



Black Sea: Regional Policy in Ballast Water Management

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Bucharest Convention (1)



Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

- Was signed in **Bucharest** in April 1992;
- Ratified by all six Black Sea Countries in the beginning of **1994**;
- Its basic objective is to substantiate the general obligation of the Contracting Parties **to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea** in order to **protect and preserve the marine environment** and to **provide a legal framework for co-operation and concerted actions** to fulfil this obligation;
- We have:
 - 6 Contracting Parties,
 - 6 Advisory Groups,
 - 4 Protocols,
 - 3 people in the Secretariat ☹

Bucharest Convention (2)



It has 4 thematic Protocols:

1. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution from **Land Based Sources (LBS Protocol)**;
2. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution by **Dumping**;
3. Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by **Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations**;
4. The Black Sea **Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation** Protocol (**CBD Protocol**).
 - **Strategic Action Plan (SAP)** on the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea – adopted in 1996 and amended in **2009**.

Bucharest Convention (3)



6 Advisory Groups

- The Advisory Groups to the Black Sea Commission are the **main source of expertise, information and support** in the implementation of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan.
- 1. ESAS - Advisory Group on the Environmental **Safety Aspects of Shipping**;
- 2. PMA - Advisory Group on the **Pollution Monitoring and Assessment**;
- 3. LBS - Advisory Group on Control of **Pollution from Land Based Sources**;
- 4. ICZM - Advisory group on the Development of Common Methodologies for **Integrated Coastal Zone Management**;
- 5. CBD - Advisory Group on the **Conservation of Biological Diversity**;
- 6. FOMLR - Advisory Group on the Environmental Aspects of the **Management of Fisheries** and other Marine Living Resources.

Bucharest Convention (4)



Ongoing collaboration with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

Mutual **Observer Relations** with 10 International and Public Organizations:

- UNEP; EU; GEF/UNDP; **IMO**; ICPDR; BSEC; ACCOBAMS; **BSC-Port State Control MoU**;
- Black Sea NGO Network, NGO Mare Nostrum.

Currently **deepening cooperation** with the Secretariats of European RSCs:

- UNEP/MAP (signed the MoU in February 2016); HELCOM; OSPAR.
- ▶ MoUs with ICPDR, ACCOBAMS (Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans), UN FAO GFCM, IAEA etc., **attend Inter-Secretariat meetings of EMSA**.
- ▶ New joint initiatives with IMO and Tehran Convention on Ballast Water Management, Contingency Planning and other relevant projects with possible involvement of IFIs;
- ▶ Joined **GEO** and supported **GEOSS**.

BS SAP 2009 (1)

Four Ecosystem Quality Objectives:

*1. Preserve commercial **marine living resources** through:*

- ▶ Sustainable use of commercial fish stocks and other marine living resources*
- ▶ Restore/rehabilitate stocks of commercial marine living resources*

*2. Conservation of Black Sea **Biodiversity and Habitats** through:*

- ▶ Reduction of risk of extinction of threatened species*
- ▶ Conservation of coastal and marine habitats and landscapes*
- ▶ Reduction and management of human mediated species introductions*

*3. Reduce **eutrophication** through:*

- ▶ Reduction of nutrients originating from land-based sources, including atmospheric emissions*

*4. Ensure **Good Water Quality** for Human Health, Recreational Use and Aquatic Biota through:*

- ▶ Reduction of pollutants originating from land-based sources, including atmospheric emissions*
- ▶ Reduction of pollutants originating from shipping activities and offshore installations*

Progress



- ▶ new text of the Black Sea Integrated **Monitoring and Assessment Program** - BSIMAP for years 2017-2022 (drafted within EU MSFD Project, main approaches are harmonized, but still based on monitoring parameters in BSIMAP and BS SAP 2009)
- ▶ First Report on the Implementation of the (amended) BS SAP (2009) - **SAPIR**
- ▶ “State of the Black Sea Environment” Report – **SoE (2009-2015)**

Invasive species in BSIMAP

Annex:



- ▶ **EcoQO 2b**
- ▶ **Reduce and manage human mediated species introductions**
- ▶ **Descriptor** - Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystems
- ▶ **Target** - No new man-made introduction of non-indigenous species (including aquaculture, introduction of LMO etc.)
- ▶ **Management of existing non-indigenous species (including improvement of ballast water and fouling management in accordance with IMO BWM Convention requirements, control, quotas etc.)**
- ▶ **Preparatory actions:**
 - ▶ Finalise the List of Black Sea non-indigenous species
 - ▶ Develop and/or apply indicators (e.g. bio-pollution index)
 - ▶ Map areas of non-indigenous species proliferation
 - ▶ Maps of Spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, vectors of introduction
 - ▶ North-ward movement of species
 - ▶ **Ballast water monitoring**
 - ▶ Risk areas screening (i.e. ports), early detections
 - ▶ Impacts of non-indigenous species
 - ▶ Measures taken
 - ▶ Data Products
 - ▶ Indicators, maps, trends (to be specified)

Indicators for short reporting:



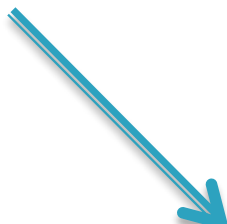
- ▶ During the 31st BSC Regular meeting in 2018 the BSC adopted the **6 tables** reflecting the **indicators for annual reporting to the Black Sea Commission**, elaborated and agreed by the members of the all six Advisory Groups of the Black Sea Commission during their regular meetings since 2015.
- ▶ The data is **based on existing AG annual reporting formats**, and also takes into account the **new environmental challenges and legislation**, as well as approaches introduced by relevant global and regional organizations (i.e. provisions of EU MSFD; GFCM; ACCOBAMS etc.)

BSIMAP 2017-2022



► **Agreed CBD Regional Reporting Indicators:**

Parameters/Status, BS State	BG	GE	RO	RU	TR	UA
Phytoplankton biomass (seasonal trends for the last 3 years)						
Phytoplankton abundance (seasonal trends for the last 3 years)						
Max concentration of blooming species						
Diatoms/Dinoflagelates biomass ratio (only for spring)						
H-Shannon 95 (biomass)						
Chl a (seasonal trends for the last 3 years)						
Mesozooplankton biomass (for 3 years)						
Biomass of <i>Noctiluca</i> (%)						
Mesozooplankton H-Shannon (biomass, abundance)						
Jellatinous macrozooplankton biomass and abundance						
Macrophytobenthos (EEIc *)						
Macrozoobenthos (M-AMBI*)						
Number of new introduced non-indigenous species (for each 6 years)						
Marine protected areas (in number and in % every 5 years)						



Indicators for short reporting:



Parameter/BS State	BG	GE	RO	RU	TR	UA
Ship calls, <i>inter alia</i>:						
Tankers						
Chemicals						
Gas (LNG)						
Others						
Cargo turnover, mln tons, <i>inter alia</i>:						
General Cargo						
Oil, th tons (?)						
Chemical goods, (?)						
Gas, th tons (?)						
Others						
Number of ports						

* issues covered by MARPOL Annex 6 and BWM indicators to be elaborated and added in the nearest future

Indicators for short reporting (2):



Parameter/BS State	BG	GE	RO	RU	TR	UA
Capacity of terminals, <i>inter alia</i>:						
Oil terminals, th tons per year						
Gas terminals, th tons per year						
Port reception facilities (PRF), actually delivered quantities to PRF (in accordance with MARPOL Annexes I, IV and V)						
Annex I, cub. M						
Annex V, cub. M						
Annex IV, cub. M						
Number, volume, location and causes of accidental pollution/spills						
Number, volume and location of illegal pollution/spills						
Pollution fines (in USD)						
Dumping of dredged materials, volume						

Cooperation with IMO



- ▶ A series of **Memorandums of Understanding between the Black Sea Commission and the International Maritime Organization** (2012-2013):
- ▶ This MoU defines the areas of our mutual cooperation, as well as foresees our joint activities aimed at promoting the implementation of the relevant international agreements in the Black Sea region.
- ▶ Managed to bring the expertise of the IMO not only to Black Sea countries, but also colleagues from Caspian region. The problem of ballast water management is our common problem, unified approaches on the ballast water management in the European regions are needed.
- ▶ Dumping activities,
- ▶ the port baseline control,
- ▶ Liability and Compensation for oil pollution incidents,
- ▶ preparedness and response to incidents involving hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) and
- ▶ ballast water management and implementation of the relevant IMO Conventions.

Cooperation with IMO:



- ▶ Since 2010, the IMO and the BSC implement an **MoU on technical co-operation** (renewed in May 2012 and November 2013), implementing partner for capacity building activities in the Black Sea area under IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme;
- ▶ Joint **IMO-BSC activities**, as follows:
 - ▶ Regional workshop on **MARPOL Annex V** and Port Reception Facilities (28-30th October, 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey) held back-to-back with 23rd ESAS AG Meeting;
 - ▶ National workshop on **MARPOL Annex VI** - Ships' Energy Efficiency and Technology Transfer, held in Batumi, Georgia in December, 2015;
 - ▶ IMO and BSC PS currently negotiate on a possibility to launch the **new joint project** to address a number of **priority issues**, such as:
 - ▶ 1) implementation of the BWM Convention in Black Sea Basin and cooperation with neighbouring regions,
 - ▶ 2) prevention of illegal discharges into the sea,
 - ▶ 3) oil spill preparedness and response,
 - ▶ 4) support the work of BSC Regional Activity Center for shipping (ESAS RAC) in Varna, Bulgaria,
 - ▶ 5) elaboration of the Part II of the Black Sea Regional Contingency Plan.

ESAS AG - Activities in 2018/2019



- ▶ The ESAS AG noted the necessity to collaborate with other regional seas conventions (HELCOM, UNEP/MAP, OSPAR and Tehran Convention) and requested the BSC PS to contact the UNEP/MAP in order to consider the possibility to carry out joint activities under the MoU with UNEP/MAP (i.e. **ballast water management and places of refuge** in Mediterranean Sea, MARPOL Annex VI);
- ▶ The group asked the BSC PS to consider jointly with CBD AG to elaborate **guidelines on implementation of the biological component of BWM Convention** (exemptions under Regulation A4, on the basis of “same risk area principle” etc.);

UNDP/UNESCO Project: Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME



- ▶ **Output 1.4:** National action strategies in each project country developed/agreed to further co-operate in synergy with relevant IMO and other projects aimed at reducing threats to bioresources and ecosystems from specific invasive species with regional recommendations
- ▶ National action plans to address the problems of invasive species will be developed in co-operation with specific guidance from IMO (e.g. GloFouling, Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention etc.) to reduce the threats to bioresources and ecosystems and taking stock of existing initiatives, established good practices and cooperation arrangements.
- ▶ Activities will include:
 - ▶ Facilitation of **agreement between IMO and BSC PS** to develop capacity building activities to address threats of invasive species for shipping and other relevant activities;
 - ▶ Development of **harmonized guidelines and strategies** to be presented to BSC for further adoption at regional level and incorporating into national instruments, such as NBSAPs, where appropriate;
 - ▶ Establishment of **mechanism to exchange the information in BSIS on new invasive species** in coastal transit zones and MPAs.

Kakhovka dam explosion



- ▶ **Ukraine warns IMO of Black Sea ballast water dangers after dam explosion:**
- ▶ The Black Sea faces an environmental catastrophe as polluted freshwater from the Kakhovka dam explosion impacts coastal biodiversity and spreads pathogens and organisms, International Maritime Organization hears;
- ▶ Extremely important issue now is a post-war assessment and consequences of explosion on Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine happened on 6th June 2023;
- ▶ no consensus yet on it on the BSC level, follow and unofficially negotiate with different partners, UNECE, WB, GEF/UNDP project, NGOs, ACCOBAMS, Ocean Care (Germany) and many others. EAIA re-establishment of cooperation on QA&QC.

Conclusions:



- ▶ The **BSC PS is taking steps** to promote regional cooperation on marine and coastal environmental issues, *inter alia*, contributing to the ballast water management and management of invasive species **in the Black Sea region**;
- ▶ **Appreciate cooperation with Türkiye and Marias Project**, as well as UNEP/MAP in Mediterranean Sea, waiting forward to **receive deliverables of the Project** to discuss them at BSC level and to incorporate them to activities under upcoming UNDP/UNESCO LME Project for the Black Sea (2024);
- ▶ Assistance on **drafting the relevant chapters** of BS SAPIR and BS State of Environment (SoE) Reports.



Thank you for your kind attention!

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