



marine debris removal in the caspian sea

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situation

2016 • Kazakhstan

Tengizchevroil (TCO)

a joint venture partnership formed in 1993 between the Republic of Kazakhstan and Chevron, began development of its **Future Growth Project-Wellhead Pressure Management Project (FGP-WPMP)**, the next phase of expansion of the Tengiz Field—the world’s deepest producing super-giant oil field.

Supporting and enhancing habitats for endangered species was at the forefront of their environmental planning and management strategies as TCO began development of FGP-WPMP.

the caspian sea

Largest enclosed inland body of water on Earth.

Bordered by Kazakhstan, Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan.

The project required a cargo transportation route to be constructed.

71 kilometers from the Northern Caspian basin to the Provra port, the location of a cargo offloading and storage facility



The Caspian Sea, like many large bodies of water, is plagued with marine debris.

“Ghost nets” are abandoned fishing nets commonly included in this debris. They can entangle...

- **caspian seals** *endangered*
- **sturgeons** *critically endangered*

caspian seals

only found in the Caspian Sea



actions taken

TCO identified removal of floating debris from the Caspian Sea as one of the key initiatives for its biodiversity action plan associated with FGP-WPMP.

TCO conducted a pilot debris removal project in October 2017 with support from:

- **Kazakhstan’s Mangystau Oblast Territorial Inspectorate of Forestry and Wildlife**
- **Ghost Fishing Foundation**, an international non-governmental organization (NGO)



The pilot mission enabled the team of Kazakhstani inspectors and NGO workers to:

- practice marine debris removal techniques
- test equipment
- assess the viability of the initiative

Six species of sturgeons

are found in the Caspian Sea:

- they depend on freshwater
- they use rivers feeding into the Caspian Sea for reproduction



sturgeons

First appeared during the Jurassic period, over 150 million years ago.



can live to be **100 years old**

7-12 feet in length

weigh up to **2,000 pounds**

Female sturgeons are highly prized for their unfertilized eggs, which are pickled and sold as caviar.



results

Marine debris removal activities conducted at sea and along the shoreline retrieved over 3,000 kilograms (6,613 lbs) of marine debris.

53 live sturgeon were released

from ghost nets as part of these efforts

suitable debris was recycled

and used to create concrete for road and pavement repair

debris not suitable for recycling

was disposed of properly

Future activities will include removal of ghost nets and other debris found in the northeast Caspian Sea and its shoreline.

caspian seals

3-5 feet long

can dive up to **50 meters** (164 feet)

weigh **70-110 pounds**

Diet includes sculpins, gobies, herring, carp, smelt, and crustaceans.



our actions were consistent with our goal to conserve biodiversity:

we strive to avoid or reduce the potential for significant impacts on sensitive species, habitats and ecosystems