



Black Sea

Why in News

In a recent event, Russia alleged that the British warship had **breached its territorial waters in Black Sea** which Britain and most of the world say **belong to Ukraine**.

- Russia seized and annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and considers areas around its coast to be Russian waters.



Key Points

▪ Geographical Location of Black Sea:

- The Black Sea, **also known as the Euxine Sea**, is one of the major water bodies and a **famous inland sea** of the world.
- This **marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean**, located **between Eastern Europe and Western Asia**.
- It is surrounded by the **Pontic, Caucasus, and Crimean Mountains** in the south, east and north respectively.
- The Turkish straits system - the **Dardanelles, Bosphorus and Marmara Sea** - forms a transitional zone between the **Mediterranean** and the Black Sea.
- The Black Sea is also connected to the **Sea of Azov** by the **Strait of Kerch**.
- The **bordering countries** of Black Sea are: **Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania**.

▪ Anoxic Water:

- There is a **significant absence of oxygen in the water**.
- The Black Sea happens to be the largest water body with a **meromictic basin**, which means the **movement of water between the lower and upper layers of the sea is a**

rare phenomenon to find anywhere in the world.

- The anoxic condition is also caused due to the presence of the process of **Eutrophication** in the sea.

Anoxic Waters

- Anoxic waters are areas of sea water, fresh water, or groundwater that are **depleted of dissolved oxygen** and are a more severe condition of hypoxia.
- This condition is **generally found in areas that have restricted water exchange.**

- **International Rules of Passage through Sea:**
 - Under international law of the sea (**United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982**), **innocent passage permits a vessel to pass** through another state's territorial waters so long as this does not affect its security.

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