

Environmental security of the Caspian Sea
Information and analytical bulletin
2 December – 9 December 2012

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Marine activity condition

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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

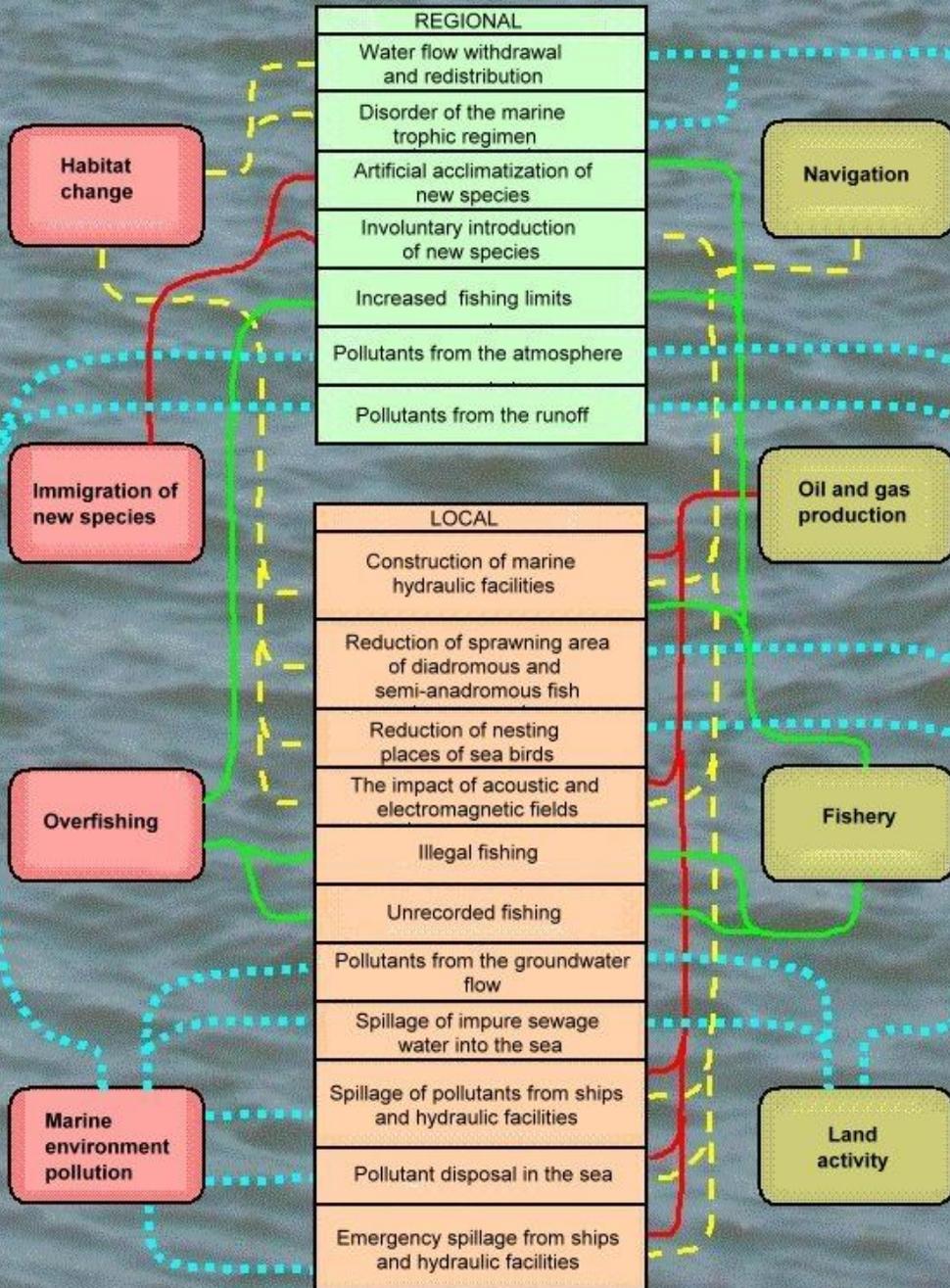
covered in it are subdivided into those having direct effect (Ed) and those having indirect effect (Ei) on the Caspian Sea condition.

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

4 December

"Today, the Caspian Sea is not only an energy problem, but also a geopolitical problem. If earlier in the Caspian Sea there had been the Caspian Flotilla, today almost all states have some sort of a frontier troops and border fleet."

V.Kalyuzhny
RF Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

State of marine activity

Oil and gas production

3 December

EiSn The issue of establishing new gas-chemical complexes was considered at the last government meeting in Ashgabat, an official Turkmen source said today. The construction of polyethylene production complexes at Seidi refinery (East Region) and at the coast of the Caspian Sea (western region), near the settlement Kiyarly, where the marine terminal for liquefied natural gas storage and shipment is located, are among the projects. Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov stressed the prospect of these projects, which is stipulated by the presence of huge natural gas reserves and ambitious plans to diversify the country's export potential.

<http://neftgaz.ru/news/view/106031/>

3 December

EiSn The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), which began gas supplies from Umid gas field in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian to the domestic gas supply system, is specifying the volume of annual production. SOCAR president Rovnag Abdullayev informs that the Company started making a work program on development of the field despite ongoing exploration there. "The work program will be ready in 2013 and will contain estimates of annual production, which largely depend on the amount of investment," Abdullayev said. Currently, production at the field is conducted from one well with daily debit of 1 million cu m of gas and 200 tons of condensate.

<http://abc.az/rus/news/69961.html>

5 December

EdSn Head of coastal base for supporting of marine operations of the Iranian Khazar oil company stated that a second oil well will soon be drilled in the Caspian Sea near Behshehr (Mazandaran) Province. The new oil well is designed for the extraction of light crude which is of higher quality than heavy oil.

http://iran.ru/rus/news_iran.php?act=news_by_id&news_id=84547

6 December

EdSg The partners developing Azerbaijani offshore gas field Shah Deniz are working to start implementing the second stage of developing this field, which is estimated at \$ 28 billion, state oil company SOCAR's head Rovnag Abdullayev said at the Caspian Forum in Istanbul on Thursday, Trend news agency reported.

Additional 16 billion cubic meters of gas a year will be extracted within the second stage of developing the field. About 6 billion of this volume will be delivered to Turkey and 10 billion to Europe, Abdullayev said.

He said that Baku will not confine to this. In the future it is planned to commission such major fields as Absheron, Umid, Babak and develop deep gas from Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli block of fields.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2096189.html>

6 December

EdSn Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR has carried out more drilling than last year but looks unlikely to meet its drilling target for 2011.

"In January to November 2011 drilling totaled 140,208 m, including 126,896 m of development and 13,312 m of exploration drilling (including 2,400 m of wildcat drilling)," Fineko/abc.az reported, quoting the company.

This is more than the 136,324 m drilled in the whole of 2010, but falls short of the target of 200,000 m for the year set by SOCAR President Rovnag Abdullayev.

<http://www.oilcapital.ru/upstream/188767.html>

Navigation

3 December

EiSn North –Western Shipping Company has confirmed the status of the largest carrier of project cargo in the Russian system of water transport. Within the 2012 navigation period the company vessels made more than 50 voyages with oversized cargo. Dry cargo ships of the company made 46 voyages from Western Europe and Ukraine to Caspian Sea ports. The company mainly transported equipment for the development of the oil and gas bearing sites of the Caspian Sea and for petrochemical industry of the Central and Privolzhsky federal districts.

<http://www.korabli.eu/blogs/novosti/morskie-novosti/severo-zapadnoe-parohodstvo-0>

8 December

EiSn The investments in modernization of Makhachkala Commercial Sea port are estimated at 630 million roubles. The statement was made at the meeting of Dagestan's Committee for transport.

<http://portnews.ru/news/150966/>

Fishery

6 December

EiSn The Iranian province of Kermanshah has launched production of black caviar. The head of the fisheries and aquaculture organization “Shilat”, Kyumars Shahbazi, said that in the next 4-5 years the province will become a center for sturgeon production.

K.Shahbazi noted that with the reduction of production of caviar in the Caspian Sea, sturgeon farming has spread inland in the country. Currently, the province of Kermanshah has five sturgeon farms, Iran News reports.

Various researches show that Kermanshah province has most favorable conditions for breeding sturgeon. Sturgeon breeding in the province of Kermanshah began seven years ago.

http://iran.ru/rus/news_iran.php?act=news_by_id&news_id=84576

7 December

EiSn Infected pike perches caught in the Volga river have been sent to Moscow for examination. The fishermen discovered sores on the fish bodies. Similar symptoms were registered on pike-perches caught last year near Saratov. Ichthyologists suppose that sores can be a sign of dermatofibroma.

<http://regionsamara.ru/readnews/28978>

Hydrocarbons transportation

4 December

EiSg The Marketing and Economic Operations Department of the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) exported 18.55 million tons of oil in January-November compared to over 21.3 million tons of oil through the Turkish port of Ceyhan in January-November 2011, the company reported today, Trend news agency reported.

The Marketing and Economic Operations Department exported 1.46 million tons of oil in November compared to 1.5 million tons in November 2011.

<http://www.newsazerbaijan.ru/economic/20121204/298203140.html>

Environmental protection

3 December

EiSn This week the Scientific and Technical Council of the Lower Volga Basin Department meets in Moscow. The meeting will cover the issues of use of the resources of Kuibyshev, Saratov and Volgograd water reservoirs. Astrakhan and Volgograd regions are anxiously waiting for the results of the meeting.

The environmental situation in the Volga - Akhtuba floodplain and in the delta is worrisome, as water deficit problem has been-re-occurring since 2006. One of the reasons is that the documents regulating activities of water resources users have become outdated. The rules were last edited about 30 years ago, while the environmental and economic situations in the regions have changed a lot.

This will ensure more efficient use of the Volga water resources, although it can't increase water content in the Volga - Akhtuba floodplain. To secure constant water supply, an additional reservoir is to be constructed in Cheboksary hydroelectric complex.

<http://file-rf.ru/news/11000>

4 December

EdSn Specialists of the National Department for Hydrometeorology of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan have published the results of the following hydrological measurements and research held in the Kura delta.

The Ministry's press-service reports that water discharge in different river sectors has been measured, cross-section profiles have been surveyed and a number of other surveys have been carried out.

According to the research, 40% of water discharge registered at Bankya Kury station flows into the sea through Lesser Kura, while 60% gets into the sea through the newly-built canal, which is the prolonged main riverbed branch.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2095008.html>

International relations

3 December

EiSg Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev met with Chief Executive Officer of Shell Peter Voser, Tengrinews.kz reports citing the President's press-service.

President noted that Shell is one of the most significant investors of Kazakhstan oil and gas sector.

<http://www.oilcapital.ru/company/188194.html>

4 December

EiSr The conference "Present and Future of the Caspian Sea" is to take place in Teheran in early 2013. The statement was made by Viktor Kalyuzhny. "Since 2004, following the signing of a tripartite agreement between Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, practical movement in exploring issues of the status of the Caspian Sea has not moved even a bit, although in 2004 we produced 60% of the text part, except for serious divisions that were on the southern part," the ex-Minister of Fuel and Energy Viktor Kalyuzhny said. "Today, the Caspian Sea is not only an energy problem, but also a geopolitical problem. If earlier in the Caspian Sea there had been the Caspian Flotilla, today almost all states have some sort of a frontier troops and border fleet. I have always supported demilitarization and said that it is necessary to conclude a general agreement on the safety of these five states for the Caspian Flotilla to exercise general control and address common security issues.

<http://www.itar-tass.com/c30/589026.html>

6 December

EiSg Caspian Forum will be held in Istanbul. The aim of the Forum that will be held on December 6 is to improve the regional cooperation, commercial and investment promotion, APA reports quoting the official website of the forum. The issues on energy, energy security, transport, economic development, investment opportunities and security will be discussed at the panel meetings.

Officials, experts, representatives of international organizations, companies, media and NGOs from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Russia, the USA, England, Israel, Georgia are expected to attend the forum, where Secretary General of Caspian Strategy Institute Haldun Yavas will make an opening speech.

<http://www.trend.az/capital/business/2096085.html>