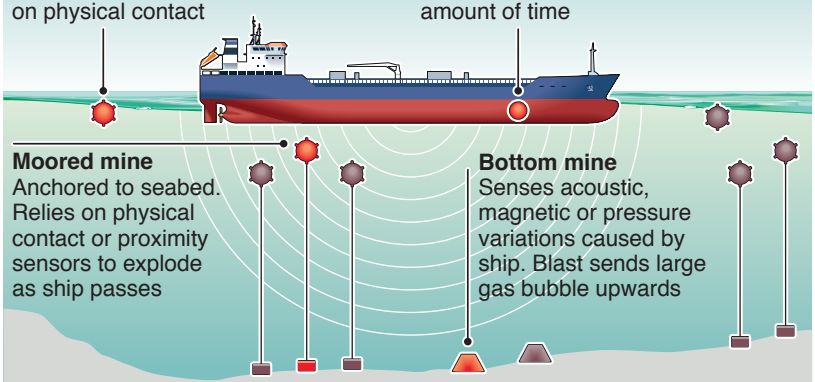
# Hormuz mine clearance could take weeks

**Ensuring the Strait of Hormuz is safe from mines could delay a return to normal shipping traffic by weeks following a deal to reopen the strategic waterway**

## TYPES OF NAVAL MINES

**Drifting mine:** Floats on or just below sea surface and explodes on physical contact

**Limpet mine:** Explosive charge attached to ship by divers or small boats. Detonates after preset amount of time

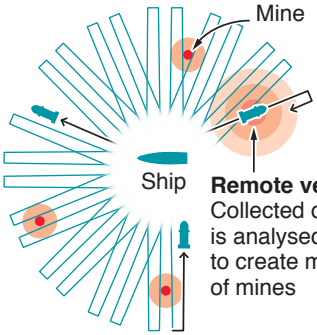


**Moored mine**
Anchored to seabed. Relies on physical contact or proximity sensors to explode as ship passes

**Bottom mine**
Senses acoustic, magnetic or pressure variations caused by ship. Blast sends large gas bubble upwards

Minimum depth of Strait of Hormuz shipping channels: **45-60m**

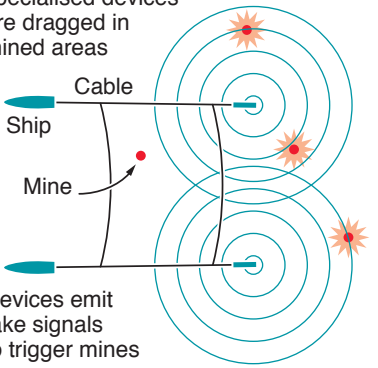
**MINE HUNTING:** Ship launches remote vehicle equipped with sonar to scan area autonomously following back-and-forth pattern




**Remote vehicle**
Collected data is analysed to create map of mines

**Once found, mines are destroyed by sending explosive devices or divers to disarm them**

**MINESWEEPING:** In most cases, submerged cables attached to specialised devices are dragged in mined areas




Devices emit fake signals to trigger mines

**Can be faster than mine hunting but signals do not always work, so some mines could remain**

Sources: AFP, New York Times, Reuters

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