Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation

National Report on the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea

2010

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General Information

1. Reporting Party

Contracting Party	Russian Federation
Reporting period	**2010**
National Focal Point	MNRE of Russia
Full name of the institution	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation
Name of the National Focal Point (NFP)	Natalia B. TRETIAKOVA (Ms.)
Mailing address	4/6 Bolshaya Gruzinskaya street, Moscow 123995, Russia
Tel	+ 7 499 2544800
Fax	+ 7 499 2544310; + 7 499 2546610
Email	minprirody@mnr.gov.ru
Contact point for the national report	ANO CIP
Full name of the institution	Autonomous Non-Profit Organization "Centre for International Projects"
Mailing address	58b Pervomayskaya street, Moscow 105043, Russia
Tel	+ 7 499 1650562
Fax	+ 7 499 1650890
Email	centre@eco-cip.ru; okpd@eco-cip.ru
Signature of the NFP	
Date of submission	

3. References

List of documents used for the preparation of the National Report:

- State Report "On the State and Protection of the Environment of the Russian Federation in 2010";
- State Report "On the State and Use of the Water Resources of the Russian Federation in 2010";
- State Report "On the State and Use of the Lands of the Russian Federation in 2010";
- Informational materials of the bodies of the state authority of the near Caspian subjects of the Russian Federation;
- Report on implementation of the Federal Targeted Programme "Modernization of the Transport System of Russia (2002-2010)" for 2010;
- State Report "On Sanitary-Epidemiological Situation in the Russian Federation in 2010";
- SOI of Roshydromet Annual «Marine Waters Quality by Hydrochemical Indicators" for 2010;
- Informational materials of the projects under the 'Caspian Environment Programme'.

4. Volume

The volume of the National Report (in English) is _____ pages.

Introduction

5. The status of the Tehran Convention and Protocols to it in the Russian Federation

Entered into force in August 2006 the Tehran Convention is now the backbone for the environmental cooperation in the Caspian Sea region representing the document that includes a number of provisions meeting the needs of the Caspian littoral states and the concrete conditions of the Caspian Sea. Russia is the party to the Convention since 2003.

The uniqueness of the Tehran Convention as the legal instrument for addressing the environmental problems of the Caspian Sea and specific tasks posed to the littoral states in the field of environmental protection in the region in terms of illegitimacy of direct application of maritime conventions at the Caspian, is related to the fact that it is the initial and so far the only multilateral treaty in the Caspian Sea region.

The Tehran Convention in line with the natural and international legal features of the Caspian Sea introduces the modern forms of the regional cooperation in the field of pollution prevention, reduce and control; protection, conservation and restoration of the marine environment; application of assessment of impact on the Caspian Sea marine environment; monitoring of the state of the marine environment; scientific studies and developments; information sharing etc. It is the tool for the Caspian environmental protection and sustainable management of its resources, not affecting the legal status issues.

The main specificity of the Tehran Convention is that it implements the international legal regulating of activity on the Caspian Sea marine environment protection under the conditions when the provisions of the existing maritime conventions are illegitimate for direct application (at the Caspian).

The key point of the Tehran Convention is acknowledgment of ecological integrity of the Caspian Sea.

The Russian national environmental policy considers the Caspian as the geographically unique and ecologically system-integral body, when the status of the Caspian Sea and all problems related to the economic and other activity at its water area are addressed upon agreement of the Caspian littoral states exclusively.

The ecological integrity of the Caspian Sea has another highly important aspect. Precisely due to this objective and recognized fact any impact on the Caspian Sea marine environment, wherever it takes place, becomes, in principle, the transboundary one. In other words, any anthropogenic intervention into the Caspian ecosystem functioning to a certain degree affects all the littoral states regardless the problems of interstate delimitation and status of the Caspian.

When signing the Tehran Convention the Russian party proceeded from the fact that this will establish the incentives for the adoption of other multilateral agreements related to the cooperation at the Caspian.

The Presidents of the Caspian states expressing the satisfaction with the Tehran Convention' entry into force, stressed the "necessity in the shortest development and adoption of ancillary protocols to it". Such an assessment allows considering the Tehran Convention as demanded modern and evaluating legal instrument for the regional environmental cooperation, which become the enough effective mean for environmental problems resolution and provision of ecological safety under the implementation of the Caspian natural resources and, in particular, energy resources, potential.

Since its entry into force the Tehran Convention became the integral part of the Russian environmental legislation, stimulating the further development in the modern conditions of an effective regulatory base for provision of counteraction against pollution from various sources, environmental safety under the development of oil deposits offshore in a transboundary context, and conservation of the Caspian biodiversity.

Part 1. General Provisions

6a. Legislative, institutional, economic, as well as other means of implementation of the Tehran Convention and its protocols provisions.
Legislative mechanisms for the implementation of the provisions of the Tehran Convention in the Russian Federation.

Activities to address the problems of the environment protection and rational nature resources management in the Russian Federation has a developed legal basis in the form of federal laws, which mostly have a framework character, and their provisions are further developed in bylaws.

The system of normative legal acts of the Russian Federation, regulating the legal relations in the sphere of the environment protection and conservation, was comprehensively presented in the First National report (2006-2007).

The National reports for 2008 and 2009 included the amendments, introduced into the national legislation in the previous reporting periods.

For the moment, no essential changes in the federal legislation, as compared with the previous reporting periods, are noted.

A number of amendments were introduced into the Federal Law "On the Protection of the Environment"[1], which is the basis of the Russian environmental legislation. Article, defining the standards of permissible emissions and discharges of substances and microorganisms, was supplemented with the following paragraph: "For the issuance of permits for discharges and emissions of substances and micro-organisms into the environment the official fee shall be paid in the amount and order established by the legislation of the Russian Federation on taxes and charges" (Item 4 of Article 23). Article 24, establishing norms of the generation of industrial production and consumption wastes, was supplemented by Item 2, which stated that "For issuance of the document on approval of generation of the production and consumption wastes and their disposal limits, the official fee should be paid in the amount and order established by the legislation the Russian Federation on taxes and charges".

Article 26 of the Water code of the Russian Federation, regulating the transfer of certain powers of the Russian Federation in the sphere of water management to the state authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, was amended as follows: 1) Part 8, after the words "on the delegated powers", was supplemented by the words "including administrative regulations on the state services and the performance of the state functions in the sphere of the delegated powers"; 2) Part 2 was added by paragraph 3.1: "have the right, prior the approval of the regulations specified in Part 8 of this article, to approve the administrative order of the of state services provision and of the performance of the state functions in the sphere of the delegated powers, which shall not contradict the normative legal acts of the Russian Federation, *inter alia* they cannot contain additional requirements and restrictions concerning realization of the rights and freedoms of the citizens, the rights and legitimate interests of organizations, which are not envisaged by such acts and are developed with account of requirements to the regulations of the state services provision and performance of the state functions by the federal executive authorities".

[1] Federal Law "On the Protection of the Environment" of 10.01.2002 № 7-FZ (rev. of 27.12.2009 № 374-FZ).

Article 95 of the Forest Code[2], related to the forests evaluation, in 2010, was supplemented by Part 3: "the State cadastral evaluation of forest areas is carried out in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation on evaluation activity".

The Land Code of the Russian Federation[3] was amended as follows: 1) Item 2 of Article 7, establishing the composition of lands in the Russian Federation, was supplemented with the following paragraph: "Types of permitted use of land sites shall be determined in accordance with the classifier, approved by the federal executive body, carrying out functions on development of the state policy and normative legal regulation in the sphere of land relations"; 2) Paragraph 1 of Item 2, Article 66, regulating land evaluation, was presented in the new wording: "the state cadastral evaluation of land is carried out in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation on evaluation activity"; 3) Item 3 of the same Article was worded as follows: "In cases of determining the commercial cost of a land site, the cadastral cost of this land site.shall be equal to the commercial cost".

As for the Federal law "On the Protection of Population and Territories against Emergencies of Natural and Technogenic Character"[4], it was amended in compliance with the Federal law "On Amending the Federal law "On the Protection of Population and Territories against Emergencies of Natural and Technogenic Character"[5] adopted in May 2010. This Law clarified that the legal regulation on the specified issues is based on the generally accepted principles and norms of the international law (Article 2). The list of the main tasks of the unified state system for prevention and elimination of emergency situations was expanded. It included the organization of the clarification and prevention activity among the population, in order to prevent emergency situations at water objects; it also envisaged international cooperation in this field (Article 4). The state authority's powers in the above areas were adjusted. Now, the constituent entities of the Russian Federation adopt laws and other normative legal acts in the field of ensuring safety of people at water objects of inter-municipal and regional level.

In addition to the federal legislation, the constituent entities of the Russian Federation adopt their own laws and regulations. The constituent entities of the Federation in the Caspian sea region adopted regulations, specifying and developing the provisions of the federal legislation (not contradicting it) with account of the specific local conditions and approaches to the environmental activities. In the Caspian region, the legislation of the constituent entities, concerning protection of the environment and specially protected natural areas, conservation of fauna and hunting, environmental expertise performance, tourism, etc, is being executed.

List of legal acts of the constituent entities of the Federation in the Caspian region on issues related to the implementation of the Tehran convention provisions.

Astrakhan region

- Decree of the Government of the of the Astrakhan region "On the Concept of the Sectoral Targeted Program "Conservation and Restoration of Soil Fertility of Agricultural Land in the Astrakhan Region in 2007-2010" of 03.05.2006 № 138-P;

[2] Forest Code of the Russian Federation of 04.12.2006 № 200-FZ (rev. of 24.07.2009 .№ 209-FZ).

[3] Land Code of the Russian Federation of 25.10.2001 № 136-FZ (rev. of 22.07.2010 № 167-FZ).

[4] Federal Law "On the Protection of Population and Territories against Emergencies of Natural and Technogenic Character" of 21.12.1994 № 68-FZ (rev. of 27.07.2010 № 223-FZ).

[5] Federal law "On Amending the Federal law "On the Protection of Population and Territories against Emergencies of Natural and Technogenic Character" of 19.05.2010 № 91-FZ.

- Decree of the Government of Astrakhan region “On Sectoral Targeted Program “Mitigating the Risks and Consequences of Emergencies of Natural and Technogenic Character in Astrakhan Region for 2007-2010” of 07.06.2006 № 187-P;
- Decree of the Government of the Astrakhan region “On the Concept of the Sectoral Target Program “The Environment Protection in 2008-2010” of 22.06.07 № 238-P.

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- Law of the Astrakhan region “On Introducing Amendments into the Law of the Astrakhan Region “On Certain Issues of the Legal Regulation of Nature Management and the Environment Protection in the Astrakhan Region” of 02.07.2010 №. 26/2010-OZ;
- Decree of the Government of the Astrakhan region “On Introducing Amendments into the Decree of the Government of the Astrakhan Region of 13.06.2006 № 190-P” of 23.04.2010 № 178-P;
- Decree of the Government of the Astrakhan region “On the Concept of the Integrated Target Program “Clean Water” of the Astrakhan Region for 2010-2014 and in Perspective up to 2017” of 18.03.2010 № 116-P;
- Decree of the Government of the Astrakhan region of 07.07.2010 № 293-P “On Introducing Amendments into the Decree of the Government of the Astrakhan Region of 11.04.2005 № 61-P” of 07.07.2010 № 293-P;
- Decree of the Government of the Astrakhan region “On Integrated Target Program “Energy Supply and Energy Efficiency in the Astrakhan Region in 2010-2014 and in Perspective up to 2020” of 15.07.2010 № 300-P;
- Decree of the Government of the Astrakhan region “On the Commission on Environmental Safety” of 12.10.2010 № 436-P;
- Decree of the Government of the Astrakhan region “On the Sectoral Target Program “Risks Reduction and Mitigation of Consequences of Emergency Situations of Natural and Technogenic Character in the Astrakhan Region in 2011-2014” of 21.10.2010 № 450-P;
- Resolution of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Astrakhan region “On Approval of the Departmental Target Program “Strategic Planning of Socio-economic Development of the Astrakhan Region” of 22.01.2009 № 001-p;
- Resolution of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Astrakhan region “On Approval of Departmental Analytical Target Program “Ensuring Effective Management of Socio-economic Development of the Astrakhan Region for 2010-2012” of 28.01.2010 № 003-p;
- Resolution of the Ministry of Industry and Natural Resources of the Astrakhan region “On the Procedure of Consideration of Applications for Obtaining the Right to Use the Subsoil Sites on a Short-term Basis (up to One Year) in the Astrakhan Region” of 02.04.2010 № 5-P;
- Resolution of the Ministry of Industry and Natural Resources of the Astrakhan region “On the Procedure of Renewal of Licenses to Use Subsoil Sites in the Astrakhan region” of 02.04.2010 № 6-P;
- Directive of the Ministry of Industry, Transport and Natural Resources of the Astrakhan region “On approval of the Regulations of the Commission for Subsoil Management” of 01.07.2010 № 57;
- Directive of the Service of Nature Management and the Environment Protection of the Astrakhan region “On Approval of the Departmental Analytical Target Program “Protection of Territories and Ensuring Environmental Safety of the Astrakhan Region” of 05.04.2010 № 114;
- Directive of the Service of Nature Management and the Environment Protection of the Astrakhan region “On Administrative Regulation of the Astrakhan region of 08.04.2010 № 120 “On Administrative Regulation of the Service of Nature Management and the Environment Protection of the Astrakhan Region on the Execution of the State Function: “Implementation of the State Control in the field of the Environment Protection (the State Ecological Control) at Objects of Economic and Other Activity Regardless of Forms of Ownership, Located on the

Territory of the Astrakhan Region, Except for the Objects to be Subjected to the Federal State Ecological Control" of 08.04.2010 № 120;
- Directive of the Service of Nature Management and the Environment Protection of the Astrakhan region "On Approval of the Procedure of the Establishment of Specially Protected Natural Areas of the Regional Importance in the Astrakhan Region" of 02.08.2010 № 327.

Republic of Dagestan

- Law of the Republic of Dagestan "On Endorsement of the Republican Program for the Development of Agriculture and Regulating of Agricultural Products, Raw and Food for 2008-2012" of 24.12.2007 № 74.

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- Decree of the Government of Republic of Dagestan "On Approval of the Order of Identifying the Lands as the Specially Protected Areas of the Republican Importance, Their Use and Protection" of 15.10.2010 № 377.

Republic of Kalmykia

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- Law of the Republic of Kalmykia "On Regulation of Land Relations in the Republic of Kalmykia" of 09.04.2010 № 177 - IV-Z;
- Law of the Republic of Kalmykia "On Protection of the Population and the Territory of the Republic of Kalmykia from Emergency Situations of Natural and Technogenic Character" of 29.06.2010 № 190 - IV-Z;
- Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kalmykia "On Introducing Amendments into the Regulations of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection and Energy Sector Development of the Republic of Kalmykia, Approved by the Government of the Republic of Kalmykia of 18.12.2007 № 457" of 28.05.2010 №. 156;
- Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kalmykia "On Approval of Lists of Fauna and Flora Objects, Included in the Red Data Book of the Republic of Kalmykia" of 13.12.2010 № 387.

The changes in the institutional framework of the environmental policy in the Caspian region constituent entities of the Russian Federation are connected with activization of the administrative reforming of the Governmental bodies.

The structure was presented in the First National report (2006-2007), and it was described with the corresponding changes in the Second National report (2008).

Economic mechanisms.

The major economic mechanisms for implementation of the Tehran Convention provisions by the near Caspian territory of Russia were presented in the First National report (2006-2007).

The particular environmental directions of economic activities are reflected in the long-term concepts and strategies of development of the Russia production facilities.

Funding of the environment protection measures implementation.

Table 32 shows the investments for the environment protection and rational use of natural resources in 2006-2010, in thousand rubles. The reason for a decrease in investments in 2008-

2009 was the consequences of the economic crisis. In total, for the period 2006-2010, the volume of the investments, disbursed on implementation of the environment protection and resource saving measures in the Caspian sea region in Russia, amounted to more than 10.5 billion rubles.

Table 32 Investments for the environment protection and resource-saving activities carried out in the Caspian sea region in Russia in 2006-2010, million rubles

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Near Caspian sea area, in total	703,5	2630,5	2524,7	1057,8	3651,8
including:					
Republic of Dagestan	284,2	51,8	75,8	274,9	548,9
Republic of Kalmykia	58,1	63,2	124,9	36,8	4,2
The Astrakhan region	361,2	2515,5	2324,0	746,1	3098,7

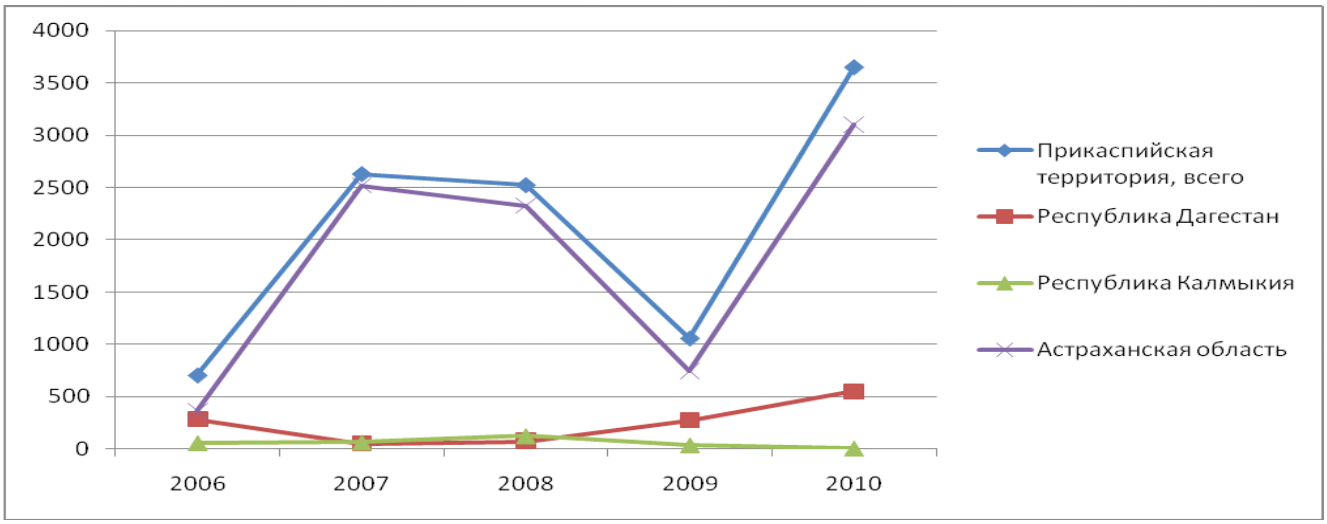

Fig. 9 - the illustration to Table 32

6b. Activity on implementation of obligations under the Tehran Convention on the protection of the Caspian marine environment in various national sectoral and inter-sectoral plans/programs.

The basis for the implementation of the Tehran Convention provisions by the Caspian sea region constituent entities of the Russian Federation are federal target programs, programs of development of the Caspian sea region constituent entities of the Russian Federation, adopted by the corresponding legislative acts.

Basic information about the federal target programs and programs of development of the concrete constituent entities, which are in force on the territory of the Russian Federation, was presented in the previous national reports, and did not lose its relevance for 2010.

7. Brief description of the areas of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Parties to the Tehran Convention on the thematic areas of its implementation.

Participation of the Russian Federation in the activities of the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources of the Caspian sea is realized by Rosrybolovstvo with the purpose of observance of the uniform fishery rules. At the 31st session of the Commission on Aquatic Bioresources of the Caspian sea (June 14-16, 2010, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran) the activity to be undertaken in the future was discussed. All Caspian countries submitted reports on the volumes of catch, juveniles release and the anti-poaching measures in 2009. There were also discussed reports on

the results of the research expeditions in 2009, the approval of quotas for the catch and export of animal species (sturgeons, sprat and seals) for 2010.

Russia's participation in the activities of CASPCOM is carried out by Roshydromet and, in particular, the Caspian Marine Scientific Information Centre (CaspMNIC).

The 15th Session of the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) was held in the Russian Federation, Astrakhan city (October 20-21, 2010). The Session was attended by representatives of NHMS of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and also by the representatives of the CASPECO project of the Caspian Environmental Program. The open meeting of the Session was attended by the participants of the international scientific conference "The Change of Climate and Water Balance of the Caspian region".

The main results of activity of the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian sea were:

- Recommendations of the CASPCOM working group, the second meeting of which was held in accordance with the decision of the previous session of the CASPCOM in October 19, 2010, Astrakhan;
- International scientific conference "The Change of Climate and Water Balance of the Caspian region", organized in compliance with the decision of the previous CASPCOM session and held on 19-20 of October, 2010, Astrakhan;
- The 1st section of the General Catalogue of the Caspian Sea Level, which included monthly data, was prepared by joint efforts of NHMSs and the CASPCOM working group;
- National achievements in the field of hydrometeorology and monitoring of the Caspian sea, providing the basis for strengthening cooperation among NHMSs and for enhancing its effectiveness.

8. Cooperation in the frameworks of bilateral agreements with the Caspian littoral states, as well as with international institutions.

Bilateral agreements of the Russian Federation with the Caspian states, and multilateral treaties, conventions and agreements, including those for which the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment was identified as the leading agency, were listed in the First National report.

In 2010, the Agreement on the Rational Use and Protection of Water Resources of the Transboundary Samur River[6], which determines the joint management and operation of the Samursky hydrosystem, was signed between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

9. Application in the Russian Federation of rules and procedures of international treaties in force for the development of (national) rules and procedures concerning liability and compensation for damage to the environment of the Caspian Sea resulting from violations of the provisions of this Convention and its Protocols (Articles 28 and 29).

The Russian Federation cooperates with the Contracting Parties to the Tehran Convention on the elaboration of the procedures to ensure that each Contracting Party will follow the provisions of the Convention and its protocols on a conformed basis.

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[6] Directive of the Government of the Russian Federation "On Signing the Agreement on the Rational Use and Protection of Water Resources of the Transboundary Samur River between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan" of 28.08.2010 № 1416-r.

According to the accepted practice, the national legislation of the Russian Federation is adapted in order to meet the above-mentioned international treaties obligations. In order to implement the CITES provisions regarding the species included in its applications, the following penalties for the illegal catch and trade in specimens, their parts and derivatives, falling under the provisions of the Convention, are applied at the national level: confiscation of specimens and trapping tools, fines and compensation for damage, and in special cases – criminal responsibility. Given the fact that the commercial sturgeon fishing is prohibited in the Caspian Sea, the above measures are fully applied to the sturgeons and their products. The relevant provisions, regulating this activity, are included into the corresponding laws and codes.

PART 2. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE TEHRAN CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS.

2.1 Pollution from land-based sources.

Pollution from land-based sources (Article 7 of the Tehran Convention and the draft Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against pollution from land-based sources and implementation of land-based activities).

10. Implementation of national action plans and programs on reduction or elimination of pollution from land-based sources or implementation of land-based activities.

The Russian Federation National Action plan for the Implementation of the Framework Convention (NCAP) envisages realization on the near Caspian Sea area of Russia a complex of environmental and resource-saving activities, which include the protection and rational use of water, land, forest and biological resources, protection of the atmospheric air from pollution, production and consumption waste management.

Annually, approximately 70 million m^3 of polluted waste waters are discharged into the Caspian sea from the territory of the Republic of Dagestan.

In order to reduce waste water discharge and to improve its purification from contaminants, modernization of the sewerage pumping stations and facilities of the Northern and Southern STP was carried out in Astrakhan city with an overall amount of more than $ 32 million rubles of investments.

In order to solve the problems of waste water treatment, under the sub-program "Modernization of Municipal Infrastructure" of the Federal Target program "Housing" (2011-2015), the activities on the expansion and reconstruction (II stage) of sewerage in Makhachkala city (capacity of 350.0 thousand m^3 per day), as well as the reconstruction of the combined facilities for sewage treatment in Makhachkala-Caspiysk cities, which is to be put into operation in 2015, are carried out.

Under the Federal Target program "South of Russia (2008-2012)" STPs were being constructed with a total capacity of 154 thousand m^3 per day in the cities of Khasavuirt, Izberbash Dagestan Ogni, Izberbash, Kizlyar and Buynaks. About 1.5 billion rubles were allocated for the construction of those facilities. The construction of STP in Izberbash city is to be completed in 2013.

11. Existence in the near Caspian subjects of the Russian Federation of warehouses, landfills, dump sites, etc. of solid consumer wastes and oil development wastes that do not meet the environmental requirements. Technologies applied for their disposal

Waste management in the Caspian sea region is one of the most urgent ecological problems; especially it concerns the Republic of Dagestan and the Astrakhan region.

Astrakhan region. In 2010, the total amount of generated wastes reached 300 thousand tons, and that was 95 thousand tons less as compared to 2009. More than 200 thousand tons were the wastes of V-IV class of risk, 140 thousand tons of which were used and neutralized. In the reporting period there were revealed 214 sites of illegally disposed wastes, totally located on 135,5 ha. The increase in the number of unauthorized landfills, as compared to 2009, amounted to 63.4%, and by area - 54%. It should be noted that the majority of authorized landfills are in poor condition, many of them exhausted their terms of operation.

During the year, the "Gazpromdobycha Astrakhan" company accumulated 48 thousand tons of wastes, of which: 11.3 thousand tons of wastes (sludge, spent activated carbon) were neutralized by the company, 3,4 thousand tons of scrap ferrous and nonferrous metals were used, 16.7 thousand tons of construction wastes were disposed at its own landfill, and 19,4 thousand tons of construction debris were transferred for processing and disposal by other companies.

The Republic of Dagestan. In warehouses, on landfills and other facilities of waste disposal and storage there were accumulated more than 4 million tons of wastes of various types and classes of risk. The urban waste sorting and treatment station in Makhachkala city does not resolve the problems of the solid wastes removal in the city. Wastes, received on the selected landfills, are often burned.

Accumulating of wastes, generated at drilling, is carried out in oil pits, where, as a result of the previous and present activity, there were accumulated about 8 thousand tons of oily wastes. Many of the above-mentioned sources of pollution are located on the coast of the Caspian sea.

Republic of Kalmykia. In 2010, the Republic of Kalmykia accumulated 3000 tons of production and consumption wastes, 3% of which were used and neutralized.

Most of the existing landfills do not meet the terms of "Hygienic Requirements for Design and Maintenance of Landfills for Municipal Solid Waste" (SP 2.1.7.1038-01). At the landfills there is no monitoring of ground and surface water, soil and the atmospheric air status.

12. Availability of stricter requirements of the Russian legislation dealing with prevention of Caspian Sea water and ecosystem pollution than those provided for in the Tehran Convention and its Protocols

Provisions of the federal legislative and other normative acts, including these of the state authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, to a large extent correspond to the provisions of the Tehran Convention and provide the legal framework for the conservation, restoration, improvement of the environment and for raising ecological safety of the population and territories.

Standards of permissible discharges of harmful substances, contained in the waste waters, are established for each source of pollution. Therewith, the main condition at establishing standards is inadmissibility of exceeding of MPC of harmful substances in the control line gauge of the river runoff or on the water object plot, and at MPC exceeding - on the basis of the maintenance (not

deterioration) of the composition and properties of water in the water bodies, formed under the influence of natural factors.

Development and approval of standards of maximum permissible discharge of pollutants into water objects is established in accordance with the requirements of the Russian legislation. (More detailed information was presented in the Second and Third National reports (2008, 2009).

13. Systems/procedures for obtaining licenses/permits for waste water discharges to prevent, reduce and control pollution from land-based sources.

Licansing of activity on collection, utilization, neutralization, transportation, wastes location is performed pursuant to the Federtal law "On Licensing of Certain Activities"[7] , as well as to a number of decrees of the Government of the Russian Federation. (More detailed information was presented in the Second and Third National reports (2008, 2009).

14. Trends in the change of polluted waste water discharge amounts and amounts of untreated waste water discharged.

Of 1087,11 million m^3 of waste waters discharged in 2010 into natural surface water, the volume of contaminated waste water reached 175,48 million m^3 (or 16.1%). As compared to 2009, the discharge amount of the specified category of waste water in the Caspian sea area decreased by 6.15 million m^3 in 2010. On the whole, in the Caspian sea region in Russia the volume of the polluted waste waters for the period from 2006-2010 decreased by 11.7 million m^3.

Astrakhan region. Reduction of the discharge of waste water in the region in 2010, as compared with the previous year, was 58.6 million m^3, *inter alia*, the discharge of polluted waste water decreased by nearly 1.8 million m^3. However, it should be noted that in the period 2005-2010, the share of polluted waste water in the total volume of waste water increased by nearly 9% on the territory of the region. The main volume of the waste water discharge was from waste water treatment plants of "Vodokanal" in the city of Astrakhan, namely, 63.9 million m^3 (90% of the total discharge in the region).

One of the main industrial water consumers on the territory of the region is the Astrakhan Gas Processing Plant (AGK), the annual water consumption of which in 2010 amounted to 5.5 million m^3 (an increase as compared with 2009 - 0.3 million m^3). A system of water recycling is in operation at AGK. 5 million m^3 of polluted waste waters were transferred to the treatment plant of the southern branch of Gazpromenergo company, and 0.35 million m^3 of industrial waste waters (mainly, the associated deposit water) were dumped into the deep subsurface horizons. The monitoring observations in the area of the enterprise location showed that the water quality in surface watercourses basically matched the quality of the transit flow with minor changes of the seasonal nature. In 2010, the hydrogeological situation on the AGK territory remained stable.

The Republic of Dagestan. In recent years there has been a reduction in the volume of waste water, discharged into the basins of the rivers Terek, Sulak and Samur. The volume of the relatively pure collector-drainage waste water, discharged into the water bodies, decreased more than in 2 times for ten years. In 2005-2010, the volume of the waste water discharge decreased by 262 million m^3, the contaminated waste water discharge decreased by 0.33 million m^3 in the Republic. However, the share of contaminated waste water in the total volume of the waste water discharges for the specified period increased by 2.5%. The trend of an increase in the discharge of contaminated sewage from housing/utilities sector and industry was noted.

[7] Federtal law "On Licensing of Certain Activities" of 08.08. 2001 № 128-FZ (rev. of 08.11.2010 № 293-FZ).

The main source of discharge of contaminated waste water is the waste water treatment plants of the "Vodokanal" enterprise in the cities of Makhachkala - Kaspiysk, where the volume of the waste water discharge in the reporting year amounted to more than 70% of the total volume of this category waters discharge in the Republic. There are two main reasons for that: significant overload of the design capacity of the existing municipal waste water treatment facilities and a delay in the completion of the construction of the combined sewage facilities in Makhachkala - Kaspiysk, putting into operation of which could significantly reduce the pollutant discharges directly into the Caspian sea. The polluted waste water discharge by "Vodokanal" in the cities of Buynaksk, Kizlyar, Izberbash, Kizilyurt and by the "Geotermnefnegaz" (Kizlyar city) was 10% of the total waste water discharge in the Republic.

Republic of Kalmykia. During the reporting period, 32.5 million m^3 of waste water, or 7.7 million m^3 less than in 2009, were discharged into the surface water objects in Kalmykia, and the contaminated waste water discharge decreased by 5.7 million m^3. However, it should be noted that the volume of the contaminated waste water in the total volume of waste water remained very high - 84% (in 2009 this proportion amounted to 87%).

Table 34 Dynamics of the contaminated waste water discharge from point sources of pollution located in the Caspian sea region in Russia, 2006-2010, million m^3

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
The Caspian sea area, total	188,47	184,02	186,44	181,63	175,48
including					
Republic of Dagestan	74,81	74,77	74,98	76,09	77,41
Republic of Kalmykia	40,51	37,58	38,51	34,94	29,23
Astrakhan region	73,15	71,68	72,95	70,60	68,84

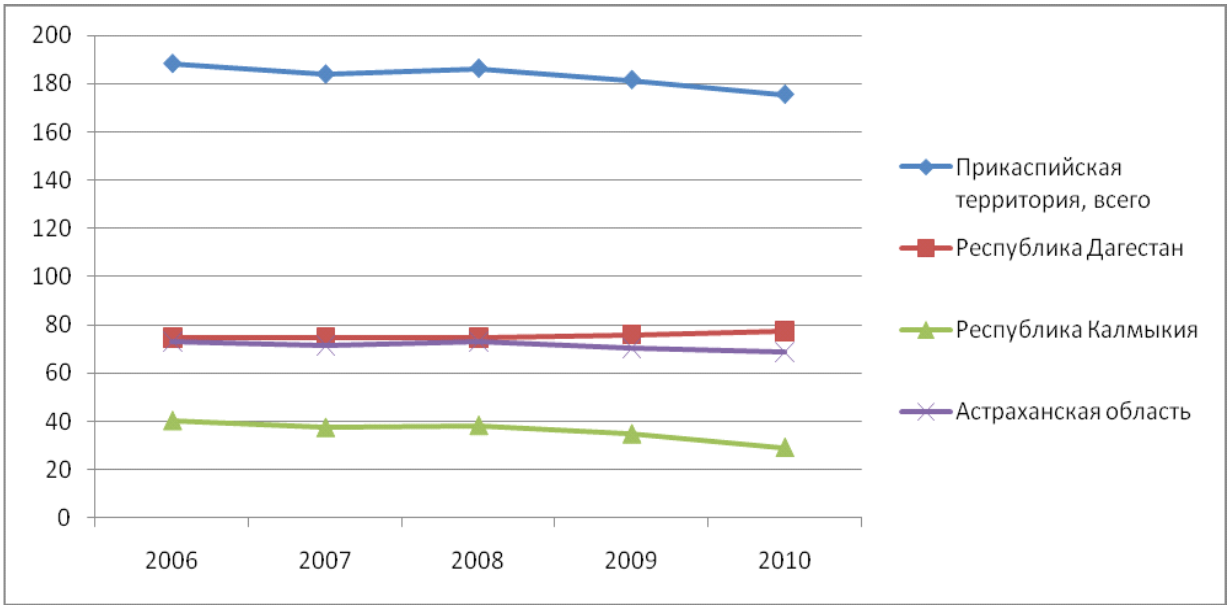

Fig. 10 - the illustration to Table 34

14g. Amounts of untreated sewage discharged.

The discharge of polluted waste waters decreased by 6% in 2010 as compared to the pre-crisis 2007 year. The share of the polluted waste water, discharged from the territory of Dagestan, Kalmykia and the Astrakhan region, in the total volume of the polluted waste water, discharged from the Caspian sea area in 2010, respectively amounted to: 44,1% - from Dagestan, 16.7% - from Kalmykia and 39,2% - from the Astrakhan region.

15. The use of low-waste and non-waste technologies for the prevention, control and reduction of pollutant emissions; number of objects, at which the corresponding technologies were improved and emission changes took place in this regard.

The developed national standards of the Russian Federation contribute to rational nature management and the environment protection, including application of the waste and non-waste technologies for the prevention, control and reduction of emissions of pollutants was considered in the previous national reports and during the reporting period did not change.

16. Application of the best available techniques (BAT) to reduce the hazardous substances load (including organic substances) from diffuse sources, in particular those from agricultural production.

In the Russian Federation the problem of disposal/neutralization of such persistent organic polluters (POP) as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), hexachlorobenzene, is not resolved so far, and the obsolete unsuitable for the use pesticides are the following: DDT, toxaphene (polychlorpinene and polyclorcaphene) and partially hexachlorobenzene.

The existing in the Russian Federation methods and technologies for POPs neutralization could be divided, similarly to the international practice, into three options for their implementation:
- Disposal of POP-containing wastes with observation of existing norms, safety rules and environmental protection measures;
- Processing of POPs to obtain non-toxic substances;
- Destruction of POPs.

Lately it was decided to combine the destruction of liquid obsolete pesticides and PCBs, as the process parameters and hardware design are the same. For destruction of solid and pasty POPs the installation for destruction of liquid POPs were slightly upgraded through adding special mixing equipment for the creation of suspensions or emulsions and dosing equipment. A preliminary assessment of all the POPs destruction processes was carried out, and four technologies of high-temperature oxidation, using cyclone reactor, rocket engine and liquid plasma torch and a chemical reactor, were selected.

17a. Activities carried out to minimize the discharge from a watercourse, flowing through the territory of two or more Contracting Parties or forming a boundary between them.

Transboundary rivers. In the Russian part of the Caspian Sea region the transboundary rivers are: the Ural river (with the Republic of Kazakhstan) and the Samur river (with Azerbaijan). With each of these countries the Russian Federation has bilateral agreements on the protection and use of water resources of these rivers. Under the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Rational Use and Protection of Water Resources of Transboundary River Samur between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan (signed on

03.09.2010), the principles of water allocation and conservation of the natural ecosystem of the river Samur delta as well as of the joint monitoring of water resources were determined.

It should be noted that the Russian water objects in the Caspian region are negatively impacted by transboundary transfer of polluting substances via the atmospheric air, as well as pollution through transboundary waters of the rivers (compounds of copper, iron, manganese and aluminium, easily- and oxidation-prone organic substances). In particular, at the border with Georgia - copper compounds and ammonia nitrogen, with Azerbaijan - copper compounds, phenols and oil products. In general, in the border areas of Russia most often violation of water quality standards was within 1-10 MPC.

18. System of regular inspection and supervision that regulates emissions into the environment.

The state supervision in the internal sea waters, territorial sea, continental shelf and in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation is the responsibility of the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service (Rosprirodnadzor).

In compliance with the established order, Rosprirodnadzor grants licenses (permissions) for the creation, operation and use of artificial islands, installations and facilities, drilling works, connected with the geological study, prospecting, exploration and development of mineral resources, laying of submarine cables and pipelining in the internal waters, the territorial sea and on the continental shelf of the Russian Federation. In addition, the territorial bodies of the Service in cooperation with the representatives of the territorial bodies of the Federal Water Resources Agency, law enforcement authorities and the executive power of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation carry out the water control and supervision over safety of hydraulic engineering constructions.

The environmental activity of the prosecutor's office became even more significant. Its territorial bodies pay much attention to the most common in the Caspian region types of the environmental crimes.

The greatest number of violations, as in the previous years, was revealed in the sphere of protection of the land, water and atmospheric air.

Also, the territorial bodies of Rosprirodnadzor carry out regular supervision over the emission and discharge of pollutants and the production and consumption wastes disposal into the environment.

19. Data on identification of trend in discharges/emissions from the point sources with the condition of obtaining permits from the competent national authorities.

The main sources of pollution of the Caspian Sea marine environment and its shore from the near Caspian territory Russia are enterprises of utilities sector of Makhachkala, Kaspiysk, Derbent, Izberbash, Kizliar, and Astrakhan cities.

These objects include:
- “Vodokanal” (*Water Company*) of Astrakhan (includes the Northern and Southern canalization treatments facilities (CTFs). Sewage is discharged into the Volga delta;
- United CTFs of the cities of Makhachkal-Kaspiysk, “Derbentgorvodokanal” (*Derbent city Water Company*) of Derbent, and “City CTFs” (sewage treatment facilities) of Izberbash are discharging sewage into the Caspian Sea;

- "Kizliarsky gorvodokanal" (*Kizliar city Water Company*) of Kizliar discharge sewage into the Terek river.

20. Methods of control of emissions from diffuse sources of pollution.

In recent years, one of the main sources of the atmospheric air pollution was that from motor vehicles.

Astrakhan region. The average and maximum one-time concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide/nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulphide, suspended solids and soot did not exceed 1 MPC. Area of high pollution of the atmosphere with carbon oxide, dust, formaldehyde and soot was observed, mainly, near the highways.

Total volume of polluting substances emission into the atmospheric air from the stationary sources of pollution (PS) and vehicles on the territory of the Astrakhan region in 2010 was 221,8 thousand tons, including from stationary sources of pollution 124,9 thousand tons (56.3% of the total emission).

As compared with 2009, the total volume of polluting substances emission into the atmospheric air from the stationary sources of pollution increased by 21.6 thousand tons. There was registered an increase in emissions of sulphur dioxide (by 9 thousand tons), carbon monoxide (by 13.3 thousand tons), nitrogen oxides (by 0.5 tons) and easy oxidizable organic compounds (by 0.7 thousand tons). The volume of emissions of hydrocarbons decreased by 2.2 tons. In addition, in recent years, a rise in average concentrations of dust in the atmospheric air was observed.

The level of the industrial/economic activity impact of the Astrakhan Gas Processing Plant (AGK) on the atmospheric air in 2010 corresponded to the limits. Total polluting substances emission into the atmospheric air from the stationary sources of pollution of AGK amounted to 103.8 thousand tons, i.e. on 30 thousand tons less the allowed normative. As compared to 2009, the volume of emissions of pollutants increased due to an increase in output of the AGK.

Republic of Kalmykia. Total volume of polluting substances emission into the atmospheric air from the stationary sources of pollution in 2010 amounted to 30.25 thousand tons, including 3,5 thousand tons (11,6%) from stationary sources. More than 50% of emissions from the stationary sources of emissions were hydrocarbons (without easily oxidizable organic compounds). Emissions from stationary sources at the enterprises of the "Gaspromtransgas Stavropol" increased.

The main share of the pollutants emissions, as in previous years, was from motor vehicles. On the territory of the Republic, as of 01.01.2011, there were registered more than 71,4 thousand trucks and cars, emissions from which amounted to 26.75 thousand tons (88,4% of the total emissions in the Republic).

In the city of Makhachkala, in 2010, there was registered the case when the maximum concentrations of suspended solids in the atmospheric air exceeded the maximum permissible concentrations by 12 times.

Table 36 Dynamics of the pollutants emission into the atmospheric air from stationary sources of pollution located in near the Caspian sea area of Russia, in 2006-2010, thousand tons

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
The Caspian sea area, total including	149,81	150,80	148,73	125,00	146,6
Republic of Dagestan	24,40	16,50	19,3	19,50	18,2
Republic of Kalmykia	8,10	5,50	4,3	2,20	3,5
Astrakhan region	117,31	128,80	125,13	103,30	124,9

This is illustrated by Fig. 11.

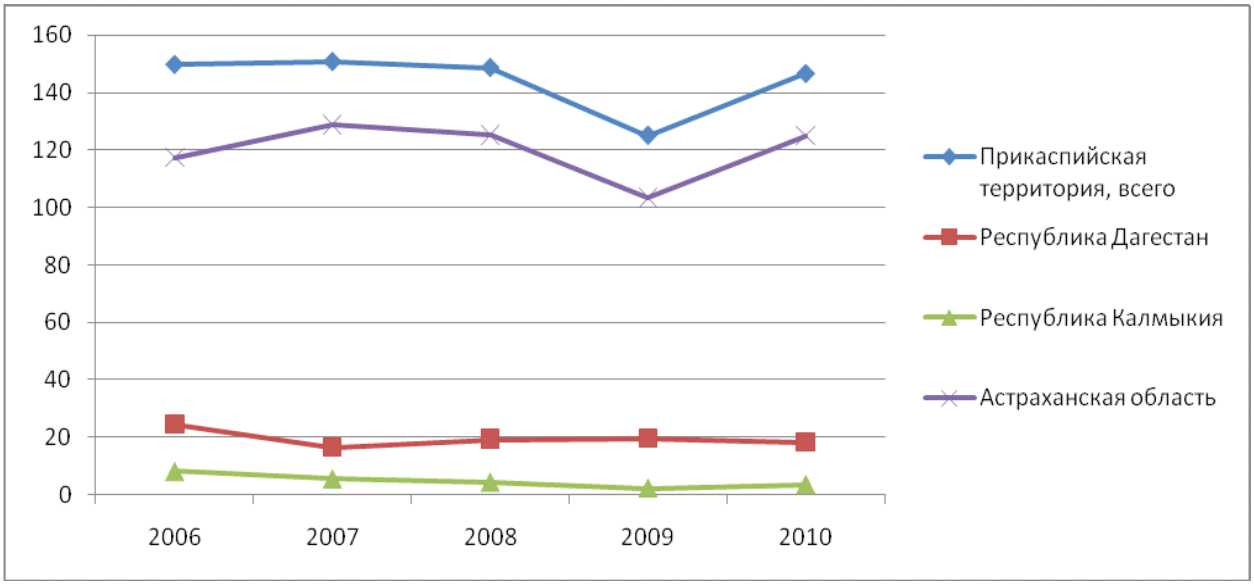

Fig. 11.

2.2 Pollution from seabed activities (Article 8 of the Tehran Convention).

21a. The Russian legislation and administrative measures for its implementation, which require the prior written permission of the activities carried out on the bottom of the Caspian Sea.

In comparison with the previous reporting periods, the national legislation of the Russian Federation and administrative measures were not significantly changed and correspond to the information, provided earlier in the Second and Third National reports.

Pollution from Vessels (Article 9 of the Tehran Convention).

22a. National instruments to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea from vessels, adopted taking into account international

During the reporting period, the legislation of the Russian Federation aimed at the prevention, reduction and control of pollution of the marine environment of the Caspian sea from vessels, was not significantly changed. This Chapter corresponds to the information presented in the Second and Third National reports.

Pollution caused by dumping (Article 10 of the Tehran Convention).

23a. The Russian legislation regulating the ban on discharge of wastes and other matter from vessels in the Caspian Sea.

In comparison with the previous reporting periods, the national legislation of the Russian Federation, regulating the ban on the discharge of wastes or other matter from vessels in the Caspian sea, was not significantly changed, and corresponds to the material presented earlier.

24a. Activities related to exploration, extraction, processing and transportation of hydrocarbons in the Caspian coastal and marine areas.

In 2010, as in the previous years, the problem areas of the Terek river was the low quality of water downstream of the Vladikavkaz and Beslan cities. The main pollutants were oil products, biogenic and organic substances, metals. The average concentration of the easily oxidizable organic substances according to BOD_5 at different line gauges of the river was 18-48 MPCs, the pollution by ammonium nitrogen was at the level of 5 MPCs, by oil products - 2.2 MPCs. There were manganese, copper, zinc, iron in the water, content of which varied from 5 to 16 MPCs. The Terek river water was characterized as "dirty" and "very dirty".

It should be noted that the quality of the rivers water in the basin was affected by the natural component - elevated background concentrations of some metals.

The petroleum hydrocarbons content in waters of the northern part of the Caspian sea did not exceed 3 MPCs (with an average value of 1 MPC), phenols - 4 MPCs (with the average value of 2 MPCs), ammonia nitrogen - 1 MPC. Significant changes in the oxygen regime were not observed as compared to the previous years. The water quality improved, in comparison with 2009, and the Sea waters were evaluated as "moderately polluted". In the open part of the Caspian sea, the content of petroleum hydrocarbons did not exceed 3 MPCs (with an average value of 1 MPC), ammonium nitrogen - 1 MPC, phenols - 3 MPCs. Sea waters in the open part of the Caspian sea were estimated still as "contaminated".

In the coastal regions of the Caspian sea the water quality deterioration occurred in the area of the cities of Derbent and Samur river offing. In the area of the city the average annual content of phenols increased up to 5 MPCs, of oil products - up to 1.2 MPCs. In the Samur river offing the concentrations of those ingredients were, respectively, 5 and 1 MPC. These were the most polluted coastal areas of the Caspian sea (2010 – "dirty", 2009 – "polluted"). The average annual content of phenols in the coastal waters near the cities of Makhachkala, Kaspiysk and Izberbash amounted to 4 MPCs, in the Terek, Sulak rivers offing - 3 MPCs. The level of pollution by ammonium nitrogen in the waters in all eight coastal areas did not exceed the established norms. Therewith, the most "clean" by the water quality was the Lopatin area. However, the waters in those areas, except for the area of Derbent and the Sulak river offing were classified as "polluted" (as in 2009).

In 2010, the Roshydromet observational network registered as the most often, accidents, resulting in the environment pollution with oil products (caused by accidents on the oil and gas pipelines, oil spill during transportation).

Within the precincts of the city of Astrakhan an oil slick was registered on the Volga river on October 22, 2010, which was extending from the Casprybkholodflot pier and to the source of the

Kizan river arm. Size of the spot was about 0.15 km^2. Besides, many small spots were registered. The content of oil products in the area of pollution reached 78-95 MPCs.

Water samples, taken on September 9, 2010, in the river of Kambileevka (an inflow of the Terek river) downstream the Kambileevskoye settlement (Republic of North Ossetia - Alania), showed an extremely high pollution by the easily oxidizable organic substances according to BOD_5 (70 MPCs) and by phenols (more than 50 MPCs), as well an intensive smell of municipal waste water and the availability of turbid white cover on the surface of the water were registered.

24b. Existence of suspended wells and facilities in coastal and marine Caspian areas.

The situation regarding this issue did not change as compared to 2008-2009; the relevant information was presented in the National reports for the respective periods.

24c. Environmentally safe technologies used for off-shore exploration, extraction, processing, and transportation of hydrocarbons in the Caspian coastal and marine areas.

The basic information was presented in the Second and Third National reports.

During the reporting period, the activities, envisaged by the regional socio-economic development programs and plans aimed at the substantial improvement of the situation with the production and consumption wastes, were carried out, *inter alia,* through:

- Reclamation of oil pits and sludge collectors with the accumulated oil containing waters, drill cuttings, and soil, polluted with oil (oil products content in these pits is 30-400 g/kg);
- Liquidation of all unauthorized dumps of production and consumption wastes with further provision of the land reclamation (galvanic industry waste, mercury-containing waste, lead-acid batteries);
- Development of modern methods of solid domestic wastes sorting and disposal, construction of waste processing enterprises and environmentally friendly waste burning installations, as well as establishment of specialized sites for the collection and disposal of toxic wastes, including pesticides, toxic chemicals and other POPs.

25. National legislative base of and experience gained from measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution caused by land reclamation and associated coastal dredging and construction of dams in coastal and marine Caspian areas.

As compared with the previous reporting periods, the legislation of the Russian Federation, establishing/regulating measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution caused by land reclamation and associated coastal dredging and construction of dams, was not significant changed and corresponds to the information presented in the First National report (2006-2007).

Prevention of Introduction, Control and Combating of Invasive Alien Species (Article 12, Tehran Convention and Article 6 of the draft Protocol on Biological Diversity Conservation)

26a. Characteristic of Russian legislative basis for the regulation of alien species introduction into the Caspian Sea, including on the prevention/control of introduction of alien species with ballast waters and/or other ways.

In comparison with the previous reporting periods, the national legislation, governing the introduction of alien species into the Caspian Sea, including prevention/control of introduction of alien species with ballast waters and/or other ways, did not significantly change and added.

26b. Characteristic of Russian legislative basis for the regulation of alien species introduction into the Caspian Sea, including on the prevention/control of introduction of alien species with ballast waters and/or other ways.

The well-known and harmful example of the latest introduction of invasive alien species into the Caspian sea was ctenophora Mnemiopsis leidyi (ML). The presence of many ML, feeding on zooplankton, changed the structure of phyto- and zooplankton and even benthic communities significantly. Recent studies showed that instead of 10-17 species only one (Acartia tonsa) was found. The diversity and biomass of zooplankton could be reduced by 2-3 times. At the same time, the biomass and diversity of benthic communities abnormally increased, which can result in the changes in energy flows. Significant changes took place in the trophic chain, and the consequences of that were not yet revealed in full.

Measures on regulation of alien species introduction and control were connected with the corresponding activities under the Caspian Environmental Program and with the support of IMO and presented in detail in the First National report (2006-207).

In 2010, 50 vessels took part in voluntary checking the compliance with the rules of the Convention on Management of Ballast Waters on Ships, conducted in the Caspian sea basin, in the port of Astrakhan.

Table 37 presents data on the results of the audit of voluntary implementation of the rules of the Convention on Management of Ballast Waters on Ships in the Caspian sea basin (the sea port in Astrakhan).

Table 37 Information on the results of voluntary checking of ships in the Caspian basin, the port of Astrakhan (50 vessels), 2010

Questions	The port of Astrakhan	
	Yes	No
1. Does the vessel participate in the implementation of the Convention on Management of Ballast Waters?	1	49
2. Does the vessel have a Plan on ballast waters management (Resolution MEPC.127(53))?	2	48
3. Are there records on exchange of ballast waters in the vessel's log?	50	0
4. Is there a ballast water log?	43	7
5.* Was exchange of ballast waters carried out in the sea regions which correspond to the requirements of the Convention on Management of Ballast Waters?	1	49
6. Was the exchange of ballast waters carried out at a distance at least 200 mi from the nearest coast and in places with a depth of at least 200 m?	0	1
7. Was the exchange of ballast waters carried out at a distance at least 50 mi from the nearest coast and in places with a depth of at least 200 m?	0	1
8. Did the exchange of ballast waters correspond to the standard D-1?	1	49
9.** Is there a system on ballast water management on the vessel that ensures the fulfillment of the quality of ballast water treatment in compliance with standard D-2?	1	49
10. Does the quality of ballast water treatment standard correspond to standard D-2?	0	1
11. Is the system on ballast water management approved by the Administration with account the IMO Guidelines?	0	1

*Note. If the answer is "no", item 6 and 7 are not to be filled in.
**If the answer is "no", items 10 and 11 are not to be filled in.

According to the results of processing of the obtained data, it was found out that in the port of Astrakhan, at mainly voluntary checking, dry-cargo vessels (74 % of the total number of ships) and oil/ore carriers (16 %), tankers (6 %) and specialized vessels (4%), mainly under the flag of Russia (98 %) took part. The average age of ships was 25 years (from 3 to 48 years).

After the processing of the monitoring results it was found that 2 % of the 50 checked vessels were involved in the implementation of the Convention on Management of Ballast Waters. Therewith 4 % of vessels had on board Plan on ballast waters management (Resolution MEPC.127(53), 100% of vessels had records on the exchange of ballast water in the vessel's log, and 86 % of vessels had the ballast waters log. 2 % of checked vessels carried out the exchange of ballast waters in the sea regions which correspond to the requirements of the Convention on Management of Ballast Waters. All vessels carried out the exchange of ballast waters at a distance at least 200 mi from the coast and in areas with depth more than 200 meters (on the whole, in Russia in 2010 - 33 %).

27a-c. Availability of specialised studies on the biology of alien species, on their impact on biodiversity in general, on socio-economic consequences of the introduction of such species as well as on their ways of intrusion to the Caspian Sea. Programs for monitoring of alien species introduction into the Caspian Sea and their development therein. Forms and institutions carrying out such monitoring, dissemination and utilization of the information obtained.

Specialized studies on biology of the alien species and their impacts on biodiversity in general, on socio-economic consequences of introduction of such species, the ways of their introduction into the Caspian Sea as well as the monitoring programs on the alien species introduction into the Caspian Sea and their development in it, forms and institutions, carrying out such monitoring, dissemination and use of the obtained information, were presented in the First National report and did not change in the reporting period.

Environmental Emergencies (Article 13, Tehran Convention and Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents)

28a. Existence in the Russian Federation of the relevant executive authorities and necessary infrastructure dealing with issues concerning the protection of human beings and the Caspian Sea marine environment against consequences of natural and anthropogenic/technogenic incidents.

Detailed information about existence in the Russian Federation of the relevant executive authorities and necessary infrastructure dealing with the issues concerning the protection of human beings and the Caspian Sea marine environment against consequences of natural and anthropogenic/technogenic incidents was presented in the First National report (2006-2007).

28b. Legislative instruments regulating issues related to the protection of people and marine environment of the Caspian Sea against natural and anthropogenic/technogenic disasters.

During the reporting period, the legislative instruments regulating issues related to the protection of people and marine environment of the Caspian Sea against natural and anthropogenic/technogenic disasters did not change significantly and correspond to the information presented in the First National report (2006-2007).

29. Existence of a relevant regulatory basis for preventing incidents connected with hazardous activities at the Caspian Sea.

In the Russian Federation the legal regulation of emergency response and warning is based on the federal legislation and the legislation of the constituent entities of the Federation.

During the reporting period, the national legislation in this sphere did not change significantly and is consistent with the information provided in the previous reports - First National report (2006-2007), Second National report (2008), Third National report (2009).

30a. Legislation of the Russian Federation regulating early warning systems for industrial accidents and environmental emergencies (See 28b).

30(b-c). Existing early warning system for industrial accidents and environmental emergencies. Systems of integral assessments of emergency risks connected with oil spills and other technogenic incidents.

During the reporting period, in the Russian Federation the functioning early warning system for industrial accidents and environmental emergencies, as well as the system for the integrated assessment of risk of disasters associated with oil spills and other technogenic accidents did not change, and the information on it is consistent with the information provided in the First National report (2006-2007).

Changes, which took place since that period, were presented in the Third National report (2009).

30d. Incidents which took place in the reporting period for which response measures have been taken.

In 2010 in the port of Astrakhan aquatoria there were 2 cases of small spills (about 50 kg) of petroleum products. In compliance with the provisions of the Directive of Minprirody of Russia of 03.03.2003 № 156 "On Approval of the Guidance on the Definition of the Lower Level of the Oil Spill and Petrochemicals Spill to Classify an Accidental Spill as an Emergency Situation" the above-mentioned petrochemicals spill had a value less than the value of the lower level of an oil spill to classify the spill as the emergency cases and were eliminated with facilities and resources of the Caspian branch of the "Baltic BASU".

31 (a-c). Oil pollution emergency plans for the Caspian Sea region in the Russian Federation. Necessary infrastructure and technologies for the minimization of damage resulting from accidents at oil production facilities, at oil pipelines and when transporting oil products. Personnel related to the implementation of the relevant plans and level of its qualification.

Information on the oil pollution emergency plans for the Caspian Sea region in the Russian Federation, necessary infrastructure and technologies for the minimization of damage, resulting from accidents at oil production facilities, at oil pipelines and at transporting oil products, as well as qualification of personnel related to the implementation of the relevant plans and level of its qualification is consistent with the information provided in the First National report (2006-2007).

32. Protection, Preservation, Restoration and Rational Use of Marine Living Resources (Article 14, Tehran Convention and draft Biological Diversity Conservation Protocol).

33. Rational use of biological resources of the Caspian Sea on the basis of the best scientific data available.

34a. Scientific institutions, which on a permanent basis are occupied with study and assessment of state of the Caspian biological resources.

As compared with the National reports for 2008, 2009 the list of the main scientific institutions, which on a permanent basis are occupied with study and assessment of state of the Caspian biological resources, did not change in 2010.

34b. Methods used for assessment of possible amounts of the Caspian Sea biological resources use and for identification of quotas for catchment/bagging.

Methods used for assessment of possible amounts of the Caspian Sea biological resources use and for identification of quotas for catchment/bagging did not change as compared with the previous national reports for 2008, 2009.

34c. General status of the Caspian biological resources and trends for its modification.

On the whole, the characteristics of the general status of the Caspian sea biological resources remained unchanged as compared with the previous reports for 2008 and 2009.

Table 39 Commercial stock of anchovy sprat in the Caspian sea

Years	Commercial stock, thousand tons т	Forecast, thousand tons	Actual catch, thousand tons
2009	170,9	15,1	2,8
2010	114,9	8,2	1,3

The basis of modern catches is pelagic fish. Stocks of the most valuable fish species (sturgeon, salmon) sharply decreased, and are maintained mainly by their artificial breeding.

Along with illegal catch, the number of sturgeons was impacted by the construction of hydraulic structures on the basin rivers, as a result of which the passing of sturgeons to highly productive spawning grounds was blocked, and the very spawning areas were flooded. On the Volga river beluga and white salmon lost their spawning sites completely, sturgeon - by 80 %, stellate sturgeon – by 60 %.

34d. Impact of oil deposits development and marine transportation, including floating, pipelining and their operation, and other economic activities on the state of the Caspian marine bioresources.

Analysis of the impact of the oil deposits development and maritime transport, including shipping, installation and operation of pipelines and other economic activities, on the status of marine biological resources of the Caspian Sea was presented in the First National report, the information was updated in the National report for 2008, and in the reporting period no significant changes took place.

35a. Availability of legal instruments and mechanisms, for instance, such as specialized ecological/environmental fishery requirements related to hydrocarbons development and extraction.

Characteristics of the legal instruments and mechanisms, for instance, such as the specialized ecological/environmental fishery requirements related to hydrocarbons development and extraction and basic principles were presented in the previous reports for 2008 and 2009.

35b. Assessment in general of the state of major commercial species, as well as key species – indicators of ecosystem health, for instance, the Caspian seal population.

Characteristic of the status of major commercial species, as well as key species-indicators of the ecosystem health, for instance, the Caspian seal population, was presented in the previous reports for 2008, 2009. Additional information about the Caspian seal is given below.

Table 42 Fish catchments in the Volga-Caspian area, thousand tons

Years	Fish species								Total
	White salmon	Sturgeons	Caspian Anadromous Shad	Sprat	Large chastik	Caspian roach	Small chastik	Others	
2005	0,001	0,188	0,11	15,72	22,88	1,40	8,26	-	48,46
2010	0,0002	0,014	0,032	0,318	22,87	2,47	20,56	0,016	46,28

In the Volga-Caspian fishery sub-region, in 2010, the commercial stocks of semi-anadromous and river fish were formed mainly by generations of 2006-2009.

The Caspian seal

The main foods for the Caspian Seal are, in the first place, herring pelagic fish species: common and anchovy sprat. The biomass of these two types of sprat in the middle and southern Caspian sea area, in the early 2000s, was about 400 thousand t in equal proportion (50%) of each species. In 2010, the ratio of these feeding organisms seals changed significantly. Biomass of the common sprat increased (up to 40%). The share of anchovy sprat decreased to 24%. Feeding of the Caspian seal in summer in the southern parts of the Sea, as well as in spring in the northern part of the Caspian sea, is characterized by the domination of the common sprat (73%) over other species of marine sprats. During the feeding period, in the middle and southern parts of the Sea, seals must compensate up to 50% of their own weight (fat reserves), which was “lost” during the breeding and moulting periods. The main fattening feed is sprat, which covers about 90% of summer intake. Silverside, goby and mullet can be noted among other ingredients of the seal feeding base.

During the trophic chain studies in the northern part of the Caspian sea in November 2010, the information on the seal feeding in the pre-winter period of his life was obtained. The feeding composition was represented by a single species - a goby fish. The frequency of occurrence of the goby fish species in the seals intake was 53%. The number of fish in the seal intake varied from 1 to 21 specimens. Among the seals, in the gut of which there were ear stones, the goby fishes dominated (63%; from 6 to 10 specimens).

The feeding base of the seals determines the number of its population. The areal expanding of the seal habitat towards the deep sea regions confirms that the food resources are good.

Table 43 Commercial resources of the seal in the Caspian Basin, th. specimens

Years	Total stock, th. sp	TAC for the basin, th. sp.	TAC for RF, th. sp.
2008	363,0	17,0	8,61
2009	356,0	16,2	8,08
2010	359,0	16,3	8,13

35c. Measures undertaken by the Russian Federation to support and restore the commercially valuable species, in particular, sturgeons.

During the reporting period, the Russian Federation undertook the necessary measures and the corresponding activities to support and restore the commercially valuable species, in particular, sturgeons. The corresponding information was presented in the previous reports.

35d. Scientific studies related to the methodology and risks of artificial reproduction of sturgeons and other Caspian species, in particular, on their genetic 'pollution'

Main activities and measures, undertaken by Russia to maintain and restore valuable commercial species in particular sturgeon, remained unchanged as compared to the First National report (2006-2007).

Centre of molecular-genetic identification (CMGI) of the CITES Scientific Authority in Russia and the Sector of molecular genetics of hydrobionts of VNIRO in collaboration with the Laboratory of ecological physiology and genetics of CaspNIRKh elaborated a set of species-specific primers, which allowed to identify Russian (including "baerii-like" mytotype) sturgeon, Siberian sturgeon, beluga, stellate sturgeon, sterlet, barbell sturgeon, Amur sturgeon and Great Siberian sturgeon by DNA analysis with a high degree of reliability.

On the assignment of CMGI, the CITES Scientific authority analyzes samples of all living materials and products from sturgeon, which are to be exported or imported, according to the developed methodology. New methods of DNA extraction from caviar were improved and modified; the base of the primers, used in PCR-analyses, was expanded; the PCR conditions with these primers were approved. A test report is issued on the basis of the analysis results.
Scientific and experimental complex for molecular-genetic research, which was built on the territory of the scientific/experimental center "BIOS" in Astrakhan city, carries out: the development of quality control methods for fish and agricultural raw materials and food products, the formation of genetic passports, identification of genetic diseases at early stages of evolution, the diagnosis of infectious diseases, studies of the genome of fish on the availability of productive qualities to solve breeding tasks.

35e. Characteristics of the amounts and assessment of the efficiency of fry release into the Caspian Sea by the fishery enterprises of the Russian Federation.

In the Russian area of the Caspian sea basin there are 10 sturgeon hatcheries (ARD). In addition, licenses for the artificial reproduction of sturgeon were obtained by other enterprises of different forms of ownership.

The objects of artificial reproduction of sturgeon are: beluga, Russian sturgeon, Persian sturgeon, stellate sturgeon and barbell sturgeon. During the entire period of industrial reproduction in the

Caspian sea basin, over 2.6 bln. specimens of beluga, Russian sturgeon and stellate sturgeon were released into the Sea.

However, low values of commercial return from the fish of artificial origin (0.1% of beluga, 1 % of the sturgeon) should be noted.

The evaluated reception capacity of the Sea in terns of the feed base allows increasing of the release of sturgeon fry by all Caspian states up to 150 mln. specimens. According to CaspNIRKh data, the following ratio of released fry is necessary for optimal use of the Caspian Sea feed base: sturgeon – 55%, stellate sturgeon – 30%, beluga – 15%.

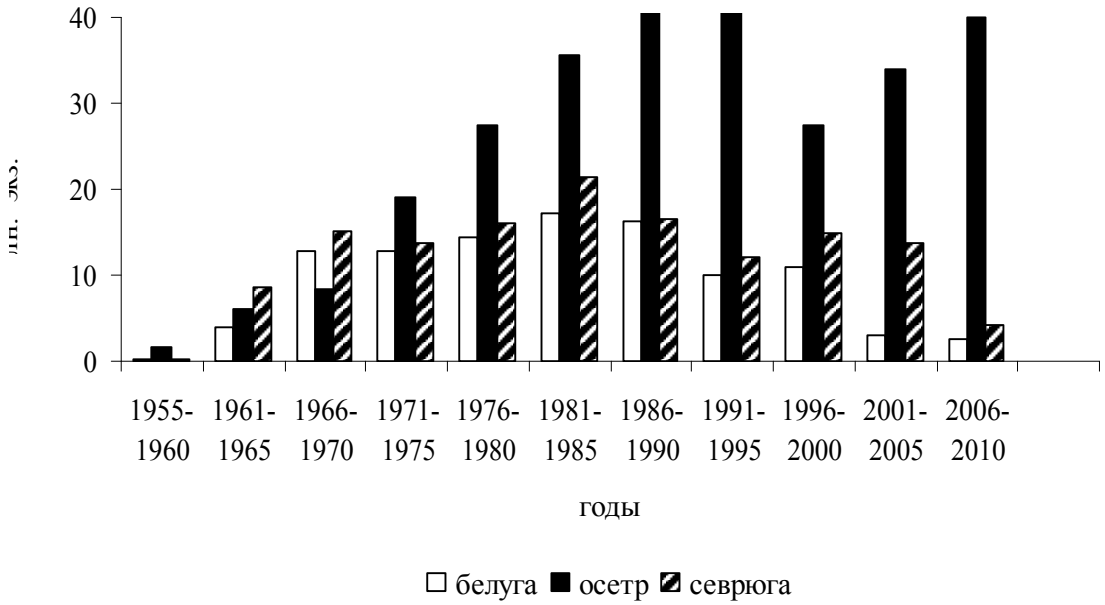

Fig. 12. Sturgeon fry release by the hatcheries of Russia.

36a. Legal and administrative measures implemented in the Russian Federation to establish the admissible catches amounts, catchments control, as well as to prevent and counteract the illegal catchment of the Caspian Sea biological resources.

The basic information about the bodies of executive power, which are responsible for the conservation and the protection of aquatic bioresources in the Caspian sea, was presented in the First and Second National reports of the Russian Federation.

In respect to the Caspian sturgeon, the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation of 26.09.2005 № 584 "On Measures to Provide for the Implementation of the Obligations by the Russian Federation under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora of March 3, 1973, with Regards to the Sturgeons"[8] should be mentioned. It determines the Administrative (Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance) and Scientific (Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography) authorities providing for the implementation of the Russian obligations under the CITES related to sturgeons species.

[8] Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation "On Measures to Provide for the Implementation of the Obligations by the Russian Federation under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora of March 3, 1973, with Regards to the Sturgeons" of 26.09.2005 № 584.

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation adopted by its Decree[9] the order for fishing aimed at fish breeding, reproduction and acclimatization of aquatic bioresources. This Order considers the rules of fishing for acclimatization of aquatic bioresources for: (a) relocation of objects for acclimatization into water bodies of fisheries significance aimed at: (1) establishment of sustainable stocks of valuable aquatic bioresources; (2) improvement of feeding base of the water body of fisheries significance and (b) formation of brood-stocks of aquatic bioresources. The Order also envisages the reporting system during the works, which includes provision of reports on the undertaken activities.

In the Russian Federation the moratorium for the commercial catch of sturgeons was introduced gradually. Firstly, the Order of the State Committee of Fishing of the Russian Federation "On Measures for Regulating of Catch of Aquatic Biological Resources for 2000"[10] (by objects and areas of catch) banned the specialized fishing of beluga in the Caspian basin. Catchment of beluga was permitted for only artificial reproduction and scientific research purposes. Then since 2005 the commercial catch of sturgeon and stellate sturgeon was seized in the Volga-Caspian fishery basin pursuant to the Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation[11].

Activities related to protection of the Caspian sea bioresources include the development of special measures aimed at conservation of sturgeon, including reduction of poaching, artificial breeding, melioration of spawning grounds, the restoration of the formerly valuable fish species - Caspian salmon, anadromous black-backed shad; promotion of artificial reproduction of endangered species. Also, these measures include the development of "Special Ecological and Fishery Requirements for Geological Survey and Extraction of Hydrocarbons in the Protected Zone of the Northern Part of the Caspian Sea"*.

The President of the Russian Federation signed the Law related to the liquidation of confiscated fish, including sturgeon species[12], taken in violation of the laws of the Russian Federation. The implementation of this law allows eliminating the economic basis for poaching and thereby to conserve and increase stocks of the sturgeon species in the Caspian Sea. The Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation "On Measures to Implement Article 54 of the Federal Law "On Fishing and Conservation of Aquatic Biological Resources"[13] introduced a number of amendments. According to the changes, made in the Federal law "On Fishing and Conservation of Aquatic Biological Resources", the aquatic resources, *gratis* seized or confiscated and related to sturgeon, salmon fish species, crabs, including Echinocerus derjugini, scallops, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, are to be returned to their habitat. If their physical health does not allow returning them to their habitat, they should be immediately exterminated. The products from such aquatic bioresources, including caviar, should also be exterminated. Other aquatic resources and their by-products, *gratis* seized or confiscated, should be sold or exterminated.

To prevent further disaster invasion of undesirable alien species into the Caspian sea, it appears to be necessity to create the special sanitary/veterinary inspection at fishery departments of all littoral States, vested with rights to carry out a thorough check of vessels of various agencies, shuttling from other basins to the Caspian sea.

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[9] Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation "On Endorsement of the Order for Implementation of Fishing Aimed at Fish Breeding, Reproduction and Acclimatization of Aquatic Bioresources" of 25.04.2006 № 125.

[10] Order of the Federal Agency of Fishing "On Measures for Regulation of Fishing of the Aquatic Biological Resources for 2000" of 28.02.2000 № 55.

[11] Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation "On Ceasing of Industrial Catch of Sturgeon and Stellate Sturgeon in the Volga-Caspian Fishery Basin". of 18.12.2004 № 1668-r.

* More detailed information is presented in section 35a.

[12] Federal Law "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation" of 20.04.2007 № 57-FZ.

[13] Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation "On the Measures to Implement Article 54 of the Federal Law "On Fishing and Conservation of Aquatic Biological Resources" of 31.05.2007 № 367.

The basic directions of investment activities aimed at maintaining a number of aquatic bioresources is the organization of effective fish protection, development of action plans to combat poaching jointly with the Russian Ministry of Interior, the Border service of FSS of Russia. The State Marine Inspectorate of the FSB Border Service of Russia and the Rosselkhoznadzor territorial bodies are engaged in protecting of aquatic bioresources in the Volga-Caspian sea basin. In spring seasons in 2009-2010, the operation titled "Putina" (Fishing Season) was annually conducted in order to identify violations. After the operation was completed, the number of sires, moving towards the spawning sites, increased.

36b. Assessment of the state of natural spawning sites of the Caspian sturgeons. Measures undertaken for their melioration and their effectiveness.

The detailed assessment of the status of the Caspian sturgeon natural spawning sites, a description of the measures undertaken for their melioration and the efficiency of those measures were presented in the First National report, and in the reporting period did not change significantly.

37. Use of selective fishing gear and practices that minimize waste in the catch of target species and that minimize by-catch of non-target species; legislative framework, relevant methods and results of their application.

In general, as compared with the previous reporting periods, the common trend in the promotion and development of selective fishing methods and practices, that minimize losses at catching the commercial and non-commercial species, remained the same.

38a. Caspian species, which are considered in Russia as endemics, rare and endangered, as well as methods for their protection, conservation, and restoration.

A detailed description of the Caspian species considered in the Russian Federation as endemic, rare and endangered, and the information on methods for their protection, conservation and restoration was presented in the First National report.

38b. Focus areas of practical activity carried out by the Russian Federation to protect and restore rare and endangered biological species of the Caspian sea.

In comparison with the previous reporting period, the main directions of practical activities, undertaken by the Russian Federation for the conservation and restoration of rare and endangered species of the Caspian Sea, remained unchanged.

As of today the production capacities of 10 sturgeon hatcheries of the Volga-Caspian basin are 63.814 mln. fries a year.

In 2010, the Federal budget allocated 19.2 million rubles for the reconstruction and modernization of the sturgeon hatcheries, namely, Alexandrovsky sturgeon hatchery.

In 2009-2010 the Government of the Astrakhan region allocated 157 million rubles for fishery melioration of spawning sites and fishways, which allowed to conduct dredging with length of 79,3 km.

Regulation of the aquatoria use with the existing sturgeon spawning sites of the Volga river is of great importance for fisheries in the Volga-Caspian sea region, as this determines the optimal

conditions for the reproduction of valuable commercial fish species. The number of the most valuable commercial fish species (sturgeons and salmon fishes) is maintained, mainly, by hatchery reproduction activities.

38d. Monitoring of endangered species.

The Program of Production Environmental Monitoring in the northern part of the Caspian Sea envisages, as an independent direction, the ecological and fishery monitoring. Its implementation is regulated by the Federal Law "On the Animal World".

More detailed information about the Program and Block diagram of the ecological and fisheries monitoring were presented in the First National report (2006-2007) and supplemented in the Third National report (2009).

39a. Measures taken by the Russian Federation to ensure conservation of rare species and vulnerable ecosystems of the Caspian, including information on specially protected land/water areas.

The key measures on biological diversity conservation, undertaken in the Russian Federation to ensure the maintenance of rare species and the Caspian Sea fragile ecosystems, including information on protected areas/aquatoria, were described in the First National report and didn't change significantly during the period under consideration.

39b. Characteristics of the specially protected areas status, existing in the Russian territory of t the Caspian Sea, with indication of their status dynamics during the reporting period.

The status of the network of the coastal areas SPAs in the near Caspian constituent entities of the Russian Federation, which is characterized as formed in its basis and covering the bigger part of the landscapes diversity and the protected species sites, did not change its status in the reporting period as compared with the national reports for the previous periods.

39c. Banks of genetic data for key endangered Caspian species.

The information about the genetic data banks for the key endangered Caspian species, including about the Russian National Collection of genetic etalon materials of sturgeon (VNIRO), the regional etalon collection of genetic materials of the Caspian sturgeon species (CaspNIRKh) and the collection of live sturgeon ("BIOS" under CaspNIRKh), was presented in the First National report.

39d. Implementation in the Russian Federation of national strategies and action plans/programmes on conservation of the Caspian Sea biological diversity. Evaluation of the efficiency of their implementation.

The solution of problems of reproduction and conservation of biological resources of the Caspian Sea is envisaged by the Federal Target program "South of Russia".

Thus, CaspNIRKh put into operation the reversed water supply installation for breeding sturgeon fry and yearlings at the scientific experimental base "BIOS" in the Ikrianoye village.

Dredging along fishways contributes to increasing the intensity of fish spawning run, improving irrigation of nearby spawning sites.

By its Decree the Government of the Russian Federation approved the Concept of the Federal Target program "Increasing the Efficiency of Usage and Development of the Resource Potential of Fishery Complex in 2009-2013"[14]. The State capital investments were to be spent on the construction and reconstruction of facilities for the reproduction of the aquatic biological resources, for research/production centers for elaboration of aqua- and mariculture technologies (in terms of conservation and reproduction of the aquatic biological resources), berths for fish terminals at sea ports in the Russian Federation, construction of scientific research vessels, ships to be used for the reproduction of the aquatic biological resources, for the ensuring of the state control in the sphere of water resources protection. The construction of fishing vessels, patrol boats, motor boats and small vessels for the protection of aquatic bioresources was launched.

39e. Information on adoption and application in the Russian Federation of ecosystem approach to the Caspian Sea and its inclusion into the relevant national plans/programmes and strategies is in the relevant sections of the First National report (2006-2007) and did not change for this reporting period.

40. Coastal zone management (Article 15, Tehran Convention, draft Biological Diversity Conservation Protocol and draft Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (Article 10).

41a. Development and implementation of national strategies and plans for planning and management of the land affected by proximity to the sea, in order to provide a mechanism for biodiversity conservation, protected area management and sustainable and rational use of biological resources.

Activities related to the integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) was carried out, mainly, in the framework of the federal and regional programs, referred to in section 6b (themes and description of the regional programs were presented in the First National report for 2006-2007).

41b. Natural and anthropogenic factors causing the most negative impact on the coastal areas of the Caspian region of the Russian Federation.

A description of the main natural and anthropogenic factors that have the greatest negative impact on the coastal areas of the Caspian Sea region of the Russian Federation, such as sea level fluctuatios, land degradation, desertification, etc., was presented in the national reports for the pervious periods.

41c. Coastal areas as independent object of management in the system of the state management.

Low efficiency of measures on optimization of nature management in the coastal areas of the Russian seas, including the Caspian Sea, is connected with the fact that the coastal areas are not considered in the system of the state nature use management as an independent object for such management.

41d. Measures taken in the Russian Federation aimed at the environmentally sustainable development of coastal areas, including combating desertification/land degradation, deforestation.

[14] Decree the Government of the Russian Federation approved the Concept of the Federal Target program "Increasing the Efficiency of Usage and Development of the Resource Potential of Fishery Complex in 2009-2013" of 07.05.2008. № 681-r.

The basic information was presented in the previous national reports.

Phyto-amelioration works were carried out in the Republic of Dagestan in 2006 at the costs of Federal Targeted Program "Conservation and Restoration of Soil Fertility of Agricultural Lands and Landscapes as the National Heritage of Russia for 2001-2010" on the area of 2.1 th. ha, as well as 3 projects were developed to carry out phyto-amelioration activities. Also 20 th. ha of destroyed lands were reclaimed.

Phyto-amelioration activities on planting of sand holding bushes on the area of 4.6 th. ha were carried out under the same FTP in the Republic of Kalmykia.

Socio-economic development program of the Republic for 2005-2012 identified protection measures related to the minimization of desertification processes.

One of the key factors to provide for the reproduction of soil fertility is irrigation amelioration, technical and anti-erosion works in combination with agrochemical, agro-forest-amelioration and other activities.

During 2007-2010, it was planned to reconstruct meliorative systems on the area of more than 40 thousand ha, including drip irrigation on the area of 2.5 thousand hectares.

In general to prevent and mitigate the effects of the adverse impact on the coastal areas and their environmentally sustainable development the following activities are necessary:
- To transfer to the safer places, conservation and neutralization of damps, waste storages, cattle burial grounds, cemeteries in settlements in flooding areas;
- To develop measures on optimization and minimization of use of mineral fertilizers and pesticides to avoid pollution of surface and ground waters on agricultural lands in the zones of flooding and impoundment, especially rice systems. It is necessary to establish drainage systems there;
- To reclam parts of settlements and agricultural lands containing toxic substances in the zones of flooding and impoundment;
- To develop a special project for protected areas, especially for the Astrakhan biosphere reserve located in the area of flooding, which would envisage minimization of environmental damage in case of impoundment of the reserved delta ecosystems;
- To carry out activities of medic-ecological character which would provide for compliance with the sanitary norms related to the atmospheric air, drinking water resources fand household needs, hygiene, microclimate of housing, as well as it should include medical-ecological prophylactic measures;
- To ensure meeting the environmental requirements for special regime of economic activity in the coastal area of the Sea and at its water area as one of the major environmental activities.

41e. Principles of integrated management that ensure realization of multipurpose utilization of marine and coastal natural resources, including management of wetlands connected with the Caspian Sea, relate to regulation of the water compensation in the Volga Delta in dry years (water divider, located in the upper part of the delta) and to the possibility of taking into account the environmental and fishery interests of coastal areas at water resources managing on the water storage reservoirs, which are located on the rivers of the Caspian basin. In addressing these issues, the relevant environmental ministries and services, as well as municipal and district municipalities of the Caspian constituent entities of the Russian Federation take part.

More detailed information was presented in the previous national reports and during the reporting period did not have any changes.

2.10. The Caspian Sea level fluctuation.

(Article 16 of the Tehran Convention)

43a. Scientific studies undertaken in Russia to form the forecast of the Caspian Sea level regime in a mid-term and long-term perspective.

The description of the researches, conducted in the Russian Federation to elaborate the Caspian Sea level regime forecast for the medium and long-term perspective, was presented both in the First National report for the period 2006-2007, and in the Second National report (2008).

In 2010, there were completed the researches on the changes in the annual river flow regimes in the basin of the Volga river under the conditions of global climate change. Their results were submitted to the Council on the scientific and technical issues of the Federal Water Resources Agency.

State Oceanographic Institute of Roshydromet (GOIN) carried out calculations of the dynamics and structure of the Caspian sea waters in automatic mode on the basis of numerical models with spatial interval of about 5 km, and a forecast of the wind waves on the Caspian sea was developed.

Changes in the regional climate indicators relating to the level of the Caspian sea were studied. There was a decrease in the annual amount of precipitation over the sea. Data of HMS in Makhachkala city for the period of 1900-2000, gave a meaningful indicators (P=0,99): correlation coefficients r=-0,5 and r=0,5 were obtained accordingly for the indicators “precipitations-years” and “the level of the Caspian sea-precipitations” correspondingly. Three periods of changes in the Sea level and subsequent changes in the qualitative and quantitative composition of aquatic communities were traced. A comprehensive ecological monitoring of the marine ecosystems in the areas of current and expected production and transportation of hydrocarbons was conducted. GIS of the Caspian sea was created, diagnostics of the content and distribution of petroleum hydrocarbons in various types of waters in the northern part of the Caspian sea was conducted on the basis of the industrial environmental monitoring data.

Methodology on the use of satellite monitoring in the system of complex ecological monitoring of sea regions, involved in the development of oil and gas complex, was elaborated. Changes in the parameters of the environment and climate (Caspian sea) were studied (Institute of Oceanology, RAS).

43c. Peculiarity of the Caspian sea level regime included in the environmental legislation of the Russian Federation.

The information about peculiarities of the Caspian Sea level regime in the environmental legislation of the Russian Federation was presented in the national reports for the previous periods and it was not amended during the reporting year.

43d. Consideration of the possible consequences scenarios of the Caspian level fluctuations in the coastal area management of the Russian Federation.

Possible scenarios of the effects of the Caspian Sea level fluctuations, which are taken into account at the coastal zones managing in the Russian Federation, were developed in accordance with findings of Moscow State University (R.K.Kligge, P.I.Kaplin, I.S.Kasimov: “Scenario Assessment of Natural and Environmental Changes of the Caspian Sea”), and presented in the First National report and during the reporting period did not have any changes.

2.11. Impact Assessment related to the Marine environment of the Caspian sea.

44. (Article 17, Tehran Convention, Protocol on Environment Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, as well as draft Biological Diversity Conservation Protocol and draft Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (Article 12)).

45a. Availability of legislation to carry out the environmental impact assessment of proposed activity in the Russian Federation, including EIA in a transboundary context.

Description of the Russian legislation, establishing and regulating the implementation of environmental impact assessment of the planned activity in the Russian Federation was presented in the First (2006-2007) and the Second (2008) national reports. In the National report for 2009 the information was added ; in 2010 there were no subsequent changes.

45b. Projects that are likely to cause significant adverse effect on the marine environment of the Caspian Sea passed the EIA procedure.

State environmental expertise (SEE) is a measure of the preliminary environmental control at planning the implementation of economic and other activities.

During the reporting period, the State environmental expertise was carried out for 37 objects in the Astrakhan region, including: drafts of normative/technical and instructive/methodological documents in the field of the environment protection, materials on comprehensive ecological survey of areas, which substantiate formalizing their legal status of specially protected natural areas of regional importance, the design documentation of the objects, the construction of which is supposed to be carried out on the territories of the specially protected natural areas of regional significance.

Drafts of regional target programs, which envisage the construction and operation of the objects of economic activity, as well as substantiations for licenses to perform certain types of activities for which licensing is be carried out in accordance with the Federal law “On Licensing Certain Types of Activities”, were not submitted for the State environmental expertise during the reporting period.

Three objects were rejected due to nonpayment for the State environmental expertise procedure.

21 experts were involved in the Expert commissions activity, including: professors and assistant professors of Moscow State University, Institute of Soil Science (the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences), Astrakhan State University (ASU) and Astrakhan State Technical University (ASTU), scientific employees of the Astrakhan nature reserve, CaspNIRKh, engineers from design institutes and organizations, members of NGOs and the state institutions, including 11 PhDs.

The main customers of the State environmental expertise at the regional level were private enterprises and individual businessmen (19 objects), 10 projects were submitted for the State environmental expertise by the state organizations, 7 – by public organizations.

The objects of the State environmental expertise were planned to be realized in all administrative districts of the Astrakhan region. Most of the environmental expertise objects were planned for implementation in the Volodarsky and Kamyzyansky (16) districts of the Astrakhan region.

The largest objects of the expertise were: “Project on the Establishment of the Nature Park “Volga-Akhtubinsk Interfluve” (materials of a comprehensive ecological survey, substantiating the formalization of the legal status of the regional SPA), and “The Draft of Normative-technical Document “Technical Regulation “Integrated Technology to Eliminate Pollution with Oil Products and Heavy Metal Salts of the Land in the Southern Regions of the Russian Federation (Arid Regions) by the Example of “Gazprom dobycha Astrakhan” Company”.

Reduction of funds for organization and performance of the State environmental expertise was connected with amendments introduced into the Federal law “On Environmental Expertise”, which excluded a number of objects from the list of objects of the State environmental expertise at the regional level.

In order to inform the Astrakhan region population on the implementation and results of the state environmental expertise of objects of the regional level, the relevant information was regularly placed in the Internet on the website of the Service of Nature Management and the Environment Protection of the Astrakhan region. During the reporting period 73 announcements were placed on the web-site.

In compliance with the Federal law “On Environmental Expertise”, in order to realize the powers of the constituent entity in the field of environmental expertise, the Service specialists participated in activities of the expert commissions under the State ecological expertise of the federal level in the Astrakhan region. The staff of the Division of the State Environmental Expertise participated in 22 sessions of expert commissions of the state environmental expertise of the federal level, organized by the Rostehnadzor branch in the Astrakhan region.

The powers of the Service include the performance of the State expertise examination on forest development. During the reporting period there were submitted 152 projects on the forest development. 108 projects were subjected to the State expertise. 5 projects were returned without consideration.

In 2010, the State environmental expertise (SEE) in the Republic of Kalmykia was performed only for 5 objects of the regional significance. By the results of 5 environmental expertises the projects received positive conclusions.

45c. Results of the EIA in a transboundary context procedures for the planned activity in the near Caspian region of the Russian Federation performed during the reporting period.

The results of the performed expertises showed that the said objects did not impact negatively on the Caspian Sea ecosystem within the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, and the consideration in a transboundary context was not required.

46. Description of the progress of the procedures, envisaged by the Protocol.

The Protocol on EIA in a Transboundary Context to the Tehran Convention was not signed.

2.12 M**onitoring**

47. Monitoring (Article 19, Tehran Convention, draft Biological Diversity Conservation Protocol (Article 9, item 2.b) and draft Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (Article 13, items 1.c and 2).

48a. Legislative and institutional base of the Russian Federation to establish individual/joint programs for monitoring of the marine environment state, its brief characteristic, including list and parameters of pollutants.

During the reporting period there were no significant changes in the federal legislation in the sphere of the environmental monitoring and it corresponds to the information presented earlier.

48b. National program for monitoring of the marine environment (brief characteristic, including areas of monitoring, periodicity of sampling and list of pollutants controlled).

Information about the stations, on which the corresponding Roshydromet divisions carried out the state monitoring of the marine environment of the Caspian sea, the parameters of the marine environment monitoring and the frequency of water and bottom sediments sampling were presented in the First National report (2006-2007).

The information about of the Program of monitoring is contained in the Third National report (2009).

In 2010, the most common pollutants in the Volga river basin were easily oxidizable organic substances, iron and copper compounds, phenols, oil products, ammonium and nitrite nitrogen, compounds of zinc. In the majority of the line gauges in the Volga river basin the waters were classified as “polluted” and “dirty”.

Thus, in the Volgograd region, the river water in all the control line gauges was characterized as “very polluted” (phenols - up to 4 MPCs, copper compounds - up to 15 MPCs, zinc - up to 3 MPCs, easily oxidizable and oxidation-prone organic substances respectively by BOD_5 and COD - from 2 to 4 MPCs).

In the water of the Akhtuba river arm (it flows from the Volga river near the city of Volgograd) there was registered an exceedance by the content as follows: copper by 2,5 times, phenols by 2 times, BOD_5 - by 1.8 times, zinc - by 1.3 times and iron - by 1.1 times.

In the line gauge, located 5,5 km downstream of the city of Astrakhan, the water in the river was classified as “dirty” (maximum pollutant concentrations reached: iron compounds -3 MPCs, copper - 18 MPCs, phenols - 5 MPCs, easily oxidizable and oxidation-prone substances respectively 4 and 3 MPCs). In the previous two years, the average annual concentration of phenols stabilized at the level of 2 MPCs, oil products - 1 MPC, copper compounds - 5 MPCs. The water pollution by mercury compounds in 2010 decreased by 0.5 MPC as compared with the previous year, and the number of cases of high pollution decreased from 38% to 11%.

In the precincts of the Astrakhan city, on October 22, 2010, there was registered an oil slick on the Volga river, spreading from the pier of Kasprybkholodflot Enterprise to the source of the Kizan river arm. The size of the slick was about 0.15 km^2. There were many small slicks. Content of oil products in the area of pollution was 78-95 MPCs. The contamination was located and

processed by the sorbent. On October 25, the content of oil products in the area of pollution decreased to 1.2 MPC.

Annual average values of the COD and BOD_5 indicators for the Volga river water in the main course changed relatively little as compared with the previous year. The content of nutrients (phosphorus, silicon, nitrogen) was at the background level, as in the previous years. According to the Astrakhan Hydrometeorological Service data, the pesticide concentration in the surface waters in the region was close to zero. There are no manufacturers and packers of pesticides and agrochemicals in the area. The facts of availability of prohibited and (or) unusable pesticides and agrochemicals (including unowned) were not identified on the territory of the Astrakhan region in 2010.

In 2010, as in the previous years, the problem sites of the Terek river were the low quality of water downstream of the cities of Vladikavkaz and Beslan. Most pollutants came with sewage from the cities and other settlements, with drainage waters from Tyrnyauz mining/processing enterprise, with waste water from the enterprises on the alcohol production, and the surface runoff from the contaminated areas. The main pollutants were oil products, biogenic and organic substances, metals. The average concentration of easily oxidizable organic substances by BOD_5 was 18-48 MPCs at different line gauges along the river, the pollution by ammonium nitrogen was at the level of 5 MPCs, oil products - 2.2 MPCs. In the water there were registered manganese, copper, zinc, iron, content of which varied from 5 to 16 MPCs. The Terek river water was classified as "dirty" and "very dirty". For example, the water samples, taken on September 9, 2010, in the Kambileevka river (an inflow of the Terek river) contained the extremely high pollution by easily oxidizable organic substances by BOD_5 (70 MPCs) and phenols (more than 50 MPCs).

48c. Participation of the Russian Federation in the regional co-operation to develop the regional monitoring programme.

The detailed information was provided in previous National reports.

48d. Intercalibration of the Russian chemical laboratories participating in the international and national monitoring program.

The detailed information was provided in previous National reports

48e. Developed and/or implemented monitoring programmes to assess habitats, population dynamics, landscapes, as well as human activity impact in specially protected land/water areas of the Caspian Sea.

The basic monitoring programs, conducted to evaluate habitats, population dynamics, landscapes, as well as the impact of human activities on the specially protected areas in the Caspian regions of the Russian Federation, were presented in the First and Second National reports of the Russian Federation, and they did not change during the reporting period.

48f. Assessment of the Caspian marine environment state, including the components of the marine environment included into such an assessment, and its periodicity.

The basic information on assessment of the Caspian sea marine environment, including enumeration of the components of the marine environment contained in this assessment, on its periodicity was presented in the previous national reports of the Russian Federation and did not change during the reporting year.

2.13 Research and Development (Article 20, Tehran Convention).

50. The conduct of research and development activities (NIOKR) on the said issues (including development of methods for assessing the toxicity of harmful substances and the study of the process of their impact on the ecosystem of the Caspian Sea, the development and application of the best available technologies, taking out of use and/or substitution of materials likely to cause pollution, the development of environmentally sound or safe methods of the hazardous substances disposal, the development of environmentally sound and safe techniques for drainage works and water regulation; assessment of the damage caused by pollution, improving the knowledge about the hydrological regime and ecosystem dynamics of the Caspian sea, studying the radiation and radioactivity levels in the Caspian sea).

In 2010, the scientific institutions of the RAS conducted the following scientific studies, relevant to the Tehran Convention articles:

- The study of artificial water bodies in the Kuma-Manych depression was conducted in accordance with the elaborated by the state institute IKIAT and previously tested method of complex study of artificial water bodies and the "water-land" ecotone zones for arid territories. This method combines land-based surveys with geoinformation technologies. As the key and the most representative water bodies of the Kumo-Manych depression there were selected Manych-Gudilo lake (the eastern sector of the Proletarsky water storage reservoir), Chogray water storage reservoir, the Sostin water bodies (Kirkita lake, Zamokta lake);
- In 2010, there were continued researches on the analysis and evaluation of the current status of the vegetation cover in the natural ecosystems of the Kuma-Manych depression, and recommendations on their rational use were developed. On results of the complex researches there was made a conclusion that the main reason for the steppe landscapes degradation at agricultural using was their overgrazing. Anthropogenic loads could be reduced through the use of rational methods of livestock grazing and the reduction of not eco-friendly kinds of livestock (sheep and goats);
- There was conducted monitoring of restorative succession of Chenye Zemli (Black Soils) for the comparative characteristic of semi-desert ecosystems at various regimes of pasture usage. The important condition of timely recovery of the disturbed pastures is monitoring of successional directions to reveal the peculiarities of the natural ecosystems development processes, in particular, vegetation. The Chenye Zemli area, in the South of Kalmykia, may serve as a representative polygon for the study of long-term dynamics of grassland ecosystems under the conditions of the changes in the natural regimes and anthropogenic loads;
- In 2010, field researches to study the biological productivity of pastures were continued. The specified three zones within the research area - conservation, buffer, pasture zones - differed in the pasture load regime. Within each of the zones the key areas were defined, which were the most representative for the selected zones;
- In 2010, implementation of projects under the program of Minobrnauka and Rosnauka "Researches and Development Activities in Compliance with the Priority Directions of Scientific/technological Complex of Russia in 2007-2012", including in the Caspian sea region, was focused on realization of scientific researches, connected with provision of the integrated use of natural resources, as well as creation of conditions for safe nature management;
- In 2010, several centers (the "Oil" Company, GOIN) of the Unified system of information about the situation in the World ocean elaborated a scheme of express-analysis of oil spills in the Caspian sea and carried out modeling of oil spills by the given initial data (the oil type, volume and others) as an applied task, connected with the introduction into pilot operation of the calculation/model complex.

2.14 Exchange of and Access to Information (Article 21, Tehran Convention, draft Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (Art. 14 and 15), draft Biological Diversity Conservation Protocol (Art. 17 and 18), Protocol on Environment Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, and Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents (Art. 6)).

54a. Legislation related to public participation, including access of public to information on the environment.

The main federal laws and the provisions of certain legislative norms, which envisage and realize the principle of free access to information about the environment, were comprehensively disclosed in the First National report (2006-2007). The notions "environmental information" and "information on the environment protection" were elucidated in the Second National report (2008).

Pursuant to the enacted from January 1, 2010, the Federal law "On Access to Information about the Activities of the State Bodies and Institutions of Local Government"[15] and the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation "On Providing Access to Information on the Activities of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Federal Bodies of Executive Power"[16], Minprirody of Russia improved its official website to ensure more convenient access of citizens and organizations to information resources and services.

54b. Policy (principles) of the public access to the environmental information.

The state policy of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Minprirody of Russia) in the field of the information support to the environmental activities in 2009 was based on implementation of the basic provisions of the Strategy on the Information Society Development in Russia and creation of a system of public services in electronic form. The system of the real-time collection and provision of information (SOOI), which was created for the the Minprirody of Russia officials to support them in the management decision-making, increased the efficiency of activity on the main sector areas: the study, reproduction and use of natural resources, and protection of the environment.

In 2010, SOOI was put into pilot operation. The system provides the information support on the entire range of tasks considered by the Ministry. SOOI compiles the on-line, statistical and analytical data on: the degree of pollution of water, air and soil, including radiation; emergency events, which occurred on the territory of the Russian Federation and reported from various sources (Roshydromet, Rosvodresursy, Rosprirodnadzor, Rosnedra, information services and agencies); the specially protected natural areas; species of living organisms listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation, measures for their conservation, their habitats within the protected territories; availability and placement of potentially dangerous objects in the sphere of activity of Minprirody of Russia.

In 2010, in the framework of the administrative reform and transition to the state services (functions) provision in electronic format, the special attention was given to the development of administrative regulations for the provision of the state services (functions). The administrative regulations of the provided state services (functions) were placed in the regional information resources.

[15] Federal law "On Access to Information about the Activities of the State Bodies and Institutions of Local Government" of 09.07.2009 № 8-FZ3.
[16] Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation "On Providing Access to Information on the Activities of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Federal Bodies of Executive Power" of 24.10.2009. № 953.

54c. Institutional structures or mechanisms to ensure public access to information

Nowadays, the solution of environmental problems of the Caspian Sea involves various influential international, national, regional and public organizations and associations. The list of major of them was presented in the Third National report (2009).

A meeting of the concerned parties and the public representatives under the title "Day of the Caspian Sea - 2010: Regional Capacity-building of the Tehran Convention in Collaboration with Rio Conventions" was held on August 12, 2010, in Astrakhan city. During discussions the role and mechanisms of public participation in the Tehran Convention implementation was considered. The meeting was held under the aegis of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Government of the Astrakhan region and the Tehran Convention with the financial support of CASPECO project. It was held to discuss national mechanisms for capacity building to implement the Tehran Convention in the context of the environmental safety of this region socio-economic development in co-operation with the Rio conventions.

During the meeting special attention was paid to the experience and problems of public participation in identifying and solving environmental problems of the Caspian sea, which are important in the context of the Tehran Convention, as well as the role and forms of the state and international support of such activities.

There were presented and discussed priorities at elaborating the national Convention action plan (NCAP) on key areas of its activities. Along with preparation of proposals for NCAP, a complete summary of activities in the field of the environment protection, which are contained in the plans of socio-economic development of the Caspian region constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as well as follow-up activities to support the operation of the Tehran Convention in the region.

The representatives of the oil and gas industry in the Caspian region made a presentation, and it was recommended to organize, in the framework of the Tehran Convention support, contests for "the most eco-friendly" oil and gas company, including the component of public awareness and public involvement in the evaluation by such "eco-friendly" criterion.

The problem of optimization of the public environmental activities financial support in the region, including through the effective use of the Russian Federation contributions into the international structures, as well as through the formation of environmental partnerships "community - business – government", was noted.

It was suggested to take into account in full the specifics of concrete areas at forming the management system for implementation of international environmental projects on the spot. The need to involve as many active people as possible into the environmental activity was emphasized.

The issues of ecological education, upbringing and training of personnel were discussed in details; the possible ways of its improvement were outlined; it was noted that such education in the Russian schools remains, unfortunately, optional, and the employment of the high school graduates-ecologists in the region is often problematic. There are drawbacks in the formal requirements to candidates for positions the state service in the field of the environment protection.

It was noted that, from the "strategic" point of view, ecological "beautification" of the environment should be considered as a long-term process, which is determined by quite a long period of time: its maximum is one (demographic) reproductive generation, i.e. not less than 20-25 years. Therewith, there should be the conformity between ecological "beautification" of the

environment on the one hand, and spiritual "beautification" of new generations, on the other. The same way as the marine environment of the Caspian sea requires a radically new attitude of the society, so the school (primary and secondary) in the Caspian republics requires a absolutely new environmental training and education. In this regard, activities of schools and pupils in the Caspian sea regions and republics and implementation of the specific actions on environmental training and education at schools are of special significance.

The accumulated experience and real contribution of the Astrakhan state biosphere reserve (zapovednik) to the formation of the ecological imperative of the younger generation life values were specially mentioned.

55a. Publishing of a regular report on the environment status.

The State report "On the State and Protection of the Environment of the Russian Federation in 2010" is the annual official document in the field of regulation of nature management and the environment protection.

The Report was developed to provide the state executive bodies, scientific, public organizations and population of Russia with the objective systematized information on the quality of the environment, the status of natural resources and trends in its changes, measures taken to reduce the adverse impact on the environment, on the ecological situation and environmental protection activities in the country and constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

The Report sections contain the analysis of the relevant information on the quality of the natural environment and of the natural resources status, the status of flora and fauna, specially protected natural areas, on the impact of the ecological factors on the cultural heritage conservation, on impact of the main economic activities on the environment, on the state regulation of the environment protection and nature management.

In this Report, as in its previous editions, the great attention is paid to analytical information on the status of natural resources of the Russian Federation, on the ecological situation in the regions, on financing of the environmental activities, on priorities in the environmental activity of enterprises, as well as on the assessments of the environmental factors impact on the status of the population health and cultural heritage.

Also, the annual reports on the environment status were developed and published by the Astrakhan region, the Republic of Dagestan and the Republic of Kalmykia.

55 b. Internet-site/web-pages, which contain information about the environment, including the decisions of problems/issues related to the marine and coastal environment.

Website/web-pages, which contain information about the environment, including addressing issues/problems related to the marine and coastal environment, are as follows:

www.mnr.gov.ru - the official Internet-site of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation;

www.rpn.gov.ru – the official Internet-site of the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service;

www.meteorf.ru – the official Internet-site of the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring;

www.voda.mnr.gov.ru – the official Internet-site of Federal Water Resources Agency;

www.rosnedra.com – the official Internet-site of the Federal Subsoil Resources Management Agency;

www.rosleshoz.gov.ru – the official Internet-site of the Federal Forestry Agency;

www.zapoved.ru – Internet-site containing information about the specially protected natural areas of the Russian Federation;

www.mptpr.astrobl.ru - the official Internet-site of the Ministry of Industry, Transport and Natural Resources of the Astrakhan region;

www.nat.astrobl.ru - the Internet-site of the Service of Nature Management and The Environment Protection of the Astrakhan region

www.mprdag.ru - the official Internet-site of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Republic of Dagestan;

www.kalmpriroda.ru - the official Internet-site of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment Protection of the Republic of Kalmykia.

PART 3. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE COP

The Russian Federation continued its activities on the preparation of the National action plan under the Convention (NCAP), taking into account the Strategic Action Program for the Convention (SCAP), adopted at the 2nd session of the Conference of the Parties.

The relevant Russian experts participated in the final meetings, devoted to the development and conformation of the texts of the following protocols to the Tehran Convention: Protocol on the Conservation of Biological Diversity; Protocol Concerning Regional preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents; Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities; Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Taking into account the need to continue efforts to prepare an intergovernmental agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of the marine biological resources of the Caspian Sea, the experts of the concerned federal executive authorities took part in the corresponding negotiations of the Caspian littoral states.

Pursuant to the decisions of the 1st and 2nd sessions of the Conference of the Parties related to the collective insurance of the sum of 360,000 U.S. dollars to the Tehran Convention budget for 2009 (72,000 U.S. dollars was a contribution of each Party), the necessary national procedures were carried out.

The national activity was continued in order to find possible solutions for the organizational structures of the Tehran Convention establishment to be considered at the COP 3.

The organization, that was to provide informational, analytical and organizational support to Minprirody of Russia at implementing the Tehran Convention in the Russian Federation, continued the relevant activity.

Also, the preparatory activity on participation in the 3rd session of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention (Aktau, August ,2011) was continued.

PART 4. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

56. General assessment of would the Convention implementation in the country promote to increase the efficiency of activity on the protection of the Caspian marine environment against pollution, including the protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable and rational use of its biological diversity.

In 2010, the activities of the Russian Federation under the Tehran Convention was related to the continuation of efforts to protect the integrity of the Caspian sea ecosystem and expansion of cooperation on the solution of the environmental problems, the completion of the protocols harmonization, further elaboration of the National Convention action plan (NCAP), as well as the preparation of the first report on the Caspian sea environment status and elaboration of the standardized reporting format.

Interaction of the Caspian region constituent entities under the Tehran Convention was enhanced, the interaction on international projects and other conventions, dealing with the Caspian issues was intensified. With the support of the CASPECO project, development of the program on the Caspian sea monitoring, as well as on the conservation and use of the biological water resources was continued.

A network for the public support of the Tehran Convention was created; it involved public organizations and ecologists.

On the whole, the implementation of the Tehran Convention in the Russian Federation in 2010 was quite effective and diverse.

57. Degree of implementation by the Russian Federation of the provisions of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols for the current reporting period. Priority directions of activity for the sequent reporting period.

During the reporting period the Russian Federation was actively involved in all aspects of the Program of work of the Tehran Convention for 2009-2010.

The priorities in the next reporting period (2011), besides completing the harmonization of the respective protocols, are the activities on the monitoring Program and on the creation of the Caspian information centre based on the Internet technologies.

58. Proposals listing the measures/activities that are necessary to take at the national level aimed at the further activation of the Convention implementation.

As the Tehran Convention is a framework regional international legal instrument in the field of the environment protection and rational nature management of the Caspian sea, the concrete obligations of the Parties to the Convention in the sphere of the Caspian sea marine environment protection are formulated in the protocols to the Tehran Convention, the development of which is going on at present. The obligations, assumed by the Russian Party to this Convention, associated with the problems of the environmental monitoring organization, biodiversity protection against the alien species invasion, development of specially protected natural areas system (SPA), require their advance account at planning the environmental activities, including its legal substantiation.

It is necessary to undertake a number of measures on further enhancing the implementation of the Tehran Convention, using its tools:

- An assessment of the Caspian sea coast contamination by hydrocarbons, including their the natural origin, and elaboration of a plan on appropriate reclamation measures;
- Creation of specialized landfills for complex processing of drilling wastes with further use of the products for the national economy needs;
- liquidation of abandoned drilling pits and sludge storage pits;
- Increasing the efficiency of waste waters of treatment, discharged into the Volga river delta from the territory of the Astrakhan region;
- Intensification of relevant treatment measures at the sewage disposal systems (northern, southern and right-Bank waste water treatment plants of the city of Astrakhan; the treatment facilities of the cities of Buynaksk, Derbent, Izberbash, Khasavyurt Makhachkala-Kaspiysk);
- Inventory of all major sources of pollution and modernization, expansion of municipal sewage treatment facilities in the cities of Derbent and Izberbash.