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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Two Russian Oil Tankers Sinking in Black Sea's Kerch Strait

December 15, 2024



Video grab

Russia mounted a rescue effort Sunday after two oil tankers were wrecked in rough seas off Moscow-annexed Crimea and one broke apart, killing at least one sailor and causing an oil spill.

One of the tankers, Volgoneft-212, was transporting approximately 4,300 tons of fuel oil. According to Telegram channel Mash, which is believed to have links to Russia's security services, at least 4,000 tons of fuel oil have spilled from it, creating a massive oil slick in the sea. The other, Volgoneft-239, was carrying an undisclosed amount.

"Today as a result of a storm in the Black Sea waters, two tankers, the Volgoneft-212 and the Volgoneft-239 were wrecked. On board the ships are crews of 15 and 14. As a result of the accident there was an oil spill," said federal shipping agency Rosmorrechflot.

Dramatic videos posted online showed the stern of the Volgoneft-212 ship broken off and floating vertically in the water. Interfax reported that some of the crew members were in the

water.

Embed:

> В Керченском проливе терпят бедствие два российских танкера. Они могли перевозить не меньше 8000 тонн нефтепродуктов https://t.co/r9pWtLGqGj
>
> Видео: SHOT pic.twitter.com/H3SNDoijUt
>
> — Медиазона (@mediazzzona) December 15, 2024

At least 13 sailors have been rescued, TASS reported. One was confirmed dead.

"Two tug boats and two helicopters have been sent to the tankers. The evacuation is proceeding," the federal shipping agency said, adding that "measures are being taken to eliminate the oil spill."

AFP contributed reporting.

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