

Environmental security of the Caspian Sea
Information and analytical bulletin
26 November – 2 December 2012

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Threat map

Quotation of the day

Marine activity condition

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

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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

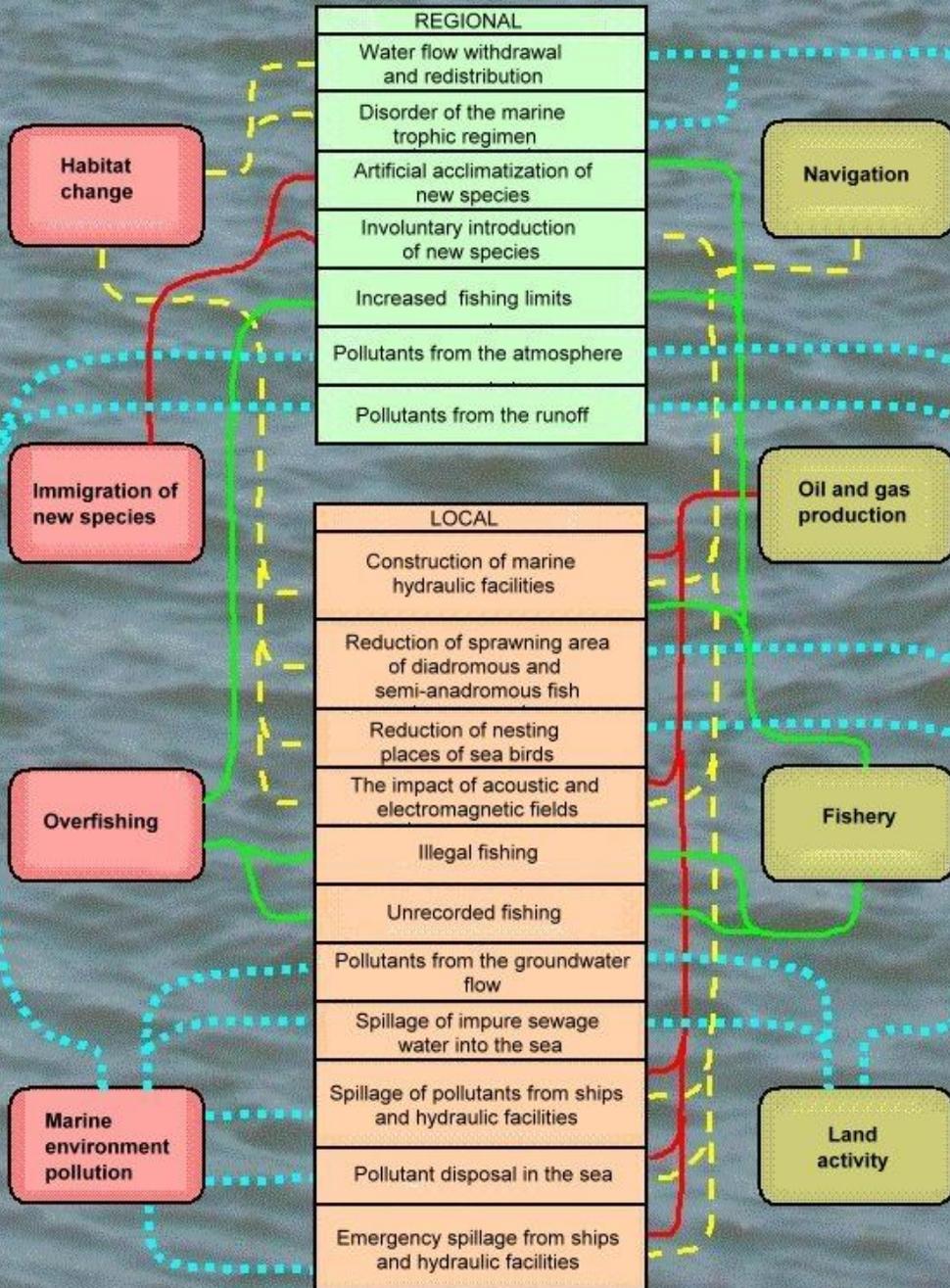
covered in it are subdivided into those having direct effect (Ed) and those having indirect effect (Ei) on the Caspian Sea condition.

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

28 November

"With the increase in the supply of natural gas the country faces a need to create new routes. One of them is TANAP."

V.Aleskerov
Vice Speaker of Azerbaijani Parliament

State of marine activity

Oil and gas production

26 November

EdSn "BP-Azerbaijan conducts all the necessary work to ensure stable production volume at the block of Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli (ACG) oil and gas fields in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea in 2013, First Vice-President of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) Khoshbakht Yusifzade told journalists.

He said in order to ensure stable production volume at the block it is necessary to maintain normal operation of existing wells and fulfill envisaged drilling program.

According to Yusifzade, for example this year BP had to complete drilling in eight new wells, however, it completed drilling in only two of them.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2092206.html>

27 November

EdSg Gas export from Shah-Deniz field via the South-Caucasian Pipeline (SCP) keeps on declining. According to the Azerbaijan State Statistical Committee, from January to October 2012 3.3 billion cub.m. of natural gas from Shah-Deniz was exported via SCP. Gas export decreased by 400 million cub.m. or 10.8% against the same period last year.

During 2011 4.5 billion cub.m. of natural gas was exported via the South-Caucasian Pipeline, down 400 million cub.m. against 2010. In 2009 gas export via this pipeline totaled 4.9 billion cub.m.

<http://abc.az/rus/news/69804.html>

29 November

Ad Kashagan has been named the world's most expensive energy project by CNN Money with the estimated investments to date reaching \$116 billion. Kashagan is one of the largest energy projects discovered during the past 40 years. The 2nd and the 3rd places among the most expensive energy projects are occupied by Australian Gorgon (57 b US dollars) and Ichthys (43 b US dollars).

<http://neftgaz.ru/news/view/105961/>

Navigation

29 November

EiSr Caspian ports in the future may consider the possibility of establishing passenger transportation, a source in Baku International Seaport reported. “In the future, it’s planned to consider the possibility of passenger traffic between the ports if demand arose,” the source said. The source reports that the issue was also discussed during the recent 4th five-sided joint meeting of the Caspian countries’ port authorities. The next meeting such meeting is to be held in Baku in 2013.

Earlier, the Iranian side planned to restore the sea passenger transportation between the Iranian trading port of Anzali and Baku port. This passenger line operated for a long time, and has been temporarily closed in 1998. However, the sides failed to restore the route.

<http://news.day.az/economy/369621.html>

29 November

Ad The first International Trans-Caspian Regatta will take the start in Dagestan in the summer of 2013. First Vice President of the Russian Yachting Federation and a member of the Council of assistance to the Olympic Committee of the RF Igor Chentsov informed that the event is to start on July 28 – the Day of the Naval Forces in Russia. According to the preliminary scenario, the regatta starts in Makhachkala and heads for Aktau (Kazakhstan). After that the route will continue either to Turkmenbashi or Baku. The regatta will last about 10 days.

<http://www.itar-tass.com/c9/584503.html>

29 November

EiSn 26-27 A Mangistau delegation of shipbuilders visited Astrakhan region on November 26-27 upon the invitation of Astrakhan Trade Union of Shipbuilders. Kazakhstan is interested in cooperation with shipbuilding and ship-repair enterprises of Astrakhan Region. Astrakhan Trade Union of Shipbuilders considers the cooperation with Kazakh colleagues as a prospect of attracting new offers to local industrial capacities. The Kazakh party expressed readiness to participate in Astrakhan projects.

http://www.korabel.ru/news/comments/kazahstanskije_korabeli_posetili_astrahan.html

30 November

EiSn Cargo transportation by all transport means in Azerbaijan in January-November made up 192.6 million tons of cargo or 3.4 percent more than during the same period in 2011, the State Statistics Committee told Trend news agency.

The cargo shipping via sea hit 11.4 million tons or 0.2 percent more than in the same period of 2011. The volume of transported goods falls to the international operations.

The volume of cargo processed in Azerbaijani ports was 10.9 million tons in January-November, which is 0.1 percent more than in the same period of 2011.

<http://www.contact.az/docs/2012/Economics&Finance/113000019909ru.htm>

1 December

EiSg A ceremony of launching the first block of the floating dock being built by order of the Azerbaijan State Caspian Shipping Company was held in the Russian city of Gorodets, the shipping company said on Saturday, Trend informs.

The ceremony of laying the dock was held on December 25, 2011. The work on all six blocks of the dock is under way. The first block was ready for launch.

Sadigov said at the ceremony that the company's fleet has been enlarged by 10 tankers, six ferries and one dry cargo vessel in the last nine years.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2094191.html>

Hydrocarbons transportation

28 November

EiSg 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://kavkasia.net/Azerbaijan/2012/1354086380.php>

28 November

EiSg Transportation of Azerbaijani gas to China through Kazakhstan was discussed by the heads of state companies of both companies, Director-General of KazTransQaz Serik Sultangaliyev told Kazakhstan Today.

According to him, after passing decision, economic and technical sides of the project will be discussed with Azerbaijani side.

He also noted that Azerbaijani and Kazakh state companies established cooperation relations: "Azerbaijan is our neighbor through Caspian Sea, brother country and realization of such project in the future is possible".

<http://vestikavkaza.ru/news/>

Environmental protection

26 November

EdSn First Vice-President of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) Khoshbakht Yusifzade has announced today of a breakdown during Company's wildcat drilling in the Caspian at a meeting of the Caspian-European Integration Business Club (CEIBC) on the theme "Oil & Gas Production in Azerbaijan: Realities & Prospects". Addressing to the CEIBC member companies' meeting, Yusifzadeh stated that during wildcat drilling on Goshadash structure a large gas blowout occurred at well depth of 1,500 m. "The nature of the gas outburst shows that with the use of existing facilities we cannot continue drilling, and it is necessary to update drilling equipment," he said. The wildcat well #1, being drilled from rig Khazar-6 should uncover Mesozoic horizon at a depth of 3,500 m.

<http://abc.az/rus/news/69793.html>

27 November

EdSn An earthquake measured at a magnitude of 4.0 occurred early Tuesday in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea, National Seismic Survey Centre reported.

According to the report, tremors were registered at 1:13 am local time, 38 kilometers north-east of the Lankaran city at a depth of 9 km.

The quake was not felt.

http://www.aze.az/news_na_kaspii_proizoshlo_84969.html

27 November

EiSn A new tourist map of Turkmenistan was presented at the State Committee for Tourism in Ashgabat. During the presentation the speakers spoke about the on-going work in Turkmenistan with the view of implementing the National Programme of Development of Tourism Industry for 2012-2016 and promoting international cooperation in the leisure industry. To this end, the map will be distributed within the country. It will be also shared with international organizations and partners, as well as the embassies of Turkmenistan abroad. The tourist map is designed for all those who want to get acquainted with the rich history, culture and natural sites of Turkmenistan. The map will help foreign travel agencies to choose the most interesting routes and means of transportation. The map shows the administrative division of provinces with modern names of major cities, transportation routes, nature reserves, sites of medical tourism.

<http://www.turkmenistan.ru/ru/articles/38059.html>

International relations

29 November

EiSr Russian-Iranian consultations on the Caspian Sea problems were held at the Russian Foreign Ministry on Nov. 29, the ministry's website reported. The Russian delegation was headed by the Special Representative of the Russian Federation's President, Ambassador-at-Large Igor Bratchikov, while the Iranian delegation was led by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Mehdi Akhundzadeh.

Both sides focused on topical issues of interaction between the two countries in the Caspian region, the fulfilment of the decisions of the Third Caspian Summit held in Baku in November 2010 and coordination of the draft convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, the ministry said.

<http://www.fondsk.ru/news/2012/11/29/o-rossijsko-iranskih-konsultacijah-po-kaspijskojproblematike>

1 December

EiSr Relations between Turkmenistan and Iran, based on principles of mutual respect and equal partnership, are characterized by high level of trust and openness, and are a clear example of friendship and good-neighborliness.

Turkmen-Iranian relations develop steadily thanks to regular visits and contacts between President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhammadov and Iranian President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad, establishment of intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary relations, the presence of a solid legal framework.

<http://vestikavkaza.ru/news/>