

The Transportation of the Caspian Oil through the Black Sea; Environmental Concerns

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Abstract

The shipping related activities pose significant environmental problems in the Black Sea environment, which necessitates international environmental cooperation. As a response to this, the Black Sea littoral states have initiated a series of regional action to prevent, alleviate or eliminate the negative impacts of rapidly increasing vessel traffic. The 1992 Bucharest Convention, its additional protocols and the 1996 Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS-SAP) provides the regional legal framework for this cooperative action. Apart from these regional regulations, global conventions which aim to improve safety at sea and to protect the marine environment, such as 1972 London Dumping Convention and its 1996 Protocol, 1973 MARPOL Convention and its 1978 Protocol, related articles of the 1982 UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), 1990 International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation do have applicability either in full sense or partly in the region. The purpose of this paper is, to make an overview to the adverse environmental impact of the shipping related activities which is continuously expanding with the increasing transportation of the Caspian oil through the Black Sea and the corresponding regional efforts and international legal regulations which aims to respond the environmental concerns for the region.