

# **SPECIFIC FEATURES OF EXPLOITATION AND PROTECTION OF THE CASPIAN SEA WATERS UNDER UNCERTAIN LEGAL STATUS**

*Alexander Aldabaev*  
*Nizhny Novgorod State University*  
*Nizhny Novgorod*  
*RUSSIA*

*Maria Pavlova*  
*Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center*  
*Astrakhan*  
*RUSSIA*



Caspian basin area: 3.2 million km<sup>2</sup>  
Caspian Sea area: 393 thousand km<sup>2</sup>  
Caspian Sea volume: 78.65 thousand km<sup>3</sup>

| Country      | Coastline length, km | Coastal area, km <sup>2</sup> | Coastal population, million people |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Azerbaijan   | 825                  | 14.5                          | 3.11                               |
| Kazakhstan   | 2320                 | 282.7                         | 0.76                               |
| Iran         | 738                  | 59.5                          | 6.43                               |
| Russia       | 695                  | 26.31                         | 1.65                               |
| Turkmenistan | 1200                 | 86.78                         | 0.26                               |
| Total        | 5778                 | 469.79                        | 12.21                              |



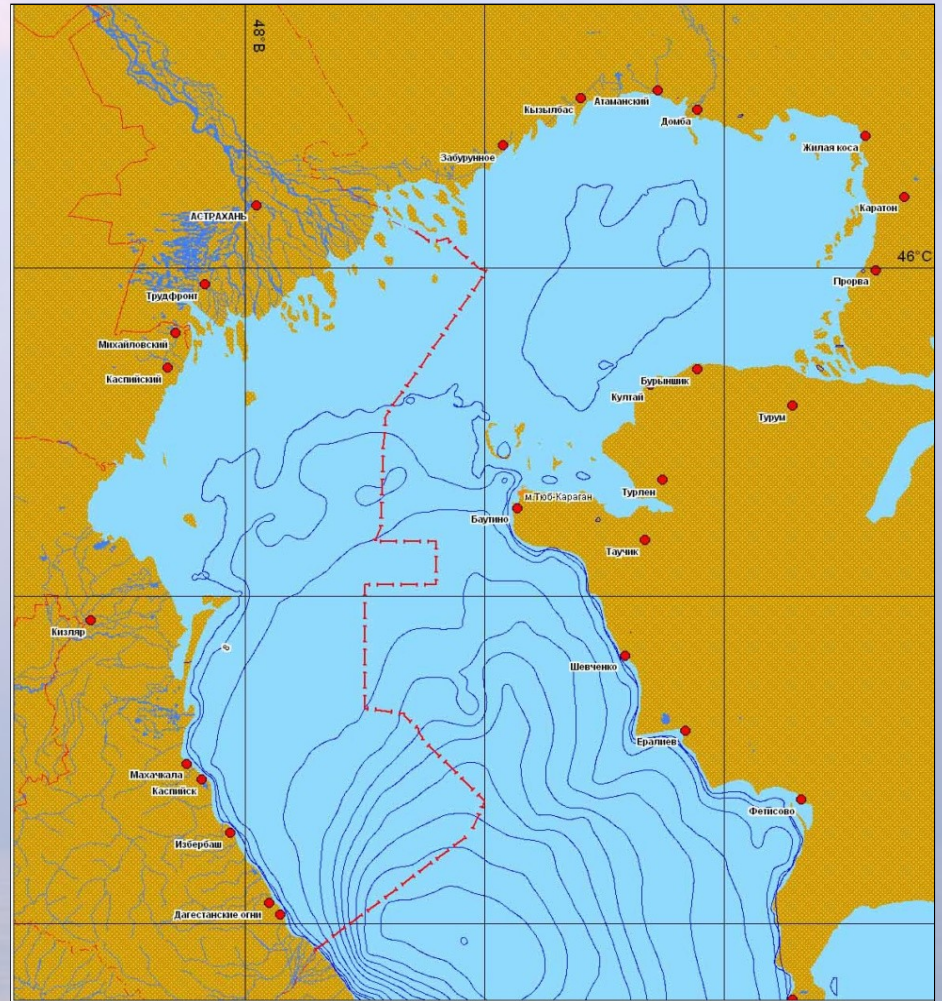
# The main types of maritime activities at the Caspian Sea



# Sketch map of the Caspian region



# The Russian sector of the Caspian Sea seabed





## Oil and gas deposits of the Caspian Sea



# **Mechanisms of protection of shared water**



**International**



**National**



# Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea

## Article 8. Pollution from Seabed Activities

The Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, control and reduce pollution of the Caspian Sea resulting from seabed activities. They are encouraged to co-operate in the development of protocols to this Convention to that effect.





**National tools used for protection  
of the shared waters**



**Strict**

**Soft**



**Exceptional water  
legislation**

**Special  
requirements**

## **Conclusion:**

Obviously, adoption of the Protocol on the protection of the marine environment from seabed activities, supplementary to the Framework Convention, is the only non-conflicting way to protect the shared waters from oil operations at the national seabed sites including construction of the Trans-Caspian pipelines.



**Thank you for your attention!**

