

Environmental security of the Caspian Sea
Information and analytical bulletin
19 November – 25 November 2012

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Threat map

Quotation of the day

Marine activity condition

- a) **oil and gas producing**
- b) **navigation**
- c) **fishery**

Hydrocarbon transportation

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Introduction

The Caspian Sea, formerly the part of the World Ocean, at present is one of the largest lakes on the planet and because of that is the natural heritage of all the humanity.

In the XX th century the Caspian Sea ecosystem suffered irreversible changes, caused by new species immigration, natural resources exploitation and other reasons.

Things to be preserved, including the largest on Earth sturgeon population, need protection for the sake of the humanity and especially the population of the coastline countries.

Environmental security of the Caspian Sea means that its ecosystem is being protected from various threats caused by humans. People can avert these threats, but to do this they must be aware of the consequences of their activity and decisions.

Threat ‘map’, presented in the bulletin, will help the reader to trace the path of direct threats to ecological security and their reasons and sources. One of these sources is marine activity as well as land activity.

The bulletin contains information characterizing a) the extent of anthropogenic load on the Caspian Sea ecosystem – issues “Marine activity condition” and “Hydrocarbon transportation”; b) planned and performed measures, aimed at ecological security increase – issue “Environment protection”; c) the relations of Caspian states with each other and other states, directly or indirectly influencing on ecological security of the Caspian - issue “International relations”. Relevant views and opinions on the bulletin topic are presented in the column “Quotation of the day” and “Selected”. All the data are collected from mass media sources.

The bulletin is updated once a week; each issue involves the news for the past 7 days. The bulletin is prepared by KaspMNIZ within the frame of monitoring of natural and anthropogenic processes influence on the ecosystem condition and research of marine and other activity effect on the marine environment.

The three corner stones of monitoring are observation, assessment and forecasting. Formerly monitoring was discussed in terms of observation system organization. Today the focus is on the assessment of monitoring objects condition.

We don’t yet know how to measure the condition of the Caspian Sea ecological security. But the bulletin shows the search for approach to this problem solution. In particular, the issues

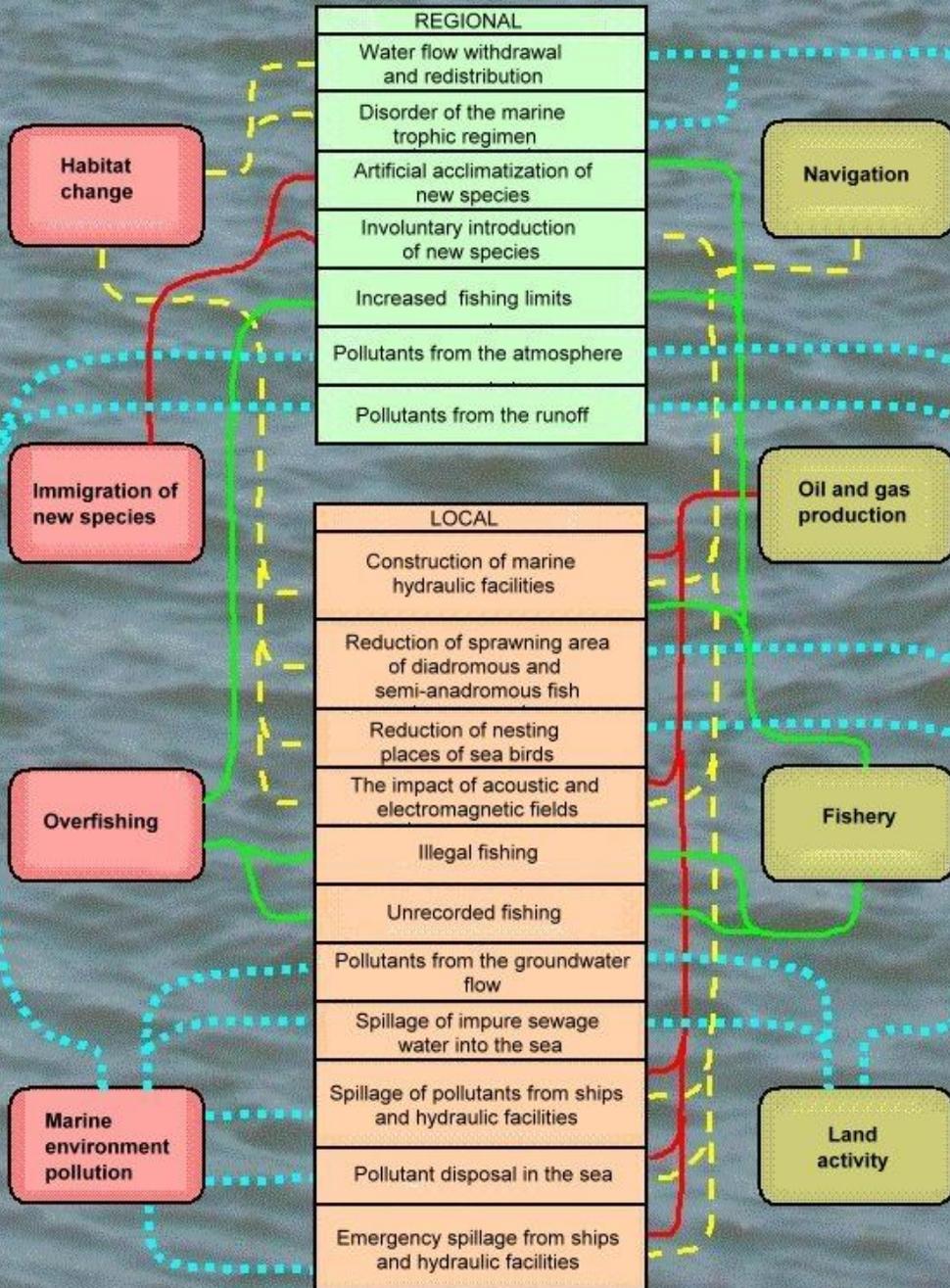
covered in it are subdivided into those having direct effect (Ed) and those having indirect effect (Ei) on the Caspian Sea condition.

Everything that happens on the Caspian Sea and around it is subdivided into following events: a) national scale (Sn)– the events referring to the territory of one of the Caspian states and adjacent sea territory, b) regional scale (Sr)- the events happening on the territory of a Caspian region or referring to the relations between the Caspian states, c) global scale (Sg)– events happening outside the Caspian States referring to the relations of the Caspian states with states not bordering on the Caspian Sea.

For the convenience of the reader all the information messages, included in the bulletin, are marked with indices. Sometimes you can encounter the index (Ad), meaning that the assessment of the event covered is difficult to perform.

In the end of the bulletin the reader can find generalized and tabulated information about the events covered, which we further plan to use for the analysis of the change of condition of the Caspian Sea environmental security.

THREAT MAP



Quotation of the day

22 November

“Caspian interstate co-operation could become a model of effective interstate and interagency co-operation which would contribute towards effective conflict and incident prevention,”

Penny Satches-Brohs,
Senior Advisor on Border Issues of the Transnational Threats Department of the OSCE
Secretariat

State of marine activity

Oil and gas production

20 November

EdSn A gas turbine power station with a capacity of 1.5 megawatts is being built on the Chilov island where there is an oil field of the same name, SOCAR's "Azneft" production association said today. According to the report, the power station is being built to provide the island with uninterrupted power supply in case of accidents, as well as reducing the need for diesel fuel.

<http://www.vesti.az/news.php?id=137489>

20 November

EiSn Director of the Department of exploration of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said Hormoz Kalavand announced the development programs of the company for exploration of new fields, and noted that in the case of the provision of adequate financial resources and increase the number of rigs in the nearest future will begin a new phase of exploration for oil and gas, the Iranian media reported.

According to Hormoz Kalavand, over the last 10 years of oil from the field, the life of which exceeds half of the time allotted for their development. For this reason it is necessary to focus on the exploration of new fields.

<http://www.oilcapital.ru/upstream/186533.html>

22 November

EiSg Exxon Mobil Corp. (XOM), Royal Dutch Shell Plc (RDSA) and their partners in Kazakhstan's Kashagan oil field face a delay of at least two years on a plan to boost output 20 percent, reducing the time they have to recoup costs in the \$46 billion project that's already running eight years late, according to two people with knowledge of the matter. Kazakhstan has told the partners to put the \$5 billion step-up plan, taking output to as much as 450,000 from 370,000 barrels day, on hold until they study how the start of production next year affects the deposit, the people said, asking not to be identified because the information is private.

<http://kapital.kz/economic/9229/povyshenie-neftedobychi-na-kashagane-otlozhat.html>

23 November

EiSg Geophysical work ordered by BP Azerbaijan within its first direct PSA with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) on the block of structures Shafag and Asiman (D8 and D10) in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea has been started. BP Azerbaijan reports that 3D seismic survey on the block was launched this November. It is conducted by Caspian Geophysical, the contractor for 3D seismic survey at the block.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2091621.html>

Navigation

19 November

EiSn On November 10th, 2012, the second RSD49 project self-propelled dry-cargo vessel “NEVA-LEADER 2” of deadweight 7150 tons, successfully completed the acceptance trials. The vessel was built by Nevsky Shipyard for North-Western Shipping Company. The KM Ice2 R2 AUT1-C class vessel is designed by Russian Marine Engineering Bureau Design-SPb. It is able to transport general and bulk cargo, such as grain, timber, coil, as well as large-dimension, heavy-weight and hazardous cargoes. Neva-Lider 2 measures 140 metres (460 ft) in length and 16.70 m in width. The vessel features a big middle hold of 52 m which separates it from all other “Volga-Don Max” type projects designed by MEB. Operational speed of the vessel amounts to 11.5 knots.

http://www.advis.ru/php/view_news.php?id=52FBA031-E3C5-3A4D-B8FE-1B8B612913B4

21 November

EiSn Sea ports of Kazakhstan annually transship about 12.3 m tons of cargo. Cargoes are constituted by oil, metal, grain, containers, etc. Aktau port is involved in export transportation, while Bautino port focuses mainly on marine oil operations. Currently the ports are operating at their capacity peak. In this connection administration review the project for enlargement of Aktau port northward which provides for constructing three dry-cargo terminals with capacity of 2.5 mn tons.

<http://www.bnews.kz/ru/news/post/111316/>

Fishery

19 November

EiSr On November 13-14, 2012 a group of businessmen from Turkmenistan, led by Chairman of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists Union A. Dadaev, visited Astrakhan. During the meeting with Astrakhan Governor Alexander Zhilkin the parties agreed to develop cooperation in the sphere of shipbuilding and ship-repairing, fisheries, education, textile, etc. The delegation visited Institute for fisheries, biology and natural resources management of Astrakhan State Technical University. They discussed prospects of sturgeon breeding in Turkmenistan and the possibility of organizing short-term trainings for specialists from Turkmenistan in Astrakhan. The delegation also visited "Krasnye Barrikady" shipyard and the center for sturgeon breeding "BIOS".

<http://fishnews.ru/news/19949>

Hydrocarbons transportation

19 November

EiSg The volume of Azerbaijani gas export will reach 40-50 billion cubic meters by the end of 2025, President of Azerbaijani state oil company SOCAR, Rovnag Abdullayev, said during the inauguration of SOCAR office in Brussels.

According to Abdullayev, the potential of Azerbaijani gas will increase in 2025 and will play a significant role in Trans-Anatolian gas pipeline (TANAP) project. The head of SOCAR said TANAP will make a huge contribution to the European energy security of Europe.

TANAP is a proposed natural gas pipeline from Azerbaijan through Turkey to Europe. If constructed, it would transport gas from the second stage of the Shah Deniz gas field in the Caspian |Sea.

<http://www.oilcapital.ru/export/186180.html>

20 November

EiSg The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) does not participate in ensuring physical security of the energy pipelines and sources outside its borders, said the NATO experts on energy security.

NATO considers the Caspian basin, Arabian Peninsula and North Africa region significant direction in ensuring energy security. Generally, energy security is one of the threats that NATO faces and the Alliance reviews new approach on it.

<http://1news.az/politics/20121120021857464.html>

23 November

EiSr TRANSNEFT Official Representative Igor Dyomin stated that 28 thousand tons of Kazakh oil had been unloaded in Makhachkala port. The port handled three tankers with the deadweight of 10 thousand tons. This transit Kazakh oil will be supplied to Makhachkala – Novorossiisk oil pipeline and will be loaded on tankers at the Black Sea port. Makhachkala port could handle tankers with oil produced at LUKOIL oil platform in the Caspian Sea or in Kazakhstan. However underdeveloped port infrastructure makes this impossible.

<http://www.nefttrans.ru/news/v-portu-makhachkala-zakonchena-razgruzka-28-tys-tonnnefti-iz-kazakhstana.html>

25 November

EiSg Milli Majlis ratified two agreements on TANAP on November 20. The Parliament has considered the issue on ratification of Agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkey on the Sale of Natural Gas to Turkey, and Development of a Pipeline for its Transit and Transportation on the Turkish Territory, APA reports.

The document has been put to voting and passed. So, the Agreement signed on October 25 2011, in Izmir city, has been ratified. Besides, the issue on ratification of the Agreement on TransAnatolian natural gas pipeline system between Azerbaijan and Turkey, signed on June 26 2012, in Istanbul , has also been put up for discussion and passed at the Parliament.

http://vestimd.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3196:azerbaydjanpostroit-gazoprovod-v-turcii&catid=50:sodrujestvo&Itemid=96

Environmental protection

19 November

EiSn President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed a decree authorizing the establishment of a State Commission for construction of desalination plants on the Caspian Sea coast and approving the composition of this commission. As the Turkmenistan.ru correspondent reports referring to the press service of the President of Turkmenistan, the State Commission has been set up to address the issue of improving drinking water supply and water supply to farmlands in Balkan province (in the west of the country). Under the presidential decree, the State Commission is tasked with undertaking necessary work associated with the construction of desalination plants on the Caspian Sea coast and submitting proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan.

<http://www.regnum.ru/news/economy/1594730.html#ixzz2CkL4HAob>

20 November

EiSg The Caspian: Technologies for Environment (CTE), the 3rd International Environmental Exhibition (CTE 2012) started at Baku Expo Centre by the support of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. APA says the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Huseyn Bagirov familiarized with the stands demonstrated in the exhibition. The Minister was informed that the exhibition aims to ensure ecological security in the country, maintain the natural resources and agitate and promote the innovative equipments and technologies, which allow improving the life quality of population in Azerbaijan. CTE 2012 exhibition brings together 60 companies from Azerbaijan, Germany, Belgium, Israel, Turkey, France and other countries. Bagirov appreciated the holding of such exhibition in Azerbaijan. He noted that along with local companies, the foreign companies also demonstrate their products at the exhibition. According to Minister, this exhibition proved that we achieved success in this sphere.

<http://www.vesti.az/news.php?id=137477>

21 November

EiSn Small and efficient desalination plants will be produced in the special economic zone "Aktau sea port", the company's press-service informs.

A test unit of the mini-plant has been tested at the desalination plant "Caspian". Sea water is desalinated in four stages, it is purified of boron at the first stage, which is especially important for the Caspian water.

The output is high-quality drinking water, which quality is confirmed in different laboratories. According to General Director of TOO "Caspian desalination plant" Talgat Elimbetov, mini-plants will be assembled in 20 or 40 feet heated containers. This will ensure mobility and opportunity to install them anywhere. The project developers think that mini desalination plants will enjoy demand not only in the country, but abroad.

<http://kzinform.com/ru/news/20121121/17969.html>

21 November

EdSn The Azerbaijani Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has proposed a project on the construction of a sewer tunnel along the seaside boulevard designed to stop the direct discharge

of wastewater into the Caspian Sea. This was said to reporters on Wednesday by the Minister Huseyn Bagirov.

According to him, in order to address these issues, it would be useful to build a tunnel on the part of the boulevard connected to the sea which could transport waste from the shore out of the city. The holding of large scale excavation work is often impossible as the communications are very old, so it is advisable not to repair existing lines and build new tunnels.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2090541.html>

21 November

EdSn A ring system for collection and withdrawal of sewage waste is under construction in Dagestan capital. 70% of the underground monolithic arched tunnel has been constructed within the framework of this project. The total length of the tunnel will make 16 km. This installation will withdraw sewage water to treatment facilities located near Kaspiisk.

"This will become the best solution to protect the coasts of Makhachkala and Kaspiisk from pollutant emissions, which is extremely important for the environment of the whole Caspian Sea", - Makhachkala administration press-service informs.

The diameter of the tunnel is 3 metres and the depth will vary from 13 to 25 metres.

<http://vestikavkaza.ru/news/Poberezhe-Makhachkaly-izbavyat-ot-kanalizatsionnykhstokov.Html>

International relations

19 November

EiSn The situation with the legal status of the Caspian Sea and which part of the sea must be considered Iranian, will be discussed during a conference in Sari town, in the Mazandaran province on Dec. 14-15, İRNA news agency reported referring to the head of the committee on the Caspian Sea under Iran's parliamentary committee, Mehdi Sanaei, as saying. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi and other members of the government and parliament are expected to attend the conference.

<http://vestikavkaza.ru/news/Iran-opredelitsya-so-svoey-chastyu-Kaspiya-v-dekabre.html>

22 November

EiSg The Day of German Economy in Turkmenistan was held at business center "Mizan" in Ashgabat. It was organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan, as well as the representatives of the German businesses in Central Asia.

A big delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany arrived in Ashgabat to participate in the forum, which was held in Turkmenistan for the second time. The delegation consisted of representatives of German companies such as CLAAS, Wirtgen International, Hospitalia Interhational, R-Biopharm AG, Siemens AG, BASF, Wintershall Holding GmbH - Caspian Region, RWE Dea AG, Bentec, etc.

The forum was also attended by the representatives of several ministries and departments, as well as the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan.

<http://www.ca-news.org/news:1048658>

22 November

EiSg The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has held a 'round table' discussion in Ashgabat. National experts from several Caspian littoral countries have considered the effective mechanisms to prevent incidents and emergency situations at sea borders, the OSCE office in Ashgabat said today.

Moreover, participants have examined the effective mechanisms for monitoring maritime borders. Delegates included officers of the Maritime and Coast Guard, customs officers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan (OSCE participants), as well as representatives of the OSCE secretariat.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2090889.html>

22 November

EiSg Energy security is becoming a priority of NATO policy at the present stage, and Azerbaijan – one of the most important partners of the Alliance in this area. This is the keynote opened the international conference: “Energy security in the Caspian region and NATO’s role in the protection of critical energy infrastructure.”

The event was organized by the Azerbaijan Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), NATO and the Romanian Embassy, coordinating the activities of the Alliance in Azerbaijan.

<http://1news.az/politics/20121122033338284.html>