late 2025. This will include engagement with the relevant authorities on approval and implementation of the draft national plan.

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 Teams and an annual meeting.

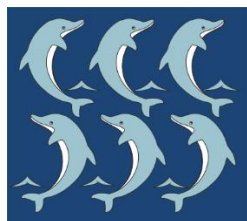
The main international organizations with whom OSPRI works are:



**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.

