

OSCE CONFERENCE, Wien,
2008



**Protecting the Environment and
Enhancing Cooperation in the Black
Sea Region**

continued

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**Current Environmental
Concerns: Problems and
Needs:**

THE BLACK SEA
COMMISSION

1. Accidents and Emergency response in the Black Sea Region, Illegal discharges - regional AIS network; Oil-spill preparedness;
2. Increase in number of ships and tankers calling at ports and passing the Istanbul Straits, non-compliance with regulations;
3. New Energy Projects – pros and cons;
4. Policy and Legislation Developments.

11th of November 2007 – 5 ships sank in one night, people died, **seven thousand tons of sulfur** lays on the bottom of the Black Sea...



Current Environmental Concerns/Priorities

The Volgoneft-139

- 4,190 Tonnes Deadweight
- 29 year old single hull tanker
- Russian River Class
- In Kerch Strait, between Sea of Azov and the Black Sea.
- 2,000 Tonnes of oil spilt
- ? miles of coast line polluted
- Up to 30,000 sea birds and 9,000 fish killed
- Total Cost many \$ millions?
- No loss of human life
- Residual Fuel Oil Cargo

700 tonnes of oil only collected so far



Search and Rescue

3rd of January 2008

Bulgarian dry cargo ship Vanessa (loaded with metal),

with 11 people on board, sank
in the Sea of Azov, near
the Strait of Kerch.

Three vessels, two helicopters and
about 200 Russian and
Ukrainian rescuers were
involved in the search operation
for the crew of the sunken ship,
only one sailor was saved.



DELTA Exercise, September 2007, hosted by TURKEY – SULH2007

OBSERVERS ON BOARD
Frigate "YAVUZ" Frigate "GÖKÇEADA"

CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER (Navy Base)

ON SCENE
Ro-Ro Passenger Oil Tanker

EXERCISE AREA
Kdz. Ereğli NW 12 NM off shore

BRIEFING
ERDEMİR CULTURE CENTER

RESPONSE AT SEA and ON SHORE
(Beach, Off-Shore and Ereğli Port)

OBSERVERS from LAND
SAILING CLUB and FISHERY PORT

CLAIMS STUDY GROUP and PARTICIPANTS from the INDUSTRY
(Ereğli Maritime High School)

- Background
- Legal Base
- Aim
- Participation
- ▶ **Exercise Summary**

<http://www4.ibackup.com/qmanager/servlet/share?key=jdowx61003>

<http://www.cam-story.com/download/SULH.zip>)

Regional Cooperation in DELTA Exercises: SAR and Oil Spill Preparedness: needs to be sustained!!!

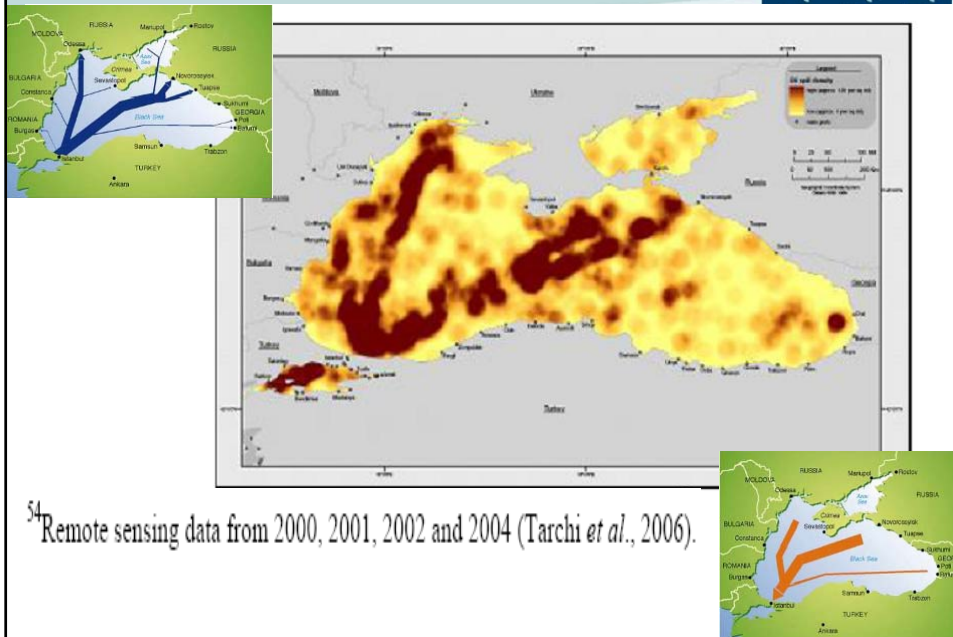


Day-1: Firefighting operation immediately started after SAR

Day 1: Coastal Safety Tug Boat "Kurtarma-2" and Russian Federation Tug Boat "Shahtyor" is on firefighting operation

Day-2 : Off-shore boom deployed by Coastal Safety boom deployment vessel "Tahlisiye-3". Coastal Safety tug boat "Gemi Kurtaran" in the background.

Illegal Discharges in the Black Sea

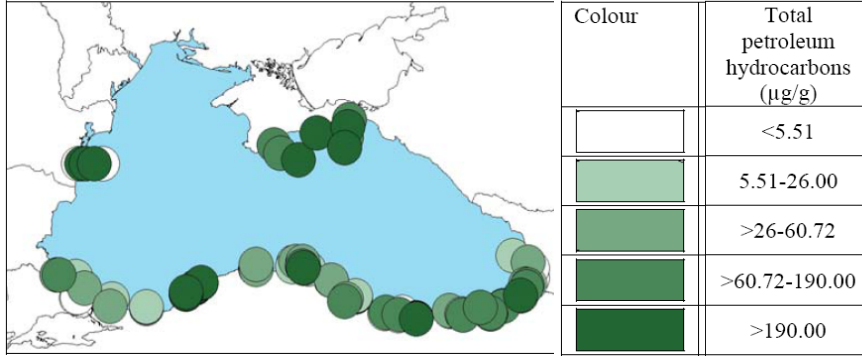


⁵⁴Remote sensing data from 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004 (Tarchi *et al.*, 2006).

SEDIMENTS Pollution: 2000-2005

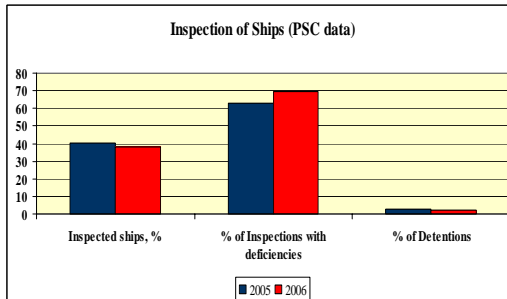
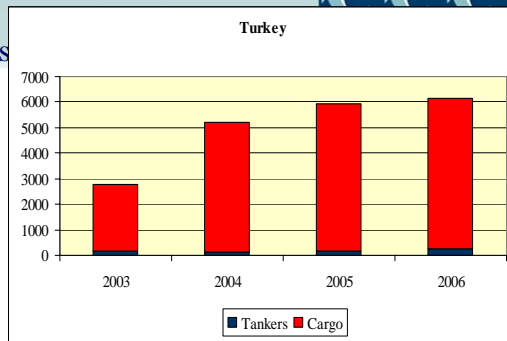
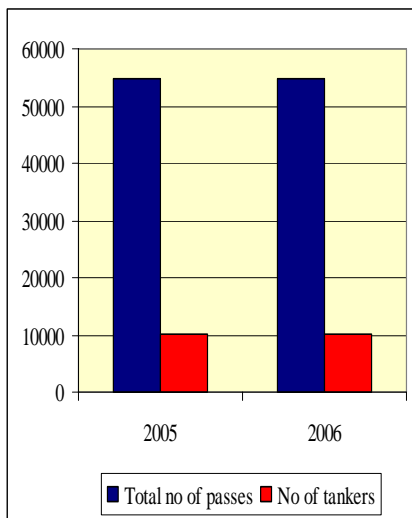


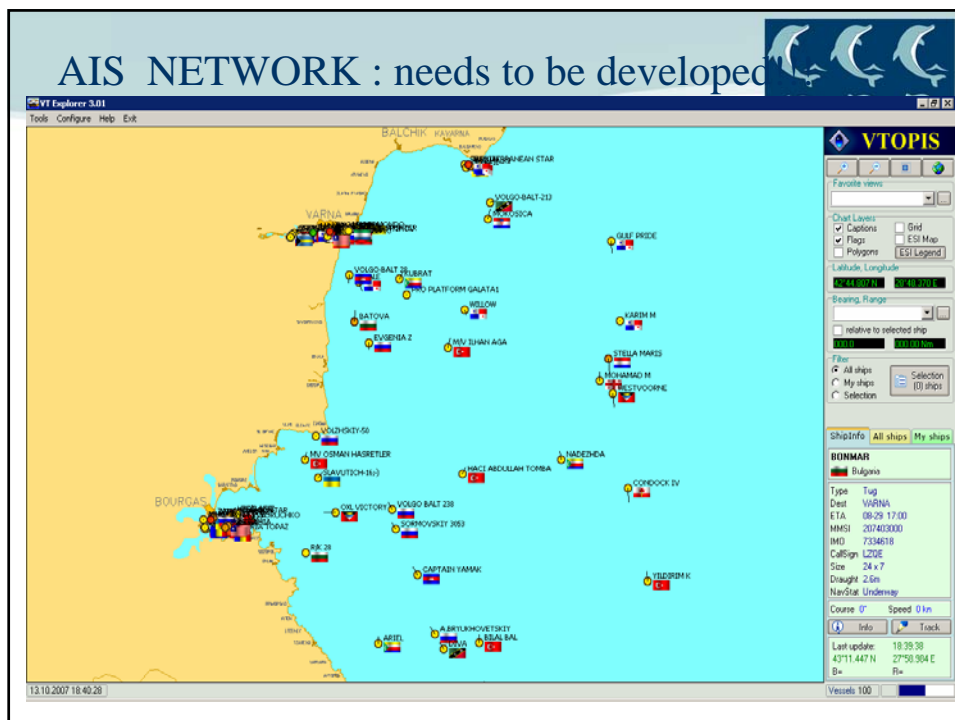
Total petroleum hydrocarbons



Background value 10 µg/g

Increase in number of ships and tankers calling at ports, passing the Istanbul Straits and non-compliance with regulations





New Energy Projects – pros and cons: Needed more transparency

Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

- Bourgas – Alexandroupolis oil pipeline
- South Stream gas pipeline
- Nuclear Power Plants (Belene, Bulgaria; Turkey)

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Transboundary Projects, or Projects
with potential transboundary impact

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT in
TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT,
RISK ASSESSMENTS should be wider communicated**

Policy and Legislation: needed support in stimulating good political will for signing/ratification and enforcement !!!




- Contingency Plan
- BWM Convention

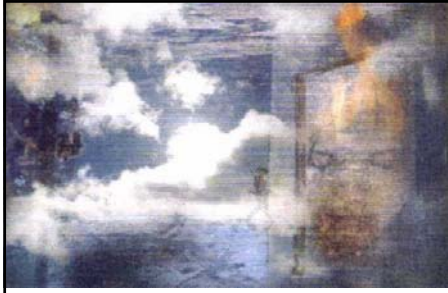
Institutional and expert support in revision of many important Black Sea regional documents, incl. Convention, LBS Protocol and Black Sea SAP.

The specific reasons for the revision of the BSC legal and policy documents include: a need to introduce and incorporate new conceptual approaches and notions of environmental law, to take into consideration developments at the international level, a need to re-examine the environmental priorities in the Black Sea region and to make more clear and precise the respective obligations and rights of the Contracting Parties, due to problems encountered by countries in implementing the existing documents before.

Institutional support needed



- To ensure that regional initiatives are sustained and institutions like BSC are strong enough to promote cooperation, to stimulate good political will and therefore to increase the security in the Black Sea region through achieving harmony/balance between human/economic interest and environmental protection;

The BSC needs strong political support from outside and full commitment inside the Black Sea region to sustain the created network and to continue working in enhancing cooperation;
- To endorse transfer of experience from other regions and fuel dedicated involvement of the private sector in enhancing cooperation, capacity building, training and environmental protection;
- EU, OSCE, WB and similar organization should ensure that their well-meant strategies and efforts are having a solid Black Sea regional partner who is already responsible for addressing regional capabilities;
- Avoiding duplication, repetition or overlaps amongst the international organizations in the Black Sea Region.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
KIND ATTENTION!**

