

**Environmental security of the Caspian Sea**  
**Information and analytical bulletin**  
**10 December – 16 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

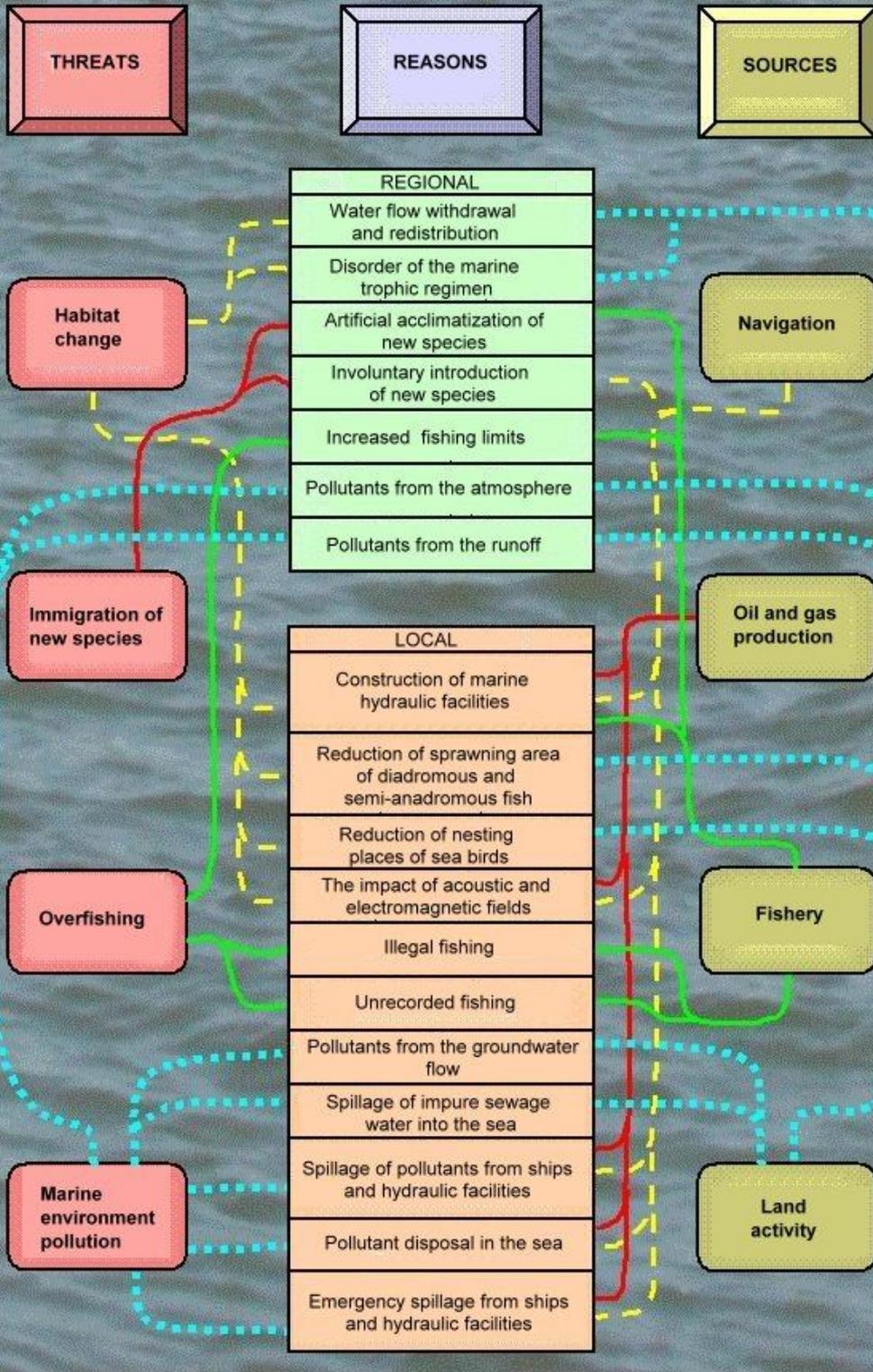
covered in it are subdivided into those having direct effect (Ed) and those having indirect effect (Ei) on the Caspian Sea condition.

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**

**12 December**

The Teheran Convention plays a key part in strengthening regional environmental cooperation. The Convention is becoming an efficient legal tool of environmental protection in the Caspian Sea.

S.Donskoy  
RF Minister for Natural resources and Ecology

## **State of marine activity**

### **Oil and gas production**

**10 December**

**EiSn** The Iranian Oil Ministry plans to establish a refinery neighboring the Caspian Sea and feed it by crude oil which is derived from the sea, IRNA quoted Masoud Jahdi, the explorations director of Khazar Oil Company as saying.

The reserve of the Sardar Jangal oilfield, located in the Caspian Sea, is around 2 billion barrels, of which 500 million barrels is recoverable, Jahdi said.

According to the officials of the National Iranian Oil Company, the oilfield is completely situated within Iran's territorial waters in the Caspian Sea and is not shared with any neighboring country.

[http://iran.ru/rus/news\\_iran.php?act=news\\_by\\_id&news\\_id=84630](http://iran.ru/rus/news_iran.php?act=news_by_id&news_id=84630)

**10 December**

**EdSn** Iran will start drilling operation of the second exploratory well in Sardar Jangal oil field in Caspian Sea next week.

The drilling will take less than a year in the deep waters of the Caspian Sea and new oil layers are likely to be discovered, Managing director of Khazar Exploration and Production Company (KEPCO) Ali Osouli, told ISNA on Friday.

Installation of the platform and drilling operation will be done thoroughly by Iranian experts for the first time, he said and added financing the project has faced no problems due to the supports from Oil Minister and the National Iranian Oil Company's managing director.

[http://iran.ru/rus/news\\_iran.php?act=news\\_by\\_id&news\\_id=84613](http://iran.ru/rus/news_iran.php?act=news_by_id&news_id=84613)

**10 December**

**EiSr** The Caspian largest drilling rig of this type (Super M2 series) was built by the Astrakhan shipbuilders on the order from Chinese company "Yantai Raffles – SIMS" for exploration and production of hydrocarbon resources in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea. The jack-up drilling rig will be operated by oil company "Dragon Oil" on a lease basis.

<http://www.biztass.ru/news/one/50432>

**11 December**

**EdSg** By present 83% of works on Chirag Oil Project (COP) - construction of the production platform Western Chirag - has been already completed, Ilgar Mammadov, BP representative, COP chief of ground operations, told journalists yesterday. He said for the first time in the history of Azerbaijan such a platform has been fully built in Baku, including the upper constructions. "Construction of the drilling equipment was among the most difficult elements here. However, all difficult works were done locally," said BP representative. Mammadov said that in quarter 1, 2013 the foot block of the Western Chirag platform will be delivered to the permanent location spot. The foot block was loaded on the barge in October 2012, but it has not been delivered, because the drilling operations are currently in progress on the drilling site using semi-submersible drilling rig Dede Gorgud.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2097557.html>

### **11 December**

**EdSn** In the nearest future the state company Turkmenneft will launch a wide-scale geological prospecting operations in the northern sector of Goturdepe block which is located in the shallow water of the Caspian Sea. The Turkmen HC resources in the Caspian Sea are estimated at 12 b tons of oil and 6.5 trillion cubic metres of gas. The results achieved throughout the development of shallow sea part are mainly due to the use of up-to-date equipment and highly efficient technologies aimed at developing two productive layers within one well.

<http://www.rosbalt.ru/exussr/2012/12/11/1070159.html>

### **13 December**

**EdSn** On 11th December 2012 SOCAR-AQS has delivered to its customer, 28 May Oil & Gas Production Unit, well #315 from platform #13. Works on drilling well #315 with projected depth of 3050 m were completed on 6th December. This well, which was drilled on Shallow Water Guneshli into Fasila Layer to actual depth of 3091 m, turned out to be the 6th well delivered to the customer in 2012. Daily rate of gas and oil obtained from well #315 was 150000 m<sup>3</sup> and 35 t, respectively.

<http://vestikavkaza.ru/news/Na-Gyuneshli-stalo-odnoy-skvazhinoy-bolshe.html>

### **13 December**

**EdSn** In January-November 2012, the industrial production in Azerbaijan shrank by 3.3% compared to the same period of 2011, During the reporting period, Azerbaijan produced 39.4 million tons of oil and 15.7 billion cubic meters of gas. Electricity production amounted to 18.5 billion kW/h. The production volume in the oil sector fell by 5.3%, in the non-oil increased by 7.4%.

<http://www.biztass.ru/news/one/51090>

### **Navigation**

### **10 December**

**EiSn** Глава Head of Ports and Maritime Organization in Mazandaran Province Seyed Nabi Seyedpur stated that in a year the capacity of Noushahr port would reach 5 m tons. Currently the port handles up to 3.5 million tons of cargo.

[http://iran.ru/rus/news\\_iran.php?act=news\\_by\\_id&news\\_id=84619](http://iran.ru/rus/news_iran.php?act=news_by_id&news_id=84619)

### **13 December**

**EiSn** In the nearest two years, Caspian Flotilla (CF) will receive three Project 11770 Serna landing boats; that will considerably improve landing capability of the flotilla, reported RIA Novosti referring to a spokesman for the Russian Navy.

Besides, construction of landing ship Ivan Gren is going on at Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad for Russian Navy.

That large-size landing ship was laid down in Dec 2004, but construction went slowly due to non-systematic financing and lack of professional staff. The ship was put afloat on May 18, 2012 and is to be handed over to defense ministry in 2013, reports RIA Novosti.

<http://lenta.ru/news/2012/12/13/serna/>

### **Fishery**

#### **12 December**

**EiSn** Head of the Federal Agency for Fishery, Andrey Krainiy met Dagestani Leader Magomedsalam Magomedov in Moscow yesterday. The main discussion area of the rendezvous was the new sturgeon breeding complex opening in Babayurtovskiy district of the republic. The principal function of the complex is to preserve and recover sturgeon population in Volga-Caspian basin. The new complex will be run by the Federal Agency for Fishery. Alongside with it, the Republican Target Programme of Fishery Complex Development in 2013-2017 conditions providing subsidies to commercial fishing enterprises.

<http://fishnews.ru/news/20124>

### **Hydrocarbons transportation**

#### **10 December**

**EiSg** The BP Plc-led Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline shipped less Azeri crude in the first 11 months of the year, according to State Oil Co. of Azerbaijan, a partner in the venture.

The so-called BTC link, which connects Azerbaijan's Caspian Sea coast with Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan via Georgia, delivered 27.3 million metric tons in the period, a decline of 9.1 percent from a year earlier, the Baku-based company said today on its website. BTC exported 2.2 million tons in November, up from 2.1 million tons a year earlier.

<http://www.oilcapital.ru/export/189125.html>

### **Environmental protection**

#### **12 December**

**EdSr** Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea was approved by representatives of the Caspian littoral states at the 4th Conference of the Parties to the Teheran Convention which took place in Moscow on December 10-12.

The purpose of this Protocol is to prevent, control, reduce and to the maximum extent possible eliminate pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources and activities in order to achieve and maintain an environmentally sound marine environment of the Caspian Sea. Minister for Natural Resources and Ecology of the RF S.Donskoy noted that the Teheran Convention plays a key role in strengthening of the regional nature conservation cooperation. The Convention is becoming an efficient legal instrument of environmental protection in the Caspian Sea.

<http://www.mnr.gov.ru/news/detail.php?ID=129803&print=Y>

## **16 December**

**EiSn** The Atlas of monuments and historical sights, culture and geography of Kazakhsan “From the Altai to the Caspian” has been published and is to be presented on December 20 in Almaty, Kazinform reports.

The Atlas is the result of long-term work of a big team of outstanding scientists, editors and authors. The presentation will include meeting with authors and researchers who worked on the Atlas. The results of historic and scientific research will be presented for the first time. The uniqueness of the Atlas is explained by unusual and rare illustrations – photographs and pictures made by C.Valikhanov, P.Koshkarov, N.Pantusov and other researchers and travelers of the 19th century.

[http://kaztrk.kz/rus/news/portal/Izdan\\_unikalnij\\_atlas\\_Ot\\_Altaja\\_do\\_Kaspija.html](http://kaztrk.kz/rus/news/portal/Izdan_unikalnij_atlas_Ot_Altaja_do_Kaspija.html)

## **International relations**

### **11 December**

**EiSg** Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov has met with OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, an official Turkmen source reported on Tuesday.

Issues relating to cooperation in providing security of international energy supplies, preparing an effective administrative mechanism for transboundary water resources in the region were discussed during the meeting.

Zannier expressed the OSCE's interest to increase and strengthen cooperation with Turkmenistan, whose neutral status is a positive factor in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Berdymukhamedov, in turn, thanked the OSCE chief for his support to the Turkmen initiative to solve effectively the pressing problems of global development.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2097537.html>

### **12 December**

**EiSg** Azerbaijan and France have explored ways of expanding cooperation in the energy field during a meeting of Azerbaijani Industry and Energy Minister Natig Aliyev with the delegation led by GDF Suez's executive vice president, Jean-Marie Dauger, in Baku on Wednesday, AzerTac state news agency reported.

Minister Aliyev briefed the delegation about achievements made in Azerbaijan, developing transport infrastructure of the country, significance of Azerbaijan as an oil and gas producing country, as well as Azerbaijan's role in Europe as an energy supplier, and its diversified economic issues.

<http://www.trend.az/print/2098254.html>

### **13 December**

**EiSg** Turkmenistan will open a trade mission in Moscow and a consulate in Astrakhan in 2013, Turkmenistani President Gurbanguly Berdimuhammedov said on Monday, December 10, when approving the country's foreign policy concept for 2013-2017.

"The Russian Federation is our strategic partner and relations with this country develop steadily and fruitfully," he said at an expanded meeting of the government. "In recent years we have developed effective cooperation in trade, economic, humanitarian and cultural areas with several large Russian regions such as St. Petersburg, the Republic of Tatarstan and the Astrakhan region."

<http://www.trend.az/regions/casia/turkmenistan/2098396.html>