

Absheron Peninsula

The Absheron Peninsula, gathered round the eastern part of shore of Caspian Sea and the South-eastern end of Caucasus was formed as the very old territory of civilization.

The length of the peninsula is about 60 km; the widest point alongside the parallel is taken more than 30 km. The space of the Peninsula as the general physical-geographical unit is approved as 2 thousand km².

As the economical zoning unit, it is related to Absheron economic district in the latest network set by the Ministry of Economic Development.

The territory of the peninsula includes Gobustan, as the last border of Absheron physical-geographical unit in the west, the Siyazan administrative district in the North and the Caspian Sea in the East.

Generally the Absheron Peninsula territory is related to the spaces and housing units belonging to the Baku and Sumgait territorial units.

This space and the total territory are formed as the industrial and population district surrounding the Baku-Sumgait agglomeration.

Based on the information provided by the State Statistical Committee, 2,13 thousand km² of the agglomeration is related to the Baku administrative district and 0, 08 thousand km² to the Sumgait administrative district.

Baku administrative district includes 11 districts:

Binagadi district	0, 17 thousand km ²
Azizbayov district	0,4 thousand km ²
Khatai district	0,03 thousand km ²
Garadagh district	1,08 thousand km ²
Narimanov district	0,03 thousand km ²
Nasimi district	0,01 thousand km ²
Nizami district	0,02 thousand km ²
Sabunchu district	0, 24 thousand km ²
Sabail district	0,03 thousand km ²
Surakhani district	0,10 thousand km ²
Yasamal district	0,02 thousand km ²

And 48 settlements of the city type

And Sumgait includes 2 settlements of the city type (Jorat and Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev).

More than 60% of the industrial-production funds and more than 56% of the industrial-production staff is concentrated in the territory of the peninsula.

1. Central zone;
2. Zone of old fields plants and worker settlements
3. The North-eastern zone
4. The South-western zone
5. The South-eastern zone.

The 1st zone: surrounds the territory of the district: Sabail, Nasimi, Yasamal, Narimanov and Khatai. The state authorities, scientific institutions, the machine-building and metal processing, oil refinery and oil chemistry plants are located in this zone. The oil fields and the ship repair enterprises are located mainly in the territory of Sabail district. The old architectural monuments in the Absheron Peninsula are in this territory too.

The 2nd zone: This zone embraces the territory of Sabunchu, Binagadi and Surakhani districts. It is the first oil production zone of the Absheron Peninsula. Presently, the oil and gas production administrations, such as Balakhanineft, Surakhanineft and Binagadineft are located here.

The 3rd zone: This zone surrounds the territory of Azizbayov district including the new oil fields, the resort and the country agricultural zone, the Absheron archipelago and partially the Baku archipelago.

The 4th zone: embraces the territory of Garadagh district including the greater part of Baku archipelago. The oil and gas production administrations, such as Garadaghneft and Narimanovneft are located in this zone.

The 5th zone: It is located in 35 km North-western from Baku city, in the western shore of the Caspian Sea in the plain which is located at mouth of the Sumgaitchay river.

- The deposits Buzovna, Mashtaga, Garadagh and Zira are amongst the main production zone.
- And after 1949, the deposits located in the Caspian Sea are widely exploited.
- As a result, there was created favorable conditions for concentration of the enterprises producing mineral oils more than in 40 names, oil machine-building products in 85 names, approximately 40 electrical engineering, instrument-making and other products.

Due to the long-term activity, there was formed the degraded subtropical landscape exceeding 33,3 thousand ha in the Absheron Peninsula that more than 10,6 thousand ha of which or 31,8% is related to Balakhani, Surakhani, Binagadi, Bibiheybat and other oil fields including to the oil and gas production districts of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic. Within a long term, the oil and gas production caused the formation of wide zones polluted by the oil, bed's waters and the waste in these territories.

The availability of the ecological problems in the Absheron Peninsula is a result of the historical development. It was first of all related to the development of the oil and gas industry and in the next stages it was exerted influence of the other industries.

- In 1813, the second period of occurrence of the ecological problems in the Absheron Peninsula is started.
- In 1849 the annual oil production capacity reached 200-300 thousand poods.
- In 1847, based on the mechanical method, the first oil well and in 1871 the first oil derricks in Balakhani were given a start.
- In 1879, there were 9 oil derricks, in 1900 – 1710 derricks and the oil production reached 667,1 million poods in 1901.
- The first oil processing plant was established in 1859 in Surakhani and the oil processing district "Gara shahar" in 1873.
- Because of the carelessness of the tsar government and the oil industries as regards the general accomplishment affairs, the absence of the city sewerage net and not taking into consideration of the primitive security requirements in the oil production caused the complication of the ecological condition.
- The open flowing method applied in the production was the factor regulating the ecological problems.
- As a result, the oil puddles in the peninsula increased the space of polluted land lots.

By creation of the Soviet government in Azerbaijan and making of investment to the oil production after 1920 there was started the III stage of the ecological problems in the territory of Absheron Peninsula.

The oil industry has been developed so rapidly that within 1941-1945 the Absheron Peninsula produced a half of the oil extracted in Soviet Union. In this period, the ecological problems reached the critical point and the oil pollution in Absheron Peninsula.

From 1970, the 4th stage of the outbreak of ecological problems in Absheron Peninsula was begun. There was started to the intensive activity in the direction of resolution of ecological problems.

Starting from this period, there was started to mounting of the oil and chemistry enterprises.

Within these years, there were approved decisions of cleaning of the polluted soils.

By destruction of the Soviet Union, the execution of these decisions remained unfinished.

- as a result of active oil and gas production;
- as a result of widening of housing massive-the urbanization process, the garbage waste waters, pouring or placing of the solid garbage waste to the surrounding territories without utilization.
- The environment of the Absheron Peninsula was exerted negative influences as a result of the pollution of the atmosphere basin and the soils at the expense of industrial enterprises waste furnished weakly with the gas and dust arrester equipment and increasing of the heavy metals concentration.
- As a result of carrying out of the reclamation measures after using the workshop of construction materials production;

- It is known that the influence of oil and gas production and the exploring-drilling enterprises in Absheron peninsula to the environment is one of the main factors.

- The oil production having spacious history of development caused the expansion of the territories polluted by the oil, bedded waters and other typical wastes and the fields being under the bedded waters.