

Naval clash raises Moscow-Kiev tensions

1 Nov 25: Three Ukrainian vessels – tug boat and two gunboats – leave Odessa bound for Mariupol

2 Moscow blocks Kerch Strait with tanker, saying Ukrainian ships entered Russian territorial waters without permission

3 Russian patrol boats seize ships after opening fire. Ukrainian navy says six sailors injured – Russia puts figure at three



Moscow accuses Ukraine of “pre-planned provocation”, but Kiev claims it informed Russians in advance of plan to move ships

Odessa: Ukraine’s main naval base since loss of Crimea

Sea of Azov: 80% of Ukraine’s exports pass through sea

CRIMEA
Annexed by Russia in 2014.
40,000 Russian troops stationed

Sevastopol:
HQ of Russia’s Black Sea Fleet

NAVAL FORCES IN BLACK SEA*

Ukraine

66 vessels
11,000 service members

Russia

2,800 vessels
25,000 service members

UKRAINE

Area held by Russian-backed separatists



RUSSIA

At least 10 warships and up to 40 patrol boats reportedly deployed to Sea of Azov in recent months

Kerch Strait Bridge:

New bridge has cut cargo shipments to Mariupol by 27% and Berdyansk by 47% since construction began in 2015, costing Ukraine up to \$40m every year