



Black Sea



Key Points

▪ Physical Geography:

- **Bordering Countries:** Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania.
- Also known as the **Euxine Sea**.
- Surrounded by the **Pontic** (south), **Caucasus** (east), and **Crimean Mountains** (north).
- The **Turkish straits system** - the **Dardanelles**, **Bosporus** and **Marmara Sea** - forms a transitional zone between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
- **Sea of Azov** forms a **northern extension of the Black Sea** linked by the Strait of Kerch.
- **Has anoxic water;** significant absence of oxygen in the water.

▪ Russia - Ukraine Conflict:

- **Area of Russian Military Control in Ukraine:**
 - **[Donbass region, comprising Donetsk and Luhansk](#)** (2022)
 - **Crimea:** Russia annexed Crimea in 2014.
- **[Mariupol and Odessa:](#)** Russia has its focus on:
 - Mariupol, **the Sea of Azov port in Donetsk.**

- Odessa, **to the west of Crimea.**
- **Bosporus and Dardanelles Straits:** The Montreux convention gives Turkey certain control over the passage of warships from the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits that connect the Aegean, Marmara, and Black Sea.
- **Naval Exercise 'Sea Breeze':** Involving NATO states and their allies.
- **Environmental Concern:**
 - **Turkey's Sea of Marmara:** The largest outbreak of 'sea snail'.

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