



International Oil Pollution  
Compensation Funds

<a href="#">Agenda Item 3</a>	IOPC/APR25/3/9	
<a href="#">Date</a>	24 March 2025	
<a href="#">Original</a>	English	
<a href="#">1992 Fund Assembly</a>	92AES29	
<a href="#">1992 Fund Executive Committee</a>	92EC84	●
<a href="#">Supplementary Fund Assembly</a>	SAES13	

## INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE IOPC FUNDS—1992 FUND

### INCIDENTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

#### Note by the Secretariat

<b>Objective of document:</b>	To report on a new oil pollution incident that may involve the 1992 Fund.
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>On the morning of 15 December 2024 two <i>Volgoneft</i> oil tankers, <i>Volgoneft 212</i> and <i>Volgoneft 239</i> were caught in a storm at the southern end of the Kerch Strait entering into the Black Sea.</p> <p>As a result of the storm, the <i>Volgoneft 212</i> split in two and sank, resulting in the death of one crew member. The <i>Volgoneft 239</i> also split in two, with the fore part sinking and the aft part running aground near the Port of Kavkaz.</p> <p>Both vessels were carrying a cargo of mazut, a low grade heavy fuel oil, which began leaking from both ships following the respective incidents. Estimates of the amount of oil spilled range from 2 400 tonnes up to 5 000 tonnes.</p> <p>The Russian Federation is Party to both the 1992 Civil Liability Convention (1992 CLC) and the 1992 Fund Convention. The <i>Volgoneft 212</i> and <i>Volgoneft 239</i> are believed to be insured with the Russian National Reinsurance Company. The CLC limit applicable to each vessel is SDR 4.51 million.</p>
<b>Action to be taken:</b>	<p><u><a href="#">1992 Fund Executive Committee</a></u></p> <p>Information to be noted.</p>

## 1 Summary of incident

Ship	<i>Volgoneft 212</i> and <i>Volgoneft 239</i>
Date of incident	15 December 2024
Place of incident	Kerch Strait, Black Sea, Russia
Cause of incident	Sinking ( <i>Volgoneft 212</i> ) and grounding ( <i>Volgoneft 239</i> )
Quantity of oil spilled	Unknown
Area affected	Kerch Strait, Anapsky and Temryuksky Districts, Russia
Flag State of ship	Russian Federation
Gross tonnage	3 566 GT ( <i>Volgoneft 212</i> ) and 3 569 GT ( <i>Volgoneft 239</i> )
P&I insurer	Russian National Reinsurance Company (to be confirmed)
CLC limit	SDR 4.51 million
STOPIA/TOPIA applicable	N/A
CLC + Fund limit	SDR 203 million
Legal proceedings	N/A

## 2 Background information

- 2.1 On the morning of 15 December 2024 two *Volgoneft* oil tankers, *Volgoneft 212* and *Volgoneft 239* were caught in a storm at the southern end of the Kerch Strait entering into the Black Sea. As a result of the storm the *Volgoneft 212* split in two and sank, resulting in the death of one crew member. The *Volgoneft 239* also split in two, with the fore part sinking and the aft part running aground near the Port of Kavkaz.
- 2.2 Both vessels were carrying a cargo of mazut, a low grade heavy fuel oil, which began leaking from both ships following the respective incidents. The vessels were carrying a total volume of 8 450 tonnes of cargo. Estimates of the amount of oil spilled range from 2 400 tonnes up to 5 000 tonnes.

## 3 Impact of the spill

- 3.1 Early satellite imagery indicated two separate oil slicks in the area of the Kerch Strait. The oil appears to have been carried by currents in an easterly direction, and began to make landfall on 17 December 2024 in the Anapsky and Temryuksky Districts.
- 3.2 States of emergency were declared in the Anapsky and Temryuksky Districts on 17 December 2024. On 25 December 2024, a regional state of emergency was declared in Krasnodar Krai. By early January 2025, oil was also being reported in Sevastopol, on the Crimean peninsula.
- 3.3 The Russian Federation has reported that the area of the spill extended to 2 800 square metres and impacted more than 300 kilometres of coastline. The 1992 Fund has been advised that a Federal Emergency Regime and a Government Commission were established by decree on 10 January 2025.
- 3.4 Environmental groups have reported deaths of dolphins, porpoises and sea birds.

## 4 Response operations

- 4.1 The Russian Federation has advised that 28 vessels were involved in the pollution response in the Black Sea. Four hundred and fifty-five interagency monitoring groups have been organised, utilising aviation, drones, sea vessels and divers. More than 5 000 people and 600 units of equipment were employed in the response activities, and 18 stations for the rescue of wildlife species have been organised.

4.2 Response efforts reported by the Russian Federation include:

- 3 350 square kilometres surveyed;
- 44 000 square metres processed, using approximately 5 000 kg of sorbent;
- 25 tonnes of oil containing seawater collected;
- 350 kg of oil products manually collected by divers;
- 172 094 tonnes of contaminated sand and soil collected; and
- construction of a protective barrier around the aft part of *Volgoneft 239* to contain pollution.

## **5 Applicability of the Conventions**

The Russian Federation is Party to both the 1992 Civil Liability Convention (1992 CLC) and the 1992 Fund Convention. The *Volgoneft 212* and *Volgoneft 239* are believed to be insured with the Russian National Reinsurance Company. Therefore, the CLC limit applicable to each vessel is SDR 4.51 million.

## **6 Director's considerations**

6.1 The Director has had informal discussions with members of the Russian delegation, and the 1992 Fund received an update on the progress of the response to the incident on 7 February 2025. The 1992 Fund has not yet received a formal request for assistance from the Russian Federation.

6.2 The Director will monitor the situation and report any developments at a future session.

## **7 Action to be taken**

### 1992 Fund Executive Committee

The 1992 Fund Executive Committee is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.

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