

Basra

Kuwait-Iraq relations under strain

Iraq has limited access to Persian Gulf, with only two channels – Khor Abdullah and Shatt al-Arab – deep enough for large vessels to transit

Tensions are increasing over Kuwait's building of a port on Bubiyan Island, near Iraq's planned Grand al-Faw terminal. Kuwait says its port will benefit the wider region but Baghdad argues it will block waterways and strangle its own facility

Umm Qasr:
Iraq's only deepwater port

Grand al-Faw: Expansion of terminal expected to begin next year

Shatt al-Arab

KUWAIT

I R A Q

AL FAW PENINSULA

I R A N

Khor Abdullah

BUBIYAN ISLAND

Mubarak al-Kabir:
\$1.1bn port due for completion in 2016

PERSIAN GULF

10km
6 miles

Enlarged area

Baghdad

IRAN

IRAQ

SAUDI ARABIA

KUWAIT