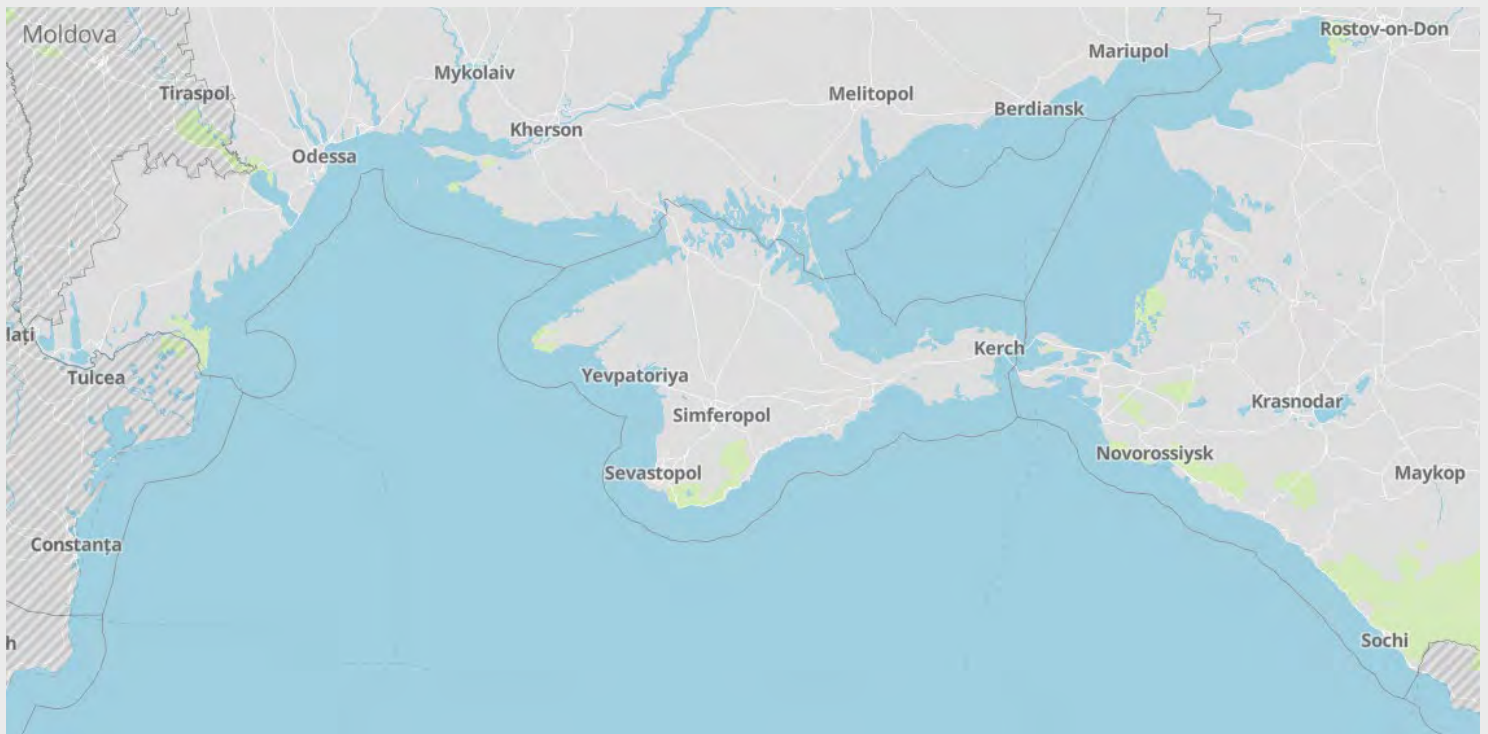


# Northern Black Sea and Russia Ports Threat Assessment

## Port operations and security overview

Date and time of latest intelligence included in this report: 23 November 2023 - 09:00 UTC



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# Overview of current situation

## Black Sea:

Incidents reported during the past week underline the ongoing issues with operating in the north-western Black Sea. This includes port facilities struck as part of an attack on Odessa port and a vessel hitting a mine while transiting south from Ukraine. Further details regarding the incidents can be found at the back of the report.

There were no developments during the past reporting period that change the present threat picture in the Black Sea. Russian forces continued to target Ukrainian infrastructure and Ukrainian forces continued to push toward achieving strategic and military objectives.

Last week's report noted the announcement that Ukraine and a syndicate of United Kingdom marine insurers had settled on a mechanism intended to reduce the war-risk premiums when transiting to Ukrainian Black Sea ports, as part of the Ukrainian 'humanitarian corridor'. It is understood that some details regarding the mechanism are still outstanding but talks are understood to be ongoing to find solutions. However, it is still assessed that until some kind of firm security guarantees addressing possible future Russian forced inspections of vessels trading not only in the NW Black Sea, but also of vessel transiting the Ukrainian Danube ports, will not occur, such incidents would still be deemed likely. It should therefore be assumed that there remains an increased threat towards maritime trade near the conflict area, in particular.

Russian tactics, towards the Ukrainian area of the Black Sea, in attempts to disrupt any scheduled flow of vessels transiting to Ukrainian Black Sea ports, is still assessed as likely to continue.

The continued focus of military operations is still assessed as attempts by both sides to position themselves as the winter weather arrives. Local weather conditions have reportedly affected some areas of the Black Sea including maritime operations involving the Danube and Sulina canals. The previously mentioned announcement by Ukrainian president Zelenskyy that Ukrainian forces would keep up the pressure on the Crimean Peninsula – has again been underlined by recent reporting on Ukrainian troop movements.

Attaining more control of security in the maritime domain, will likely continue to be a key priority for Ukrainian forces, as will provide more definite security circumstances for any future shipping corridor to Ukrainian Black Sea ports. And Russian

forces are therefore also likely to continue to focus on countering the Ukrainian efforts.

A chart of the announced 'humanitarian corridor', as published in the Annex to the IMO Circular Letter No.4748, can be found in Annex 2 of this report.

In relation to previously highlighted announcements by Ukrainian authorities that they are monitoring vessels going to occupied Ukrainian ports, in the Sea of Azov, and these vessels would be seen as legitimate military targets – any actual consequence or enforcement of this remains unclear – although, it is assessed that Ukrainian forces are more likely to target Russian port infrastructure rather than commercial vessels.

Similar to previous weeks, the past week continued to see the Russian military's ongoing targeting of Ukrainian cities across the country, particular focus on the Odessa region and around Kherson. Attacks on Ukrainian ports are known to have affected the power supply, which in turn has halted operations. Given the constant unpredictability, similar future attacks cannot be ruled out. The threat from military operations, particularly in the NW area, but also the wider Black Sea area, is still considered severe. This includes the continued threat of reported sea-mines in the Black Sea and various military operations and engagements in the NW Black Sea which have become more common after the Russian withdrawal from the BSGI. This includes frequent reports of the movement of UKR naval drones and special forces, and Russian assets patrolling to counter these movements. Additional details about recent incidents can be found at the back of this report.

The Ukrainian military continues to launch operations targeting Russian forces in the south and east of Ukraine including in occupied Crimea – which further indicates a likely intension to increase their own control of the area. It seems uncertain that Russian Naval capabilities, at present, can uphold any blockade or strict inspection regime, especially with Ukrainian anti-ship capabilities in place throughout the region. Any overt rhetoric on threats in the area, real or not, are still assessed as a likely attempts to influence threat perception and willingness to undertake voyages, in the wider Black Sea and north of 45-21 in particular.

Any Russian effort, to justify military action or inspections, would likely be to determine if northbound vessels were carrying military hardware or supplies to support the Ukrainian war, this could also include harassment of vessels, as well as firing warning shots. Such incidents are deemed more likely south of 45-21N and in international waters.

North of 45-21N, Russia may in the worst-case scenario, sink merchant vessels. Releasing mines, or other munitions, as mentioned in previous reports, if relying on the use of submarines to do this covertly, thereby maintaining deniability and have the option to blame Ukrainian mines or similar, is also plausible. The use of submarines will likely also be influenced by the risk to surface vessels due to Ukrainian anti-ship capabilities.

The Ukrainian Danube ports are still likely to face possible Russian drone attacks and there is a continued high likelihood of collateral damage to vessels in Ukrainian Danube ports. Nightly attacks regularly occur, and the potential use of ballistic missiles adds to the threat.

Although Bulgaria and Romania are understood to be undertaking counter-mine activities, it remains unclear the extent to which these operate and reports of drifting naval mines at sea, and mine disposals on or near Black Sea coasts continues. While a connection to the war is likely, exact origins of individual mines are uncertain. There is also doubt about the potential number of mines deployed in the Black Sea, but the sightings and ongoing efforts of disposals, highlight that mines are a threat. Storms in the area often lead to new sightings as mines become untethered from anchors and begin to drift.

The current threat picture for the Black Sea remains strongly influenced by both Russian and Ukrainian efforts to assert control and affect shipping. Conflict related implications when operating in the Black Sea are therefore likely to continue – with continued increased naval presence and activity, congestion and delays when transiting the regional straits and rivers, congestion at other regional ports due to volume of diverted traffic, impact of sanctions on trade to and from Russia, and complications with crew changes.

## **Sea of Azov:**

The Sea of Azov is still assessed to be limited in access for normal commercial maritime traffic.

The earlier mentioned announcement by the Ukrainian authorities stating that they are monitoring vessels going to occupied Ukrainian ports, in the Sea of Azov, these vessels would be seen as legitimate military targets – is assessed as a reiteration of the earlier Ukrainian announcement that all vessels transiting to Russian ports would be at risk.

The Ukrainian Sea of Azov ports (Mariupol and Berdyansk) are still controlled and operated by the Russian military and occupation authorities. While the Russians have previously announced the ports

to be open and being rebuilt – with recent claims of increased traffic – the actual operational state is unclear. Vessels given access into these ports are known to have transported stolen Ukrainian cargo, most notably steel and metal products, as well as grain. Naval movements into the ports are likely to occur. Incidents of long-range attacks and sabotage in both cities are known, but unverified.

Traffic is known to be halted on the Kirch Strait bridge, a coveted target by Ukrainian military, and similar situations are likely to occur again in the event of a future attacks or likelihood thereof. Russia has announced that vessels which have loaded anywhere outside of Russia, will not be permitted to pass through the Kerch Strait. Disruption and delays to transits of non-Russian-flagged vessels are known to occur. Direct targeting of Russian (proper) ports, port cities, or nearby areas is generally considered unlikely, although the potential targeting of Russian Black Sea ports is assessed to be more likely. Russian Black Sea ports are understood to be operating at ISPS level 2.

## **BSGI: Black Sea Grain Initiative**

No further news regarding any future incarnation or variation of the previous BSGI, is known and the previous BSGI remains suspended and is unlikely to be revived. Any attempt by the remaining parties to the BSGI (Ukraine, Turkey, the UN) to revive the BSGI without Russian approval is still assessed as unlikely to be successful. Talks are understood to be focusing on alternative options. Any future variation or incarnation of the BSGI, would ideally include some form of security guarantees or measures for the vessels involved.

Referring to the earlier mention of an agreement between Ukraine and United Kingdom based insurers, the Ukrainian 'Humanitarian Corridor', as circulated by the IMO, in its current guise, should still not be seen as direct replacement of the BSGI. The corridor is still understood as a temporary maritime route in the north-western part of the Black Sea, with a stated focus on evacuating ships stuck in the Ukrainian ports – although vessel traffic, now likely to be more than 100, indicates a clear willingness to also utilize the corridor for general exports. Exporting additional Ukraine agricultural produce via the land-routes – such as Poland, Bulgaria, Romania or expanding the current capacity of the Danube continues to be explored as well as any other possible means.

Information regarding past vessel movements and goods transported, as part of the BSGI, can be found on the UN dedicated website below<sup>1</sup>.

<https://www.un.org/en/black-sea-grain-initiative/vessel-movements>

## Ukraine:

Port information is located in the port table.

During a recent visit by the German Defence Minister, it was reported that amongst the topics discussed, were options to increase the security for a future Ukrainian Black Sea export corridor. No further details were provided. However, placed in the context of the previously mentioned agreement between Ukraine and United Kingdom based insurers, the assessment is still that this is part of wider Ukrainian efforts to ensure a continued export of goods. A recent comment by the UN World Food Programme also stressed the need to enable future exports and that there had been 31 attacks against grain production and export facilities in Ukraine – since mid-July 2023. Although Ukrainian ports remain shut for normal operations, Odessa, Pivdennyi (formerly Yuzhny) and Chornomorsk, are handling operations connected to Ukrainian 'Humanitarian Corridor'. Any specific impact of reported attacks on Ukrainian Black Sea and Danube port infrastructure is uncertain, though targeting is likely to continue to complicate operations to varying degrees. Ukrainian Danube ports are reported open and operating, although it is understood that an ongoing shortage of pilots and local weather conditions does cause operational disruption and delays. Future Russian attacks targeting the Ukrainian Danube ports are likely. Attacks targeting Ukrainian Danube port infrastructure has been occurring since the closing of the BSGI, with Russia significantly intensifying drone attacks against the Ukrainian logistics infrastructure near the river. Attacks at night are common, and anti-air defenses in and near the ports often work through the night against Russian drone attacks. Collateral damage to vessels in the ports is possible – either from strikes on the ports, or vessels may be hit by stray or disabled drones.

Russian long-range missile and drone attacks against critical infrastructure, is likely to continue. Russian forces are also likely to increasingly bomb heating and power infrastructure in Ukraine, to put maximum pressure on Ukrainian society, during the winter – for this Ukrainian authorities claim to be better prepared, compared to last year, this will likely be a potential issue for future port operations,

for example in the case of targeting of power and electricity infrastructure, that may cause power failures.

In case of a dramatic change on the ground, Russia may limit the strategic bombing and use the long-range precision weapons and drones against military targets closer to the front-line.

It is assessed that although grain exports play an important role in funding Ukraine's war effort – and will no doubt continue to do so – any future shipping corridor will likely also be important for importing building-materials for the future rebuilding of the country.

With the Ukrainian offensive ongoing, Ukrainian strikes targeting Russian-held infrastructure and logistics hubs have continued. This may also include strikes against port facilities in occupied areas, as well as maritime targets in occupied Crimea.

The main efforts of the Ukrainian offensive are still understood to be concentrating in the south and east. In case of a wider breakthrough in Kherson and/or Zaporizhzhia Oblasts towards Crimea and the Azov Sea, Russian priorities regarding operating the ports of Berdyansk and Mariupol may change.

Martial law has been extended for 90 days, from 16 November 2023 until 14 February 2024 – with some local night-time curfews in place. All Ukrainian ports are operating at ISPS level 3 in accordance with the communication to the IMO by the Ukrainian authorities.

## Russia:

Port information is located in the port table.

Russia introduced a temporary restriction on Ukrainian citizens, which may impact any vessels with Ukrainian crew, going to Russian ports. The Ukrainian effort to continue to attack Crimea and the Kerch Strait, is likely to have exerted a great deal of pressure against the Russian Navy in the NW Black Sea. Especially attacks on Sevastopol, the historic homeport of the Black Sea Fleet, seems to have had a significant effect, as the Russian navy are reported to have retreated from the port and moved its remaining vessels to Novorossiysk further east. This could give the Ukrainian military more freedom to operate in the NW Black Sea, although Russian aviation and other strike capabilities remain in the area.

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<sup>1</sup> Risk Intelligence is not responsible for third party content.

The Ukrainian intent to strike at, and the availability of capabilities, to reach Russian targets highlight that the immediate threat towards Russian Black Sea ports has to be taken into account. With the moving of the Russian Black Sea Navy, Ukraine is likely to focus more on strikes to the East of the Black Sea, and ports in this area.

While direct targeting of proper civilian vessels is still assessed as unlikely, collateral damage or mistaken targeting is possible, especially as Ukraine are willing to attack "civilian" cargo vessels operated by the Russian military – such vessels are often sanctioned due to activities related to the Syrian Civil War and the transport of military equipment.

It is uncertain to what degree countermeasures and security will impact operations in Russian ports. However, reports indicate that the Russian authorities have raised security concerns over the fear of UKR naval drones. An example is the port of Feodosia near Kerch, where there now is a ban on entering the waters closer than 1km of the port in small vessels and crafts. This adds to previous reports of gunfire in Feodosia and various reports of drone sightings, which are known to result in the closure of the Kerch Strait Bridge. The actual presence or sightings of drones are uncertain.

Overall, because of the threat to Russian ports, and the increased security, there is a chance that guards and troops will be overly nervous or paranoid about attacks and security incidents. The hyper-vigilant state can lead security personnel to perceive benign actions or individuals as potential threats, thus increasing the likelihood of unjustified use of force – this extends to sailors and vessels.

There are also known reports of Russia sinking some old ferries or similar in the Kerch Strait, as an attempt to create a bulwark against the Ukrainian naval drones. While this most likely won't affect the regular shipping lane underneath the bridge, it highlights that Russia are stepping up security and are taking the threat of Ukrainian drones extremely seriously.

With the ongoing Ukrainian counter-offensive, there has also been an increase in strikes and sabotage against Russian infrastructure, logistics hubs and recruitment centers inside Russia. This includes oil terminals near ports. Such attacks are likely to continue for as long as Ukraine need to keep a high pressure on Russian forces and supply-lines – likely continuing over the Autumn of 2023. Reports continue to note the issues with Russian spoofing of AIS signals in the Black Sea.

Extra scrutiny against crew, and passengers from the West in Russian ports, has previously occurred. Extra focus is expected against Ukrainian

crewmembers, who are required to be brought ashore and questioned by Russian authorities before berthing. Some crews on merchant vessels in the Black Sea, are known to have been questioned on attitude towards Russia and the invasion of Ukraine. Content on phones and electronic devices, as well as messages on social media and other text services may be investigated to establish anti-Russian sentiment.

Reports of activism against vessels transporting cargo to or from Russia are known. This is predominately when vessels with Russian cargo call European or western ports. Similarly, there have been previous incidents of vessels carrying oil and gas products from Russia being targeted by environmental/peace activists at sea or while underway as recently illustrated by the cruise ship calling at Batumi. Port workers and industrial action in the form of refusal to service the vessels once it lands in Western ports, is also likely. Hacktivists targeting companies trading with Russia cannot be ruled out.

## Outlook:

Regional weather conditions have had a reported impact on both maritime and military operations during the past week. This is to be expected given the season. Reported incidents continue underline the general current threat picture, which is assessed to remain for the coming week – with the additional caveat that unknown events may unfold. Any significant changes to the present circumstances are not currently assessed as likely. Russian targeting of Ukrainian infrastructure, including port facilities, is likely to continue to varying degrees – throughout the country. If Russia is indeed attempting to disrupt the vessels transiting the Ukrainian 'humanitarian corridor', this is likely also an attempt to distract the Ukrainian military from their own operations in the NW Black Sea – which continues to indicate an increased focus on establishing area control. Russian efforts to counter the Ukrainian offensive operations are still likely to be stepped up, possibly by increased targeting of civilian infrastructure.

It is understood that some details are still being negotiated regarding the announced agreement between Ukraine and a United Kingdom based insurance syndicate. However, as noted previously, such a mechanism does not, in isolation, change the actual threat picture. The volatility in relation to operating in the Black Sea is unlikely to change, as both Ukraine and Russia will attempt to assert dominance and disrupt the activities of the other side as much as possible.

Given the likely continued focus by the Russian military to target Ukrainian port facilities, to keep the pressure on Ukrainian abilities to export their goods – and if the disruption of port operations, due to the shelling, is not considered to be effective enough, additional intensity or other tactics, such as forced inspections or direct attacks on merchant vessels, may become more likely, as it seems the ultimate goal of the Russian efforts are to deny Ukraine the income from their exports. Any tacit agreement from the Russians on transits is unlikely unless outside pressure or negotiated separately.

The Ukrainian ground-offensive is likely to continue to include future areal and naval drone strikes, weather permitting, against Russian logistics infrastructure and storage sites to disrupt Russian supply-lines and military operations in Southern Ukraine. Much of this can be focused on the Sea of Azov and Crimea, and future major attacks against maritime infrastructure to keep the pressure on Russian supply-lines the area, are likely.

Although the Russian authorities appear to rule out any future “official” mobilization of Russian citizens, other means are being utilized, such as the legislative changes, or other means in attempts to achieve the same conscription goals.

Future sanctions towards Russia may affect the overall security dynamics of the Black Sea. If further sanctions mount, Russia could still respond by restricting Russian ports for vessels affiliated with or connected to EU/NATO/Western countries or flags. In such a scenario, any effect on vessels in Russian ports is uncertain, although detention of vessels could be a possibility – threats of this have been reported. Russian authorities might do extensive checks and controls of western vessels as a form of harassment.

The war in Ukraine has proven it can take on additional dimensions – with the likely example of the sabotage of the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines in the Baltic Sea, in late September 2022 – this means that additional hybrid-warfare means may be used not just in relation to Ukraine and the Black Sea, but also elsewhere in the world- especially where the international tensions between Russia and the West/NATO are prevalent. These may include, but are not limited to, harassment, espionage, cyberattacks, and sabotage of and against maritime assets and infrastructure. This has the potential to affect maritime security in a negative way.

**Annex 1 – Illustration of reported mined areas**

**Annex 2 – Announced temporary corridor from UKR Black Sea ports**

**Annex 3 – Reported Kerch Strait inspection area**

**Annex 4 – Incidents**

## Ukraine and northern Black Sea ports

Refer to the following page for definitions and information on sanctions/commercial restrictions

Port	Current port situation	Current local situation	Operations	Security
<b>Odessa</b>	Regular cargo operations understood suspended for commercial operations, but operations related to the unilateral UKR corridor are known.	Russian strikes do occur against targets in the Odessa Oblast, including some direct targeting of Odessa city and port facilities. Further targeting and increased focus as part of military operations cannot be ruled out.		
<b>Pivdenny</b>	Regular cargo operations understood suspended for commercial operations, but operations related to the unilateral UKR corridor are known.	Located in the Odessa Oblast where Russian strikes have taken place, including in the nearby city of Yuzhny. Further targeting in the area and increased focus as part of military operations cannot be ruled out.		
<b>Mykolaiv</b>	Closed. Cargo operations suspended for commercial operations.	In control of Ukrainian forces, but strikes and shelling, by Russian forces, of targets in or near the city, has been reported.		
<b>Mariupol</b>	Disputed operational status.	Controlled by Russian forces and part of annexed territory. Actual operational status is disputed with Russian authorities reporting the port to be open, although this is with very limited traffic prioritized by the Russian state. Reports indicate rebuilding of the port facilities by Russian military and contractors.		
<b>Chornomorsk</b>	Regular cargo operations understood suspended for commercial operations, but operations related to the unilateral UKR corridor are known.	Russian strikes have occurred against targets in the Odessa Oblast. Further targeting in the area and increased focus as part of military operations cannot be ruled out.		
<b>Ukraine Danube ports</b>	Ports of Reni, Izmail, Reni and Ust-Dunaisk are reported operating and handling ship calls via the Danube, and the Sulina and Bystre Canals.	Russian strikes do occur against the port of Reni and Izmail. Previous incidents indicate a Russian priority of targeting the logistics infrastructure on or near the Danube, including port infrastructure. Collateral damage to vessels is possible. Local weather conditions and pilot shortages also impact maritime operations.  ISPS Level 3 is in place, as communicated by the Ukrainian authorities. Delays and congestion have been reported in relation to port and canal operations.		

Port	Current port situation	Current local situation	Operations	Security
<b>Kerch Strait</b>	Open for navigation within but closed for unauthorised transit. Ports located within the Strait are reported to be operating.  Inspection regime and additional security measures are in place.	UKR naval drone or missile strikes against the Kerch Strait Bridge are likely. Attacks are less likely to directly target commercial maritime traffic, although collateral damage cannot be ruled out, with Ukrainian authorities reiterating the threat towards vessels carrying military related equipment to Ukrainian Azov ports Ukrainian attacks against naval or state-affiliated vessels, and port infrastructure, using naval drones or cruise missiles, is possible. Russia has announced transit restriction of vessels which are not loaded in Russian ports. Scrutiny against crew is possible *. See Annex 3 for reported Kerch Strait inspection area.		
<b>Russian Black Sea ports</b>	Open with restrictions. Additional security measures are in place.	Ports operating at ISPS level 2, some operational delays possible. Collateral damage to vessels may occur in case of incidents. Scrutiny against crew is possible *. Ukrainian attacks against naval or state-affiliated vessels, and port infrastructure, using naval drones or cruise missiles, is possible.		
<b>Russian Sea of Azov ports</b>	Open with restrictions. Sea of Azov is currently closed to unauthorized navigation by the Russian authorities. Additional security measures are in place.	Ports operating at ISPS level 2, some operational delays possible. Collateral damage to vessels may occur in case of incidents. Scrutiny against crew is possible *. Ukrainian attacks against naval or state-affiliated vessels, and port infrastructure, using naval drones or cruise missiles, is possible.		
<b>Temporary corridor from UKR Black Sea ports</b>	Operational status is reported to be open – though influenced by operational circumstances in the NW Black Sea.	Operational, but transits are believed to be on a case-by-case basis. Sources indicate limited UKR escorts in the form of RHIBs. Any tacit agreement from Russia on current transits are unknown, and further Russian acceptance is unclear if the increased tempo of Ukrainian strikes on Russian assets in the Black Sea continues. Military activity in and near the corridor is possible.		
<b>Constanta</b>	Open.	Operating, with additional cargo diverted to Constanta due to closed Ukrainian ports. Congestion should be expected, and although this is being managed, it could lead to delays.		

\* Constraints and demands related to vessels with Ukrainian crewmembers. Russian crew with previous military service may be questioned by authorities withheld as part of Russian mobilization efforts. \*\* Risk Intelligence is not responsible for third party content.



# Operations and Security definitions

## Operations:

**Green** – Operations in the area are ongoing normally with no significant issues.

**Yellow** – Some delays or disruptions in the area may be expected, which could be due to limitations to, for example, port operations and/or congestion in the area, or other difficulties with access or operating at the required ISPS level or complying with other procedures either at port or offshore.

**Red** – Operations have been significantly disrupted and ports or areas might be closed or only partially operating due to restrictions, blockades, lack of functioning infrastructure, personnel disruptions, and access concerns, or other issues preventing all or most operations.

## Security:

**Green** – The area is secure and there are no direct or indirect security threats in the port vicinity or offshore area. Low threat to vessels/personnel.

**Yellow** – There are no direct security threats but there are possible indirect threats in the vicinity, particularly but not limited to conflict taking place in proximity either on land or offshore. Moderate threat to vessels/personnel.

**Red** – Direct threats are possible to the port or area and/or its immediate approaches, including collateral damage in the immediate area or direct attacks that could target infrastructure and vessels at berth/anchorages/underway. High threat to vessels/personnel.

## Note on sanctions and commercial restrictions

Sanctions and commercial restrictions are being imposed on Russia in response to its invasion. These sanctions are evolving and will affect ongoing business operations in many complex legal ways. Sanctions are being applied to individual Russians, business entities, and to certain Russian export products (such as oil products). There are also restrictions on specific nationalities (such as US citizens) engaging in certain activities, restrictions on payments (in certain currencies and through certain institutions), and restrictions on Russia's import of particular dual-use items and technologies. Port entry bans for Russian vessels are being implemented (in the UK, for example).

The fine print of sanctions and restrictions might affect chartering arrangements in unexpected ways, depending on the connection to Russia. These issues, as well as insurance issues for operating in war risk areas, are not covered in this report and might need to be assessed separately to reduce the risk of exposure.

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# Annex 1:

## Reported mined areas



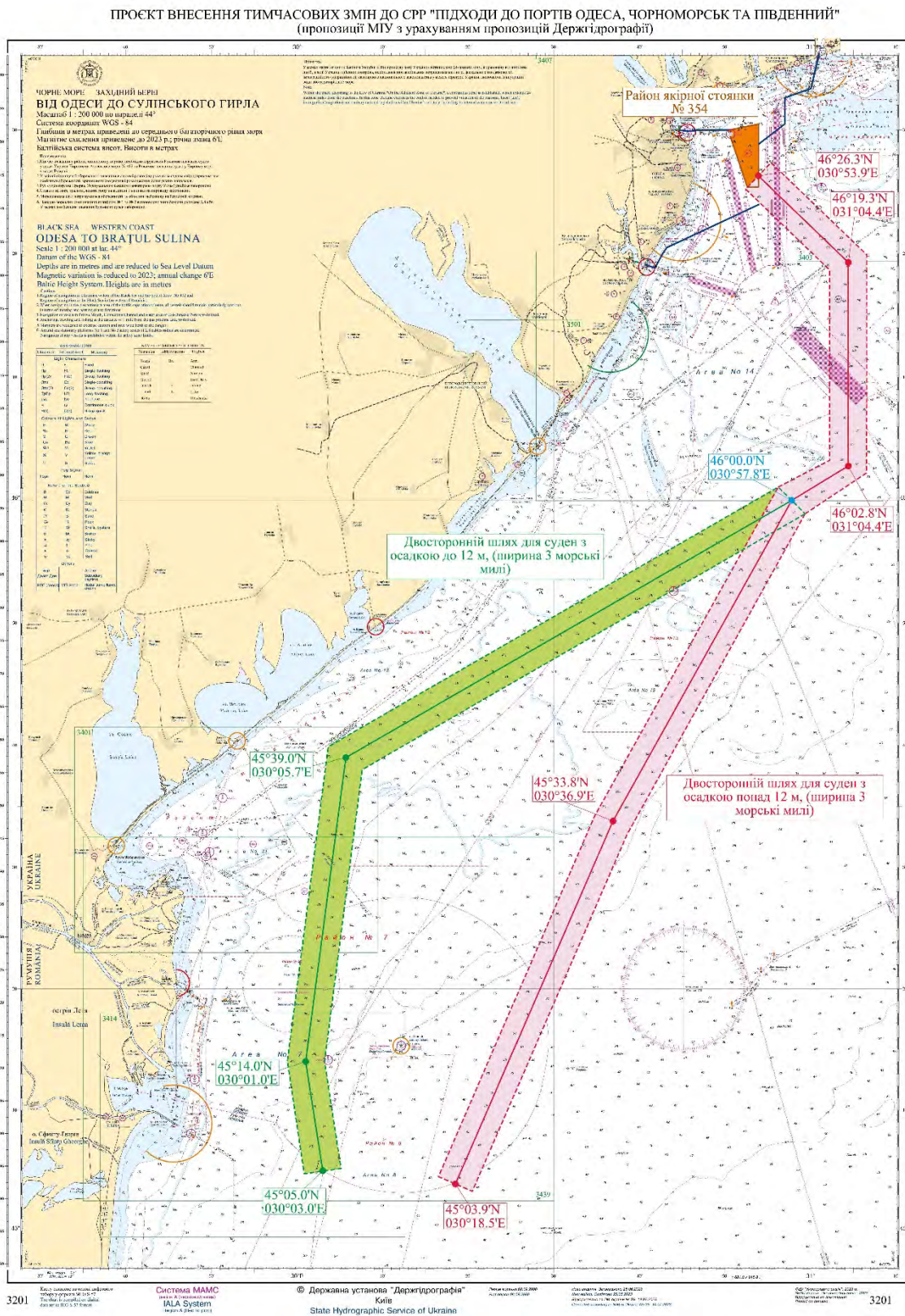
*Risk Intelligence (Illustration for visual guidance only)*

NAVAREA III: See above for visual guidance on mined areas according to the Spanish flag administration (NAVAREA III 0092).

Mined areas are most likely a combination of deeper sea mines and shallow water mines for anti-amphibious operations as well as on beaches. Mines in the sea are most likely cabled or anchored and under control.

Please also note that active NAVAREA III warnings include a warning of possible drifting mines (NAVAREA III 0122) for Northwest, West, and Southwest areas of the Black Sea.

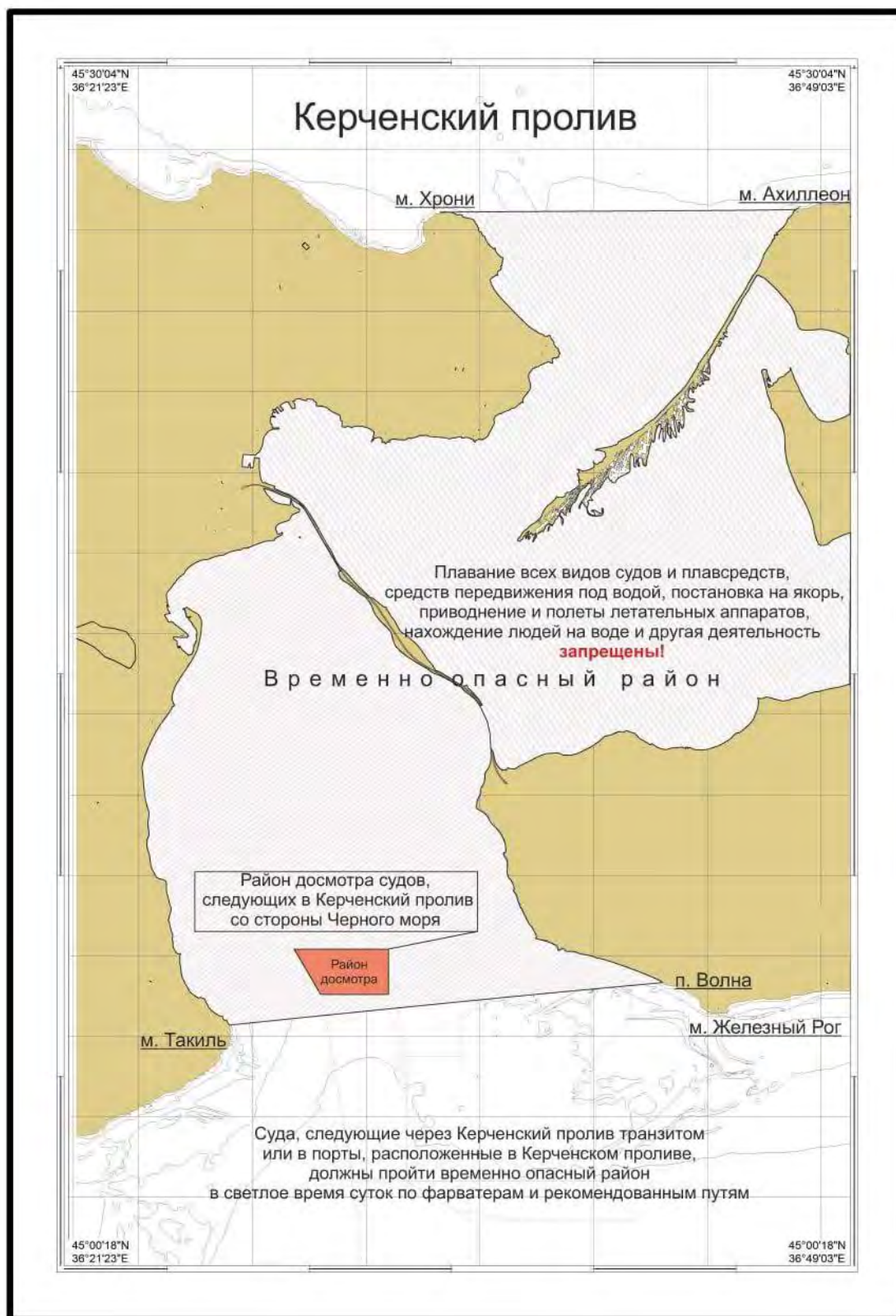
# Annex 2:



The above chart shows the announced temporary routes for civilian vessels to and from Ukrainian Black Sea ports. The Ukrainian Navy emphasizes that war risks, including mines, remain. Further details can be found in the IMO Circular Letter No.4748 (Source: IMO Illustration for visual guidance only)

## Annex 3:

Reported Kerch Strait inspection area, as announced by the Russian authorities 02 August 2023.



# RiskIntelligence



## #1 Russia claims air and sea drone attacks on Crimea repelled



22 November 2023

Counter insurgency/Military operation

**Region:** Europe

**Area:** Black Sea

Unconfirmed aerial and waterborne drone attacks targeting sites on Crimea, Ukraine were reportedly repelled by Russian forces at unknown times on 22 November 2023.

Statements reportedly made by the Russian Defense Ministry indicated that Russian forces had destroyed four Ukrainian naval drones approaching Crimea in the Black Sea and downed three aerial unmanned vehicles over the annexed peninsula. One statement reportedly said that, "Four unmanned Ukrainian Navy vessels were detected in the western part of the Black Sea heading towards the Crimean peninsula." Another statement reportedly said that, "Three Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles were destroyed over the territory of the Republic of Crimea by air defence units on duty." Ukraine has not confirmed Russia's claims.

**IMO:** N/A

**Call Sign:** N/A

**Marker Position:** 45° 5' 40" N 33° 35' 31" E

## #2 Port facilities in Odessa hit in Russian strike



21 November 2023  
Counter insurgency/Military operation

**Region:** Europe  
**Area:** Black Sea

Port facilities in Odessa, Ukraine, were reportedly hit in a Russian strike at an unknown time during the evening of 21 November 2023.

According to reports from official Ukrainian sources undisclosed parts of the port infrastructure were struck and damaged by Russian X-31 missiles.

The extent of damage was not disclosed and there were no reports of injuries.

**Marker Position:** 46° 30' 5" N 30° 45' 2" E

### #3 Bulk carrier GEORGIA S reports explosion



16 November 2023  
Counter insurgency/Military operation

**Region:** Europe  
**Area:** Black Sea

The Liberia-flagged bulk carrier GEORGIA S reported a blast from an unknown source at an unknown position near Snake Island, Ukraine, at an unknown time on 16 November 2023

According to the reports the explosion took place close to the vessel and caused blast damage to an unknown extent to the vessel. There are no reports on injuries to the crew.

Initial report had the vessel alongside in Pivdenny when hit, subsequently it was reported she was E of Snake Island.

The 75,081 DWT vessel is managed by Brother Stars Maritime, Monrovia, Liberia.

**IMO:** 9502647  
**Call Sign:** 5LLV9

**Marker Position:** 45° 16' 29" N 30° 26' 6" E