COORDINATION COMMITTEE
ON HYDROMETEOROLOGY OF THE CASPIAN SEA (CASPCOM)

Information bulletin on the state of the Caspian Sea level
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The Bulletin on the state of the Caspian Sea level is issued twice a year in accordance with the recommendations of CASPCOM and is a joint product of hydrometeorological services of the five Caspian littoral states.

The Caspian Sea level at its seasonal peak in June 2024 was 20 cm below the level observed in June of the previous year (-29.07 and -28.87 m abs[1]. respectively). The level stayed at the same mark (-29.07 m abs.) in July this year contrasting to July 2023, when it had been 5 cm lower than in June 2023. The rate of the seasonal level rise due to spring flooding of the Volga River in the first half of 2024 was similar to the same period of 2023, while its subsequent decline was smoother in the second half of 2024 (Fig. 1).

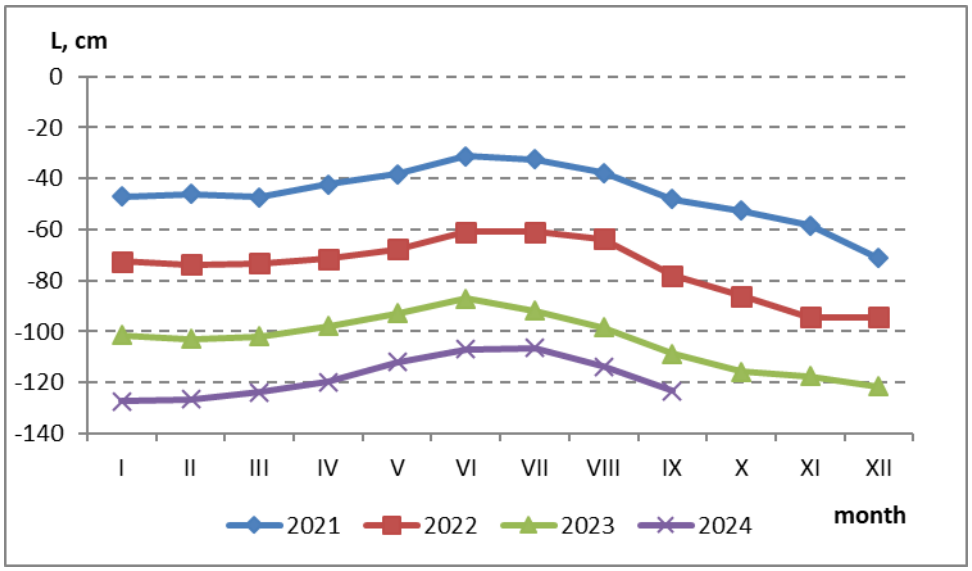

Fig. 1 Seasonal run of the mean Caspian Sea level in 2024 compared to 2021– 2023 (average level for 6 “century” posts)

The main reason for the decrease in the sea level was the low runoff of the Volga River observed in three past years in the row. 2024 has a chance of becoming the first year with the Volga runoff close to normal after three subsequent low-water years: 2021, 2022 and 2023. The volume of the Volga water flow for 9 months of the current year amounted to

[1] To calculate the mean value of the sea level for the entire water area, we used data from observations at 6 "century" posts: Makhachkala, Fort Shevchenko, Guvlymayak (Kuuli-mayak), Turkmenbashi (Krasnovodsk), Duzlybogaz (Kara-Bogaz-Gol). At the time of preparation of the bulletin, the data of Baku post were not available for technical reasons.

about 187[2] cubic km, which is 15 cubic km more than the value for the same period of low-water year of 2023 (173 cubic km). The characteristics of the Volga spring flooding in 2024 were slightly different from those observed in the previous year (Fig. 2). The flood this year was similar to that of the last year in duration and flow rates at its peak, but the maximum flow rates were observed about two weeks later than in 2023. The timing of the start and the end of the flooding, as well as its maximum discharge period, were observed earlier than usual as it was also in 2023. This was caused by the warmer weather and earlier ice melting in the Volga Basin in the spring of both 2023 and 2024.

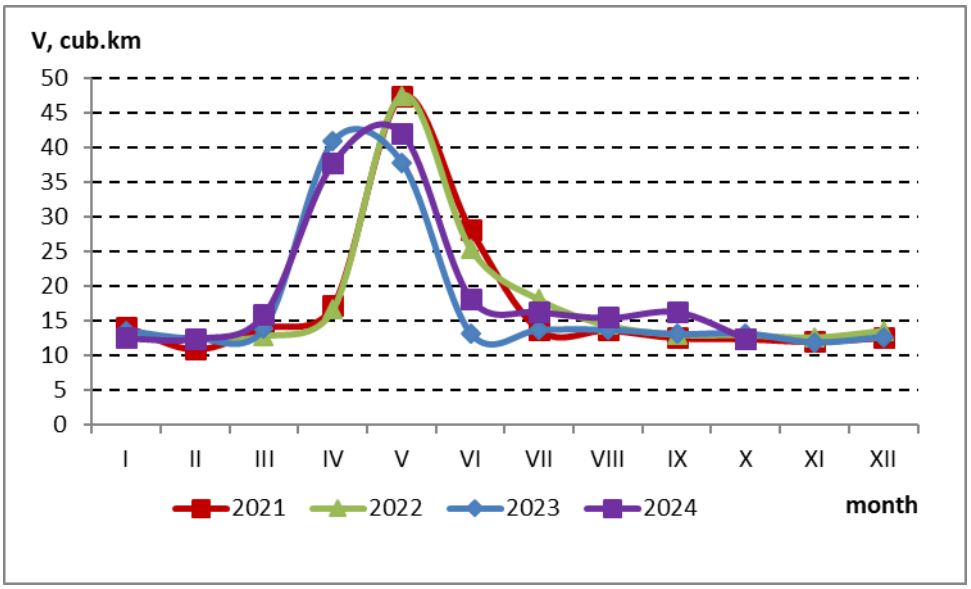

Fig. 2 Mean monthly runoff of the Volga River in 2021-2024

This bulletin is intended for the authorities, enterprises, organizations and coastal communities as well as for all whose activities are connected with the Caspian Sea. Its preparation became possible due to the cooperation of hydrometeorological organizations of the Caspian littoral states. The data of the General Catalogue of the Caspian Sea level elaborated under CASPCOM umbrella were used to compile the bulletin

[2] The Volga River runoff is given according to the data on the water discharge at the Volgograd reservoir