

RECOMMENDATIONS
of the 8 (28)th Session of the Coordination Committee on Hydrometeorology
of the Caspian Sea

The 8 (28)th Session of the Coordination Committee on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) was held through videoconference on 26 November 2024.

The Session was attended by representatives of the National Hydrometeorological Organizations (NMHSs) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Turkmenistan.

The main activities of the Coordination Committee on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea in 2024 were as follows:

- progress in the elaboration of CASPCOM organizational documents required to implement Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea;
- the updated CASPCOM data catalogues (sea level, air temperature, water temperature and salinity, regional atmospheric circulation and surface runoff to the Caspian Sea);
- CASPCOM bulletins on the state of the Caspian Sea level containing the assessment of actual and expected seasonal changes of the sea level;
- first full version of the CASPCOM climate bulletin;
- national achievements in the field of hydrometeorology and monitoring of the Caspian Sea, which create a framework for expanding of NMHS's co-operation and increasing its efficiency.

1. Implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea

At the 8 (28)th CASPCOM Session, the Parties have considered the implementation of the Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea and elaboration of Intergovernmental Integrated Programme on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea. Having reviewed the draft of the CASPCOM Rules of Procedure,

the Session recommends as follows:

- CASPAS Coordinator is to forward the CASPCOM Rules of Procedure with the modifications agreed at the 8 (28)th Session to the NMHSs within a week after the completion of this Session;
- NMHSs are to prepare comments on and proposals to the draft CASPCOM Rules of Procedure and to forward them to CASPAS Coordinator not later than 3 months before the next, 9 (29)th CASPCOM Session. In case of no observations by this deadline, the document will be submitted as it was agreed at 8 (28)th Session for a further consideration;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to forward a draft document revised in line with the received comments and proposals to the NMHSs one month prior to the 9 (29)th CASPCOM Session.

2. CASPCOM activities and national activities in the field of hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea

Having appreciated the CASPCOM' and the national activities in the field of hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea in 2024, supporting the proposal by IRIMO to organize the scientific conference on oceanography in 2025 and reaffirming its determination to establish the CASPCOM Working Group for climate,

the Session recommends as follows:

- IRIMO is to propose 2 experts – 1 meteorologist and 1 hydrologist to be included in the Working Group. The proposal should be submitted to the CASPAS Coordinator not later than 1 month after the completion of the 8 (28)th CASPCOM Session;
- NMHSs are to submit to the CASPAS Coordinator their comments and amendments to the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group within 2 months after the end of the 8 (28)th CASPCOM Session.
- CASPAS Coordinator is to include the comments into the draft and to send the revised draft to NMHSs back for approval not later than 2 months before the next CASPCOM Session;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to forward the guidance and revised layout of the CASPCOM Climate bulletin to NMHSs within 2 weeks after the end of the 8 (28)th Session;
- NMHSs are to complete their national chapters of the Climate bulletin for 2023 in accordance with the revised layout and submit them to the CASPAS Coordinator within 3 months after the end of the 8 (28)th Session, to use the standard normals for the period of 1991-2020, which are recommended by WMO;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to summarize the national inputs prepared by NMHSs into a single Climate bulletin for 2023 no later than 5 months after the end of the Session, and after their approval to publish it on the CASPCOM website;
- NMHSs are to prepare their national chapters of the Climate bulletin for 2024 in accordance with the revised layout and submit them to the CASPAS Coordinator no later than 1 month prior to the next 9 (29)th CASPCOM Session. CASPAS Coordinator is to summarize all the NMHSs inputs into a single Climate bulletin for 2024 and to present the bulletins for both 2023 and 2024 at the next 9 (29)th CASPCOM Session.

On the issues of the current work of CASPCOM, *the Session recommends as follows:*

- CASPAS Coordinator is to inform NMHSs of the missing data in the CASPCOM catalogues within a week after the end of the 8 (28)th CASPCOM Session. NMHSs, which have gaps in the national data, are to submit the missing data before the end of the current year;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to provide the CASPCOM members with the updated versions of the Catalogues by e-mail after completing the data sets;

- NMHSs are to provide data for the previous year into the CASPCOM Catalogues not later than 2 months before the next CASPCOM Session;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to continue annual updates of CASPCOM Catalogues with the newly submitted data (on sea level, air and water temperature, seawater salinity, surface runoff and regional atmospheric circulation) and to post the updated catalogues on CASPCOM web-site once in two years;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to design and forward to NMHSs for approval the draft layout of new CASPCOM catalogue on precipitation not later than 3 weeks after the end of the 8 (28)th Session. NMHSs are to approve the layout and to submit the list of stations, which are to provide the precipitation data, to the CASPAS Coordinator not later than 3 months after the end of 8 (28)th CASPCOM Session. NMHSs are to start filling in the catalogue layout with the precipitation data according to the approved list of the stations;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to continue issuing CASPCOM information bulletins on the state of the Caspian Sea level in 2025;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to prepare a preliminary Agenda for the next Session and to forward it to the NMHSs not later than a month prior to the Session.

3. CASPCOM cooperation with international organizations

Having taken note of the information on the progress of cooperation between CASPCOM and the Tehran Convention, expressed in the participation of a representative of CASPCOM and specialists of NMHSs in the development of a new version of the Caspian Sea Environmental Monitoring Program, and expressing their willingness to continue cooperation with the Convention,

the Session recommends as follows:

- CASPCOM is to strengthen operating contacts with the Tehran Convention on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between them in 2013, **primarily by participating in the implementation of relevant sections of the Caspian Sea Environmental Monitoring Program;**
- CASPCOM is to support the proposal by the interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention to organize the scientific conference “Changes in the Caspian Sea level: causes, modelling, adaptation strategies” in 2025. NMHSs are encouraged to actively participate in the conference.

4. Date and venue of the next CASPCOM Session

The Session has requested Kazhydromet to consider holding the next, 9 (29)th, CASPCOM Session offline in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2025, and to inform NMHSs on its decision in 3 months after the end of the 8 (28)th Session. If agreed, Kazhydromet shall inform NMHSs and CASPAS Coordinator on the actual date and venue of the next Session not later than three months before it.

5. Adoption of recommendations of the 8 (28)th CASPCOM Session

The Parties decided to adopt these recommendations in due course within 3 weeks after the end of the 8 (28)th Session.

The CASPAS Coordinator is to send the NMHSs draft recommendations of the 8 (28)th Session for approval not later than 1 week after its end.