

Monitoring results of changes in the area of water surface and wetlands within the Small Aral Sea 30 August 2026

The SIC ICWC conducts continuous remote monitoring of the condition of the Small Aral Sea using Landsat 8,9 satellite imagery. Based on the satellite image acquired on 30 August 2026, the areas of wetlands, open water surface, and dried territories of the Small Aral Sea were determined (Figure 1). Figure 2 presents the dynamics of the Syr Darya River discharge based on the inflow to the Small Aral Sea.

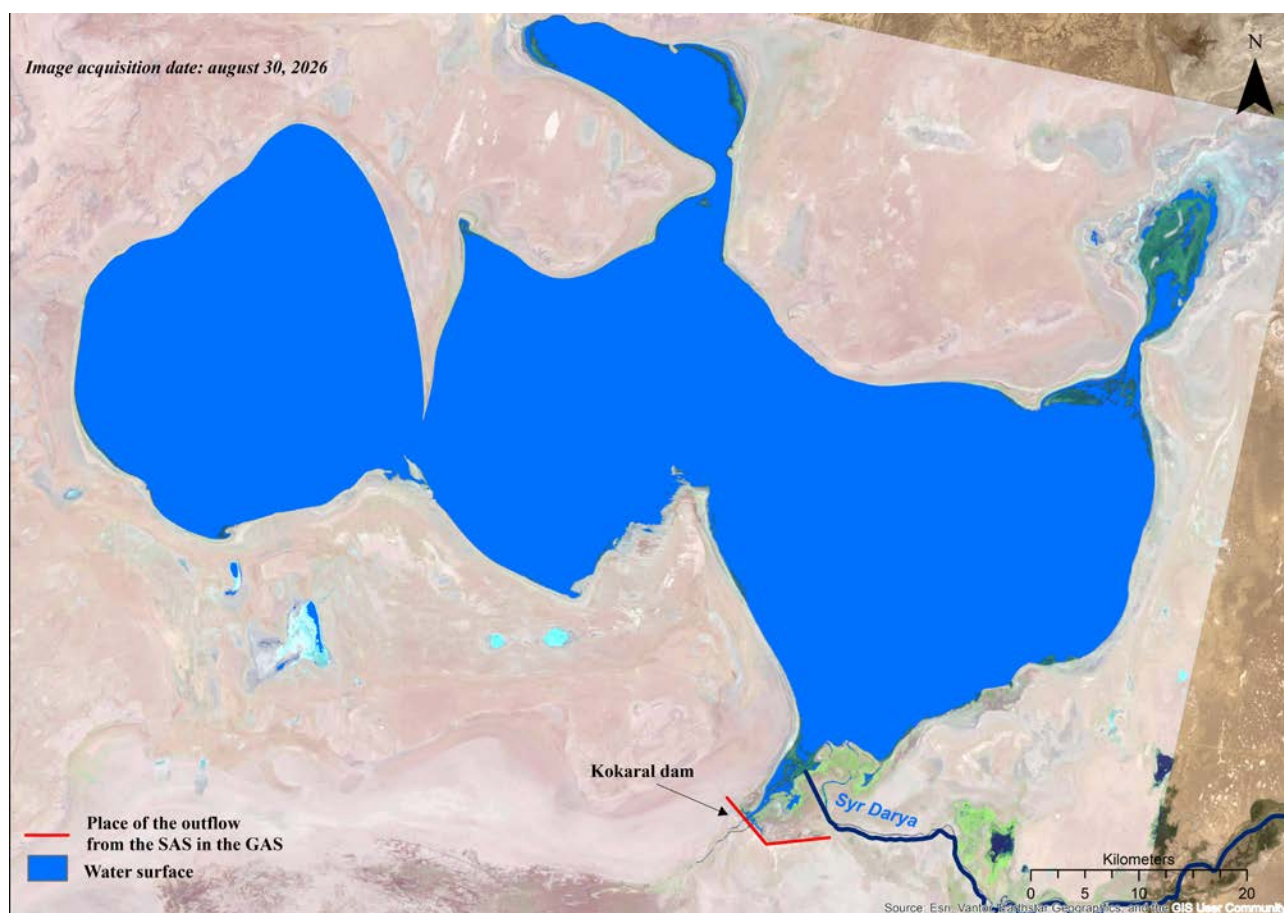


Figure 1. Small Aral Sea, Landsat 8 (August 30, 2026)

Table

Areas of wetlands, water surface, and dried areas of the Small Aral Sea (ha)

	16.03.2026	24.04.2026	02.05.2026	13.07.2026	30.08.2026
Wetland	54703	55103	57531	58563	59817
Water surface	309367	309986	311239	300411	287426
Dry land	177377	176358	172677	182473	194204
Inflow from Syrdarya River* (mln m ³)	March	April	May	June	August
	200	241	142	137	66

* Data from Kazhydromet at the Karateren gauging station

Changes in the Area of the Northern Aral Sea

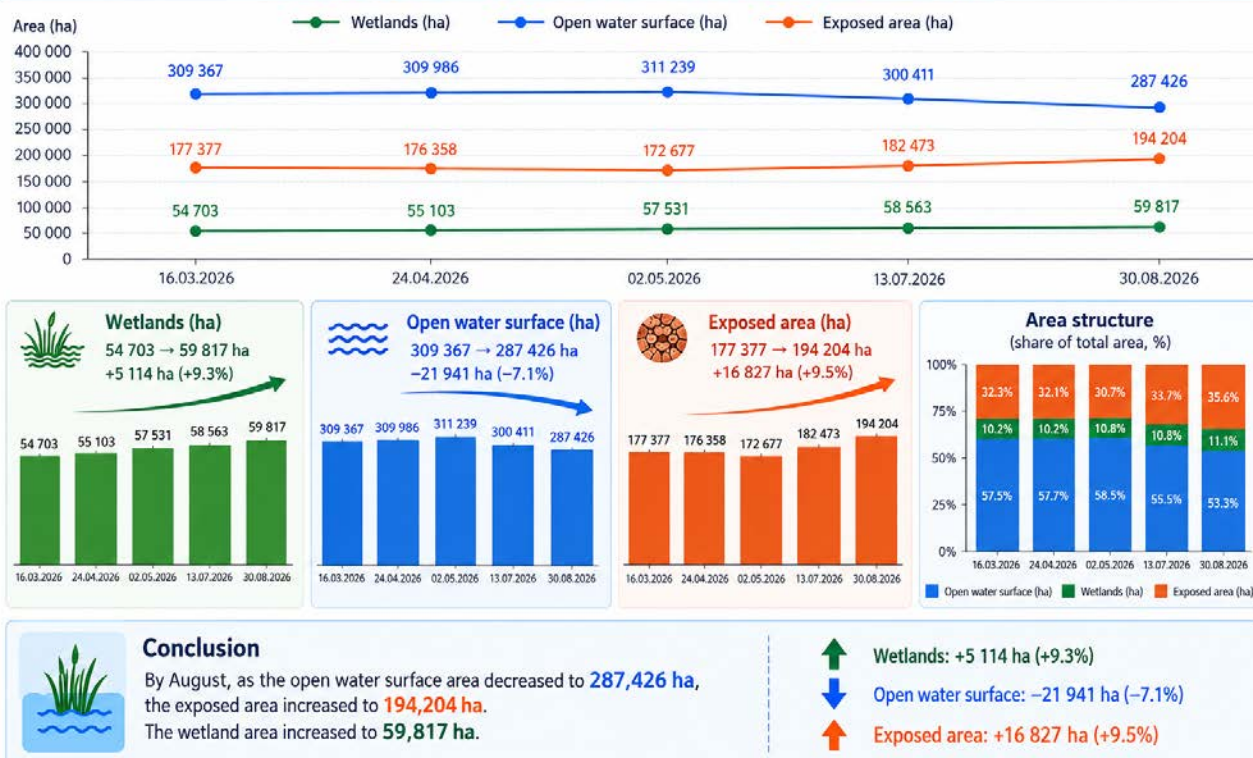
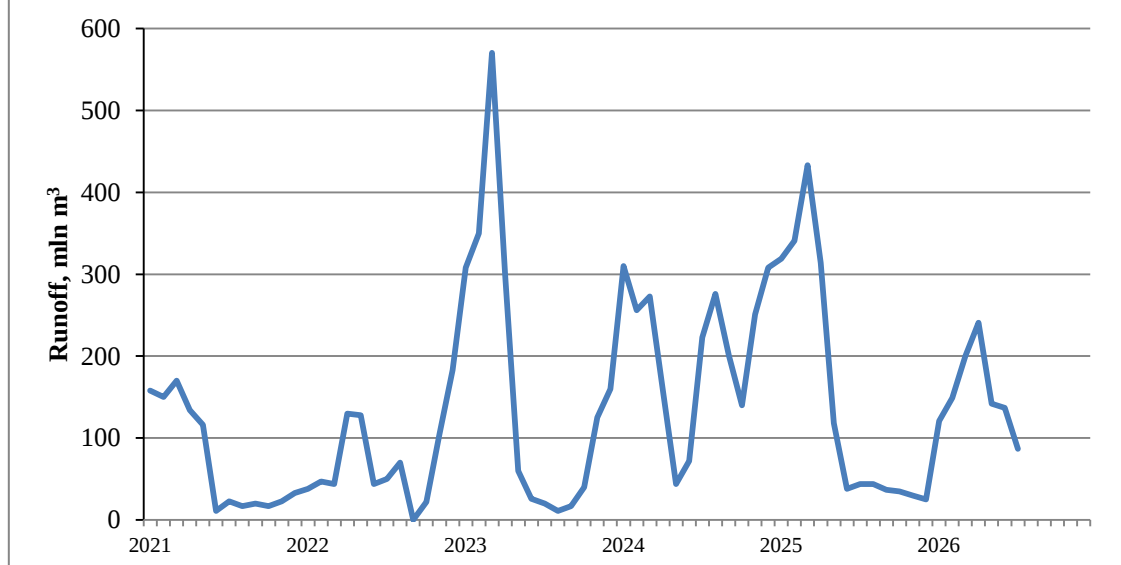


Figure 2. Dynamics of the Syr Darya river flow along the Karateren gauging station



In August, following a decrease in inflow from the Syr Darya River to 66 million m³, the open water surface area decreased to 287,426 ha, while the wetland and exposed areas increased to 59,817 ha and 194,204 ha, respectively.

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