



1. In groups of 3-4 brainstorm all the associations you can think of for the following words (emotions, collocations, words with similar meanings).

**VOLUNTEER**

**ANAPA**

**CLEANUP EFFORTS**

**TOURISM**

**ENVIRONMENT**



2. What are you going to read about? What do you know about this problem?

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

I know

I'd like to know

I've learnt



3. Look through the text and say whether your predictions and ideas in the first and second columns are confirmed.



4. Match the following words to their definitions. Use your dictionary if necessary.

<b>1. oil spill</b>	a. necessary as a duty or responsibility.
<b>2. rescue</b>	b. the ability to recover quickly from difficulties.
<b>3. resilience</b>	c. the introduction of harmful materials into the environment, making it dirty or unhealthy.
<b>4. acute</b>	d. animals and plants that live naturally in their environment without human influence.
<b>5. mitigate</b>	e. an event where oil accidentally leaks into the water.
<b>6. sustainability</b>	f. made dirty or unsafe by harmful substances.
<b>7. habitat</b>	g. the practice of using resources in a way that does not harm future generations.
<b>8. contaminated</b>	h. actions taken to correct or improve a problem, especially related to the environment.
<b>9. exposure</b>	i. the natural home of an animal or plant
<b>10. pollution</b>	j. being in contact with something dangerous or harmful.
<b>11. wildlife</b>	k. to save someone or something from danger.
<b>12. incumbent</b>	l. very serious or severe but usually short-term.
<b>13. remediation</b>	m. to make a problem less severe.



### 5. Are these statements true or false?

- ☐ 1. The oil spill in Anapa was caused by the sinking of two oil tankers.
- ☐ 2. Volunteers were not allowed to participate in the cleanup efforts.
- ☐ 3. The mayor of Novorossiysk expressed concern about the weather affecting rescue operations.
- ☐ 4. The cleanup efforts have been completely successful with no challenges.
- ☐ 5. Dolphins are at risk due to pollution from the oil spill.
- ☐ 6. The local community has shown little interest in helping with the recovery efforts.
- ☐ 7. Experts believe that the ecological situation will improve by summer.



**6. Use the following symbols while reading the text. Compare and explain your responses in small groups before reporting back.**

- ✓ = I agree with this.
- ✗ = I disagree with this.
- ? = I don't understand fully.
- Λ = I need/want more explanation.
- ↔ = Compare this to ...
- ! = This is surprising / shocking.
- lol = This is funny.



## 7. Answer the questions in small groups.

1. What caused the environmental crisis in Anapa, Russia?
2. How much oil was spilled onto the Black Sea coastline, and what were the impacts on the local environment and wildlife?
3. How did the volunteers and local authorities respond to the oil spill disaster?
4. What were some of the challenges faced by the cleanup efforts, and how did the different organizations collaborate to address them?
5. What are the potential long-term ecological consequences of the oil spill, and what are the experts' perspectives on the recovery timeline?
6. What is the role of scientists and governmental agencies in assessing and monitoring the health of the ecosystem during the recovery process?
7. What is the overall outlook for Anapa's future, and how are the community and volunteers working to restore the region's natural beauty and vibrancy?



**8. Read the text and make any notes you want. In pairs compare your ideas about what to include in the retelling. Compare your answers with another pair and correct any factual inaccuracies if necessary.**



**9. Read these opinions. Which one do you agree with the most and why? Think about what contribution you can make to improve the environmental crises described in the article. What environmental problems do you consider the most important and why?**

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«Honestly, I don't see how all these volunteers can actually fix the damage from that oil spill. I can't help but feel this situation is a lost cause»  
— Mikhail

”

“

«I think it's amazing what the volunteers are doing! This effort to save Anapa gives me so much hope, and I believe that together we can bring back the beauty of our coastline. Every little bit helps!»

— Svetlana

”

“

«I'm really not sure how to feel about all this. While I admire the volunteers, I worry if they have enough resources. When I helped out during a flood clean-up, the community spirit was fantastic, but there were still so many problems to face.»

— Alexei

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# THE PINNACLE GAZETTE

**BETA**

by Evrim Ağacı

18 December 2024

## Anapa Struggles After Major Oil Spill Disaster

### Volunteers Unite to Combat Environmental Crisis, With Hope for Recovery This Summer

ANAPA, RUSSIA - An environmental crisis hit the coastal city of Anapa on December 15, 2024, following the sinking of two oil tankers, "Volgoneft 212" and "Volgoneft 239," in the Kerch Strait. This tragic event resulted in approximately 3,700 tons of oil spilling onto the Black Sea coastline, prompting immediate action from over 4,000 volunteers associated with the #MYVMESTE movement, alongside local authorities and rescue teams.

The oil spill extended 40 kilometers along the shoreline, resulting not only in destruction of pristine beaches but posing significant threats to local wildlife, including dolphins and seabirds. Volunteers quickly mobilized to mitigate the environmental disaster, using gloves, shovels, bags, and respirators to clean affected areas. Many were advised to bring warm clothing and waterproof shoes since nighttime temperatures dropped significantly on the region's coast.

One of the prominent figures coordinating relief efforts is Evgeny Vitisho, chairman of the Permanent Working Group on Ecology of the Human Rights Council for the Krasnodar Territory. Vitisho emphasized the urgency of their mission: "Our volunteers are washing the birds and redirecting them to the rehabilitation center for birds in Krasnodar." With numerous oil-covered birds appearing along the coastline, prompt action was necessary to clean and rescue them before it was too late.

Cleanup efforts have already yielded notable results. By December 18, volunteers had searched over 29 kilometers of the coastline, establishing barriers to contain the spread of the oil at strategic points like Bugaz Spit, and successfully clearing away more than 12 tons of contaminated sand. Yet the operation remains challenging, complicated by adverse weather conditions and sporadic storms.

Andrey Kravchenko, mayor of Novorossiysk, highlighted the collaborative effort involved: "The situation is complicated, with wind and storm disrupting the rescue efforts. If additional help is needed, we are prepared to send more support from Novorossiysk." Volunteers have amassed at various coordination points, including locations in nearby settlements, showcasing remarkable community resilience during this crisis.

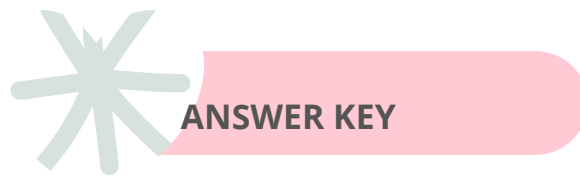
While the cleanup is underway, the ecological ramifications are concerning. Dmitry Glazov, a researcher at the Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, noted the precarious situation for dolphins: "Pollution from petroleum products has affected the key habitat for dolphins along the Black Sea coast. It poses both risks of toxin accumulation through contaminated food sources and potential burns from exposure to oil spills."

An expert perspective has also been provided by Pyotr Zavyalov, oceanologist at the Russian Academy of Sciences. Zavyalov explained the longer-term outlook for recovery, referencing past similar incidents: "I think it will recover by summer; there should be no acute pollution by then." He compared the current situation to the 2007 tanker disaster, affirming the ecological resilience of the marine environment, albeit requiring continued remediation efforts for optimal recovery.

Efforts to assess and monitor the health of the ecosystem will remain incumbent on scientists and governmental agencies, ensuring not only immediate responses but also long-term recovery and sustainability of Anapa's coastal environment. The calling for volunteers remains strong, as local organizations urge residents and visitors alike to lend their support during this time.

While the current challenges are significant, the commitment to recovery holds promise for Anapa's future, ensuring its shores remain a thriving habitat and tourist haven come summer, restoring the natural beauty and vibrancy of the region.

Link: <https://evrimagaci.org/tpg/anapa-struggles-after-major-oil-spill-disaster-97147?srltid=AfmBOoruy9e9ib6lcdZ41xUocTrkiLxqcVAosf0PYHXwXWgl6kF51D07>



**4. Match the following words to their definitions. Use your dictionary if necessary.**

- 1) e
- 2) k
- 3) b
- 4) l
- 5) m
- 6) g
- 7) i
- 8) f
- 9) j
- 10) c
- 11) d
- 12) a
- 13) h

**5. Are these statements true or false?**

- 1. True - The text states that the oil spill was caused by the sinking of two oil tankers.
- 2. False - The text mentions that over 4,000 volunteers participated in the cleanup efforts.
- 3. True - The text indicates that the mayor highlighted the complications caused by wind and storms.
- 4. False - The text describes ongoing challenges in the cleanup efforts due to adverse weather conditions.
- 5. True - The text notes that pollution from petroleum products poses risks to dolphins.
- 6. False - The text emphasizes the remarkable community resilience and the strong calling for volunteers.
- 7. True - The text mentions that experts believe the ecological situation will recover by summer.