

## BBSEA CONSULTATION

### SUMMARY

On October 1, 2021, the Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA) team held a webinar with stakeholders in Russia to continue the consultations on the design of the *Blueing the Black Sea Program: A Regional Initiative to Tackle Marine Pollution and Climate Change in Support of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea*.

The webinar aimed to inform stakeholders in Russia on the Overview of the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA), Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and the BBSEA Program. Over the course of two sessions, the participants shared experience, knowledge, and ideas on the design of required response to tackle pollution in the Black Sea.

The webinar was held via Zoom and was well attended with 40 representatives from the public, private, academia, and civil society sectors participating. The majority of the participants were from the host country.

The webinar — the final in a series of *National Consultations* organized in all six Black Sea littoral states and the Republic of Moldova — was co-hosted by the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS), the Ministry of Environment of Krasnodar Krai, and the World Bank.

Each session featured presentations by Russian institutions illustrating or complementing the BBSEA presentation. The majority of the Russian speakers represented scientific agencies. This contributed to enhanced understanding of the main areas of work of the government and scientific institutions in the field of the blue economy and the preservation of the marine environment.

A summary report of the event is provided below.

Peter Zavyalov, Deputy Director of P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology (IO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), reported that further scientific research is needed to implement the blue economy concept. This requirement is also a key provision in the *2019 Bucharest Declaration on the Launch of the Black Sea Research and Innovation Agenda*, which is currently implemented as part of the European Commission's HORIZON-2020 program. A team of scientists from IO RAS is actively involved<sup>1</sup> in two Black Sea region projects under the HORIZON-2020 program: DOORS (*Developing Optimal and Open Research Support for the Black Sea*) and BRIDGE (*Advancing Black Sea Research and Innovation to Co-Develop Blue Growth within Resilient Ecosystems*).

The DOORS project includes 37 organizations from 17 countries. In addition to IO RAS, Russia is represented in this project by the North-West Institute of Management<sup>2</sup> of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA). The BRIDGE project involves 33 organizations from 14 countries and three international organizations. On the Russian side, this project is implemented by IO RAS jointly with Russian Technological University (RTU MIREA). The duration of each project is 48 months. During this time, activities will be carried out in three blocks: the first (called *System of systems* under the DOORS project) aims to obtain new and harmonize available scientific data on the Black Sea; the second (*Blue growth accelerator*) – aims to use the data and scientific approaches in real sectors of the economy; and the third (*Knowledge transfer and training*) is focused on the development of human resources, building public awareness, etc.

Under the DOORS project, IO RAS is performing ongoing targeted hydro-physical, hydro-chemical and hydro-biological measurements on the Russian shelf of the Black Sea (one of the model areas of the project) and is conducting experiments based on the mathematical models developed for this purpose to study the marine environment and ecosystems of the Black Sea shelf. Under the BRIDGE project, IO RAS will contribute to the development of an integrated monitoring system for the Black Sea (with recording of integrated measurements throughout the Black Sea and at an IO RAS test site in Gelendzhik). The main focus will be on the impact of climate change on pelagic ecosystems and harmful invasive species.

Peter Zavyalov also noted a number of difficulties that IO RAS has experienced under the DOORS and BRIDGE projects. Due to unavailability of funding from the European Commission, IO RAS had to seek domestic sources and, ultimately, it was able to secure 30 million rubles from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education for the implementation of both projects.

Igor Kapyrin, Deputy Director of the Department of European Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation spoke about the importance of the scientific approach as the basis for decision-making, including in the implementation of the blue economy concept. He presented the main provisions of the *2019 Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea* and emphasized that the Agenda calls for first for efforts to restore and preserve marine and coastal ecosystems, control pollution, develop and implement innovations, and use and exchange of environmental information. The second aspect of the Agenda is the maritime and blue economy. According to Kapyrin, it is necessary to sustainably use and conserve marine and coastal ecosystems, develop and apply blue biotechnology, and transfer knowledge and innovation. The third area of activity is support of professional skills and knowledge, which will help to increase the region's competitiveness.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ocean.ru/index.php/novosti-left/novosti-instituta/item/1993-doors-i-bridge-s-uchastiem-io-ran>

<sup>2</sup> <https://spb.ranepa.ru/international/black-sea-connect-project/>

Igor Kapyrin noted the new implementation period of 2022-2029 for the Black Sea Basin Program, in which not only the coastal countries will participate, and which is based on the Common Maritime Agenda. He also commented on the main priorities of Turkey, the Agenda's current implementation coordinator, which are preservation and restoration of the environment of the Black Sea region; technical cooperation and information exchange; tourism development; innovation and research.

Alexander Korshenko, Head of Marine Pollution Monitoring Lab at N.N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute presented on the main components of the Russian state system for monitoring of the marine environment. The research program carried out under the monitoring system has not been updated for a long time. He noted that such approach, on the one hand, allows to collect data on the state of the marine environment that can be compared on a time scale. On the other hand, it is evident that the research program needed to be expanded. Currently, monitoring includes hydrometeorological parameters, as well as a number of pollutants. The updated monitoring program should include research on marine biota as well as monitoring of marine debris.

Alexey Konovalov, PhD, Deputy Director of the Institute for National Marine Policy Integrated Study at Russian Technological University (RTU) – MIREA, presented on the existing regulation of maritime activities in Russia (the 2015 Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation and Strategy for the Development of Maritime Activities of the Russian Federation until 2030) and plans for its further development. He also stressed the importance of further development of the system of strategic planning and infrastructure in the region, including transport and tourism infrastructure, as well as renewable energy. Additionally, Alexey Konovalov emphasized the existing need for personnel with knowledge of management of natural resources of coastal areas. Such specialists would be in demand not only in the public but also in the private sector. Currently, MIREA is developing an educational program on *State management of maritime activities of the Russian Federation*.<sup>3</sup>

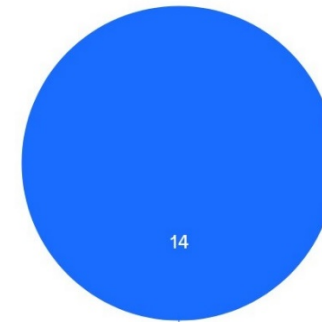
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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.morvesti.ru/themes/1696/87375/>

During the webinar, the participants were also invited to take part in a survey and provide input on the *Blueing the Black Sea Program* (BBSEA) and the regional report *Turning the Tide of Pollution* that will be prepared under the project.

### Q1

All survey participants agreed that the *Turning the Tide of Pollution* report would contribute to the regional efforts to address marine pollution.

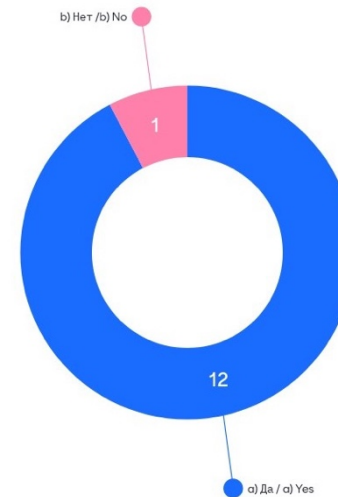


Да, поскольку загрязнение морской среды имеет транграничный характер /a) Yes, since the marine pollution transcends national borders

### Q2

Nearly all respondents believe that the scope of the *Turning the Tide of Pollution* activities reflects the main gaps that need to be addressed.

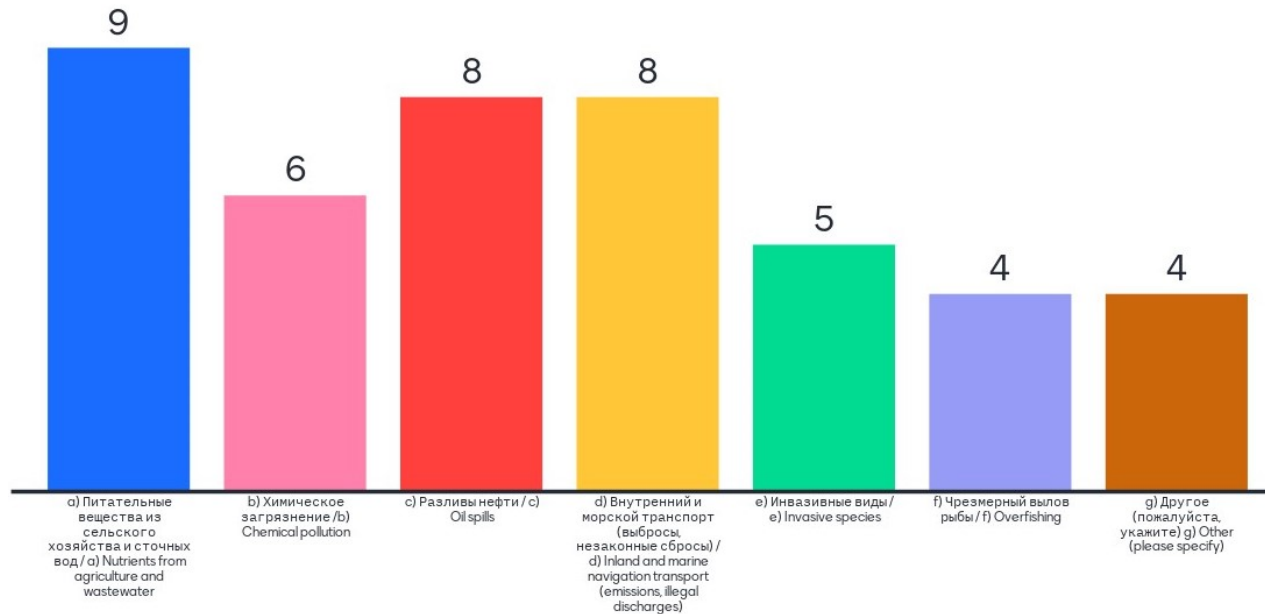
Additionally, plastic and anti-microbial resistance, new emerging pollutants, and natural transformation of pollutants were identified among the gaps that need to be addressed.



b) Нет /b) No

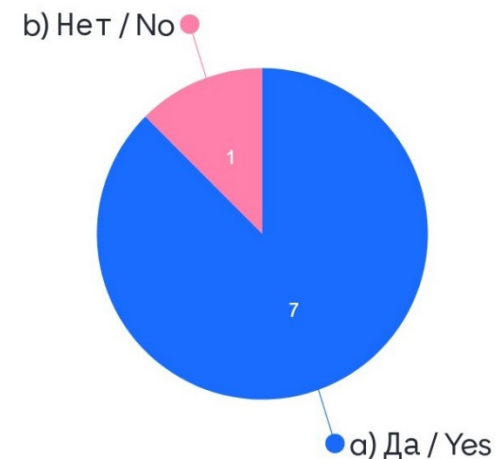
a) Да / a) Yes

**Q3:** The important pollution sources and/or human activities impacting the health of marine resources and ecosystems that need to be addressed

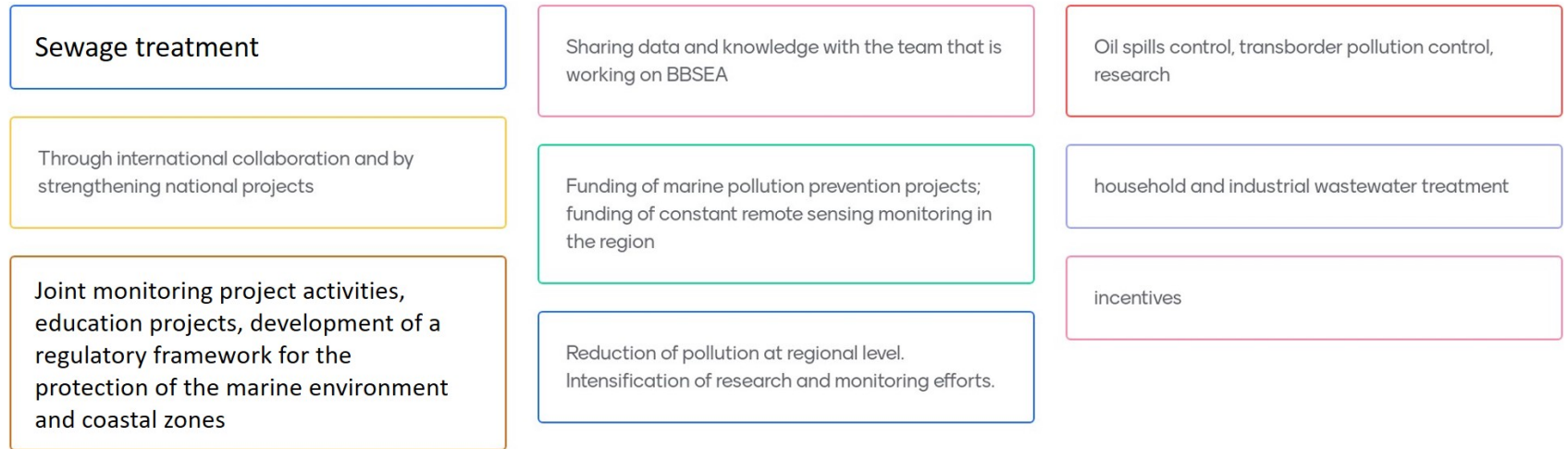


#### Q4

The majority of survey participants agreed that there are other similar projects and initiatives that are relevant to the regional *Turning the Tide of Pollution* report. These include: national ecological projects, regional waste management projects, EMBLAS, DOORS, BRIGDE-BS, Black Sea Connect, Black Sea Basin CBC Programme, Transformation of pollutants in aquatic ecosystems and vulnerabilities (Southern Federal University and University of Nantes (France) project), research projects focused on preventing marine pollution funded by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, the Russian Science Foundation and other entities.



**Q5:** How the Russian Federation could support regional effort to ensure pollution-free development of blue economy in the Black Sea region and the water



**Q6: The topmost important regional level activities for the Russian Federation**

