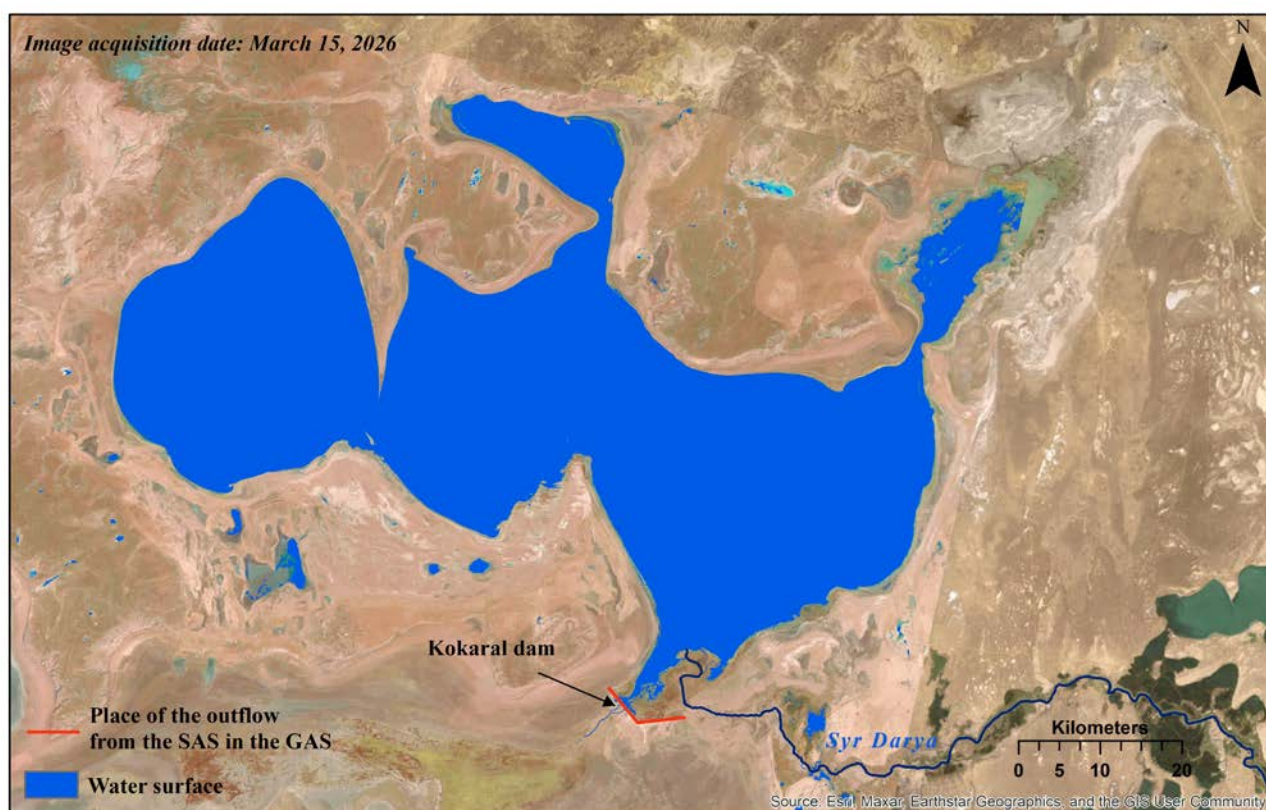


Monitoring of changes in the area of water surface and wetlands within the Small Aral Sea

SIC experts keep regular monitoring over the Small Aral Sea by using the Landsat 8-9 images. The areas of wetlands and open water surfaces, and dried territories were determined by the image dated March 16, 2026.



Small Aral Sea, Landsat 8 (March 16, 2026)

Table

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

	05.10.2025	23.11.2025	16.03.2026
Wetland	39698	52413	54703
Water surface	298312	299410	309367
Dry land	203437	189624	177377
Inflow from Syrdarya River* (mln m ³)	September	October	February
	37	35	149

* Kazhydromet data

The water surface area of the Small Aral Sea increased from 298.3 to 309.4 thousand hectares during the period from October 2025 to March 2026, indicating a positive trend and improved water availability in the water body. The total increase in the water surface area amounted to about 11.1 thousand hectares.

A particularly noticeable increase occurred during the winter period, which is associated with higher inflow from the Syr Darya River. While inflow in September and October 2025 amounted to 37 and 35 million m³, respectively, it increased to 149 million m³ in February 2026, significantly influencing the hydrological regime of the reservoir.

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