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## KAZAKHSTAN: AUTHORITIES DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY OVER CASPIAN

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Government officials in Kazakhstan have raised the alarm over what they say is the critically low level of the Caspian Sea, the worlds largest enclosed body of water.

City hall in Aktau, the capital of the western Mangystau region, said in a statement on June 8 that it was declaring a state of emergency over a situation that it says poses a grave risk to the maritime industry.

On the same day, Ecology Minister Zulfia Suleimenova described the crisis over the Caspian as "quite complex and attributed the ongoing contraction to dropping levels in the Ural and Volga Rivers.

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