

# Monitoring results of changes in the area of water surface and wetlands within the Small Aral Sea 23 September 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 23 September 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.

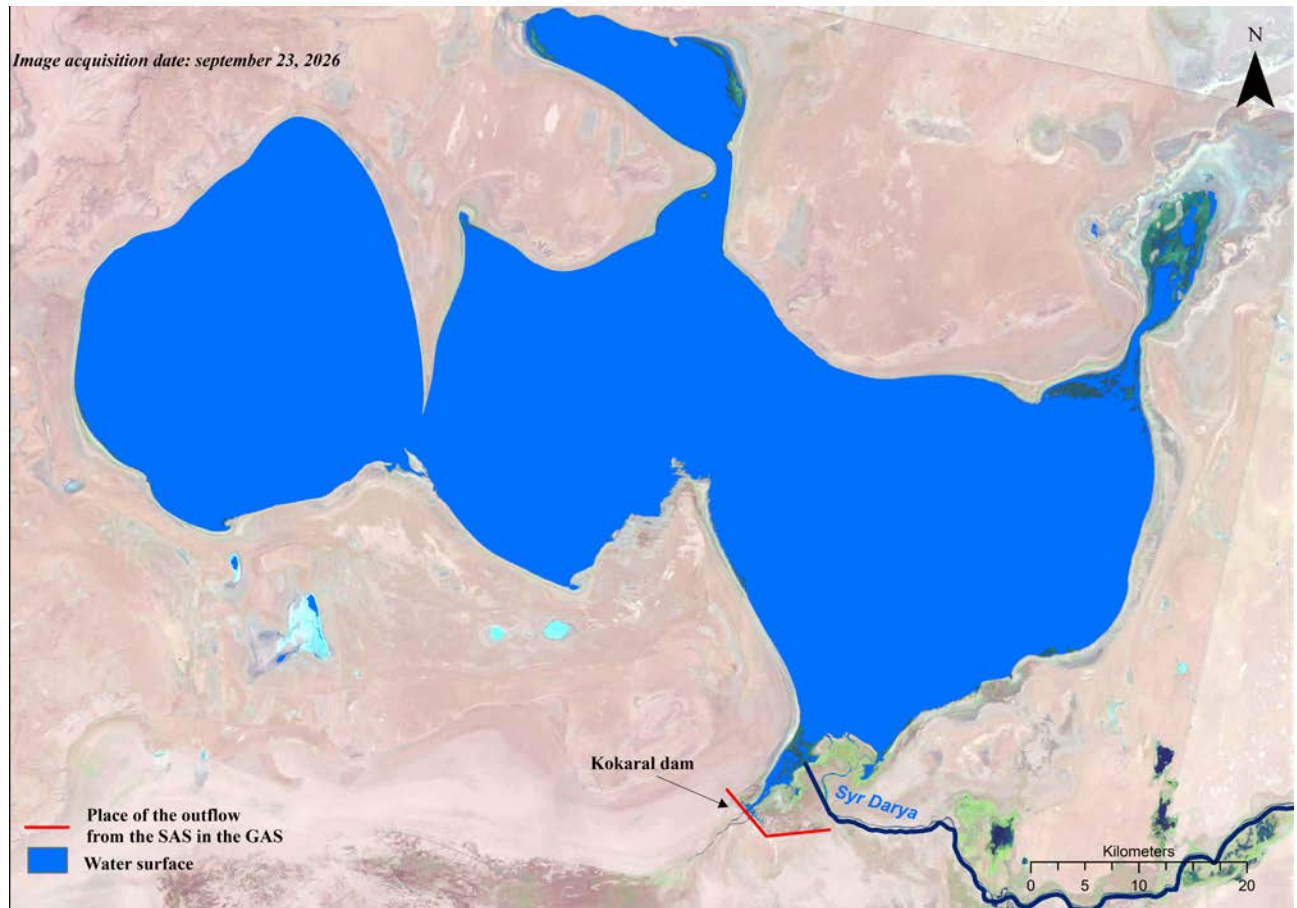


Figure 1. Small Aral Sea, Landsat 8 (September, 23 2026)

Table

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

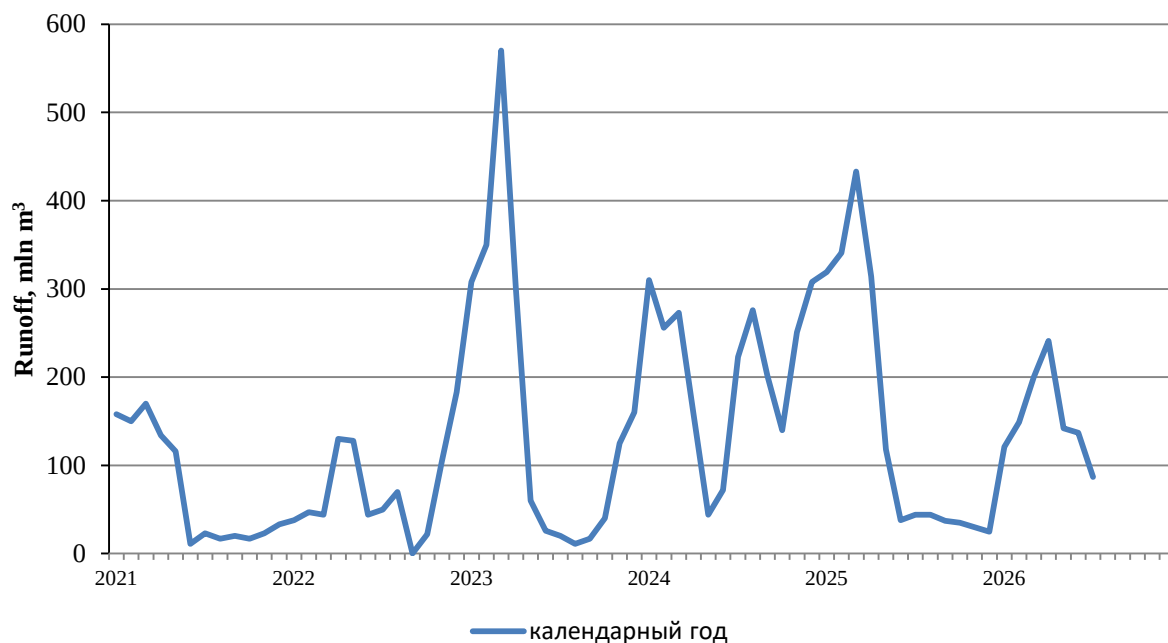
|                             | 16.03.2026 | 24.04.2026 | 02.05.2026 | 13.07.2026 | 30.08.2026 | 23.09.2026 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Wetland (ha)                | 54703      | 55103      | 57531      | 58563      | 59817      | 59925      |
| Water surface (ha)          | 309367     | 309986     | 311239     | 300411     | 287426     | 286949     |
| Dry land (ha)               | 177377     | 176358     | 172677     | 182473     | 194204     | 194573     |
| Inflow from Syrdarya River* | March      | April      | May        | June       | August     |            |
| (mln m <sup>3</sup> )       | 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 September, with the inflow from the Syr Darya River decreasing to 66 million m<sup>3</sup>, the open water surface area decreased to 286,949 ha, while the dried area increased to 194,573 ha. The wetland area increased to 59,925 ha.

**Prepared by:**

L. Sichugova

I. Ruziev