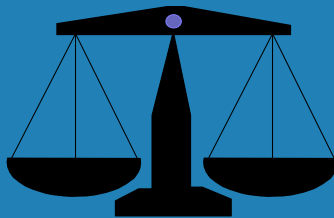


RUSSIA – UKRAINE BOUNDARY IN THE SEA OF AZOV AND KERCH STRAIT

Alec McEwen



SEA OF AZOV AND KERCH STRAIT



SEA OF AZOV

- **AREA 37,600 SQUARE KILOMETRES
[APPROX 340 x 135 km]**
- **AVERAGE DEPTH ABOUT 13 METRES**
- **ROUGHLY THE SAME SIZE AS THE
CANADIAN PORTION OF LAKE HURON**
- **ABOUT 5,000 SQ KM BIGGER THAN GREAT
BEAR LAKE**

CRIMEA

- **TRANSFERRED TO UKRAINE BY A DECREE OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR ISSUED 19 FEBRUARY 1954**
- **USSR REGARDED SEA OF AZOV AND KERCH STRAIT AS INTERNAL WATERS**
- **UKRAINE BECAME AN INDEPENDENT STATE 24 AUGUST 1991**

CRIMEA

- **POPULATION IS APPROXIMATELY 60% ETHNIC RUSSIAN**
- **RUSSIAN BLACK SEA FLEET IS BASED AT SEVASTOPOL UNDER TREATY UNTIL 2017**

UKRAINE STATE BOUNDARIES

- **STATUTE OF UKRAINE CONCERNING THE STATE FRONTIER, 4 NOVEMBER 1991**
- **DEFINES THE LAND AND SEA BOUNDARIES OF UKRAINE**
- **DOES NOT REFER SPECIFICALLY TO THE SEA OF AZOV OR KERCH STRAIT**

THE 1955 MAP

- **MAP SHOWS A BROKEN LINE THROUGH KERCH STRAIT EAST OF TUZLA ISLAND**
- **THIS LINE APPEARS TO REPRESENT THE BOUNDARY IN THE STRAIT**
- **MAP SHOWS NO BOUNDARY IN SEA OF AZOV**
- **NO TEXT ACCOMPANIES OR INTERPRETS THE MAP**

OTHER CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

- U. S. NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY [FORMERLY NIMA]
CHART ONC F-4, EDITION 9, 1998
- DEPICTS AND IDENTIFIES UKRAINE -
RUSSIA BOUNDARY IN KERCH STRAIT
- CONTAINS DISCLAIMER THAT *"THE
REPRESENTATION OF BOUNDARIES IS NOT
NECESSARILY AUTHORITATIVE."*

U. S. CHART



UKRAINE – RUSSIA BOUNDARY TREATY

- **SIGNED AT KERCH 24 DECEMBER 2003**
- **ARTICLE 1 SAYS THAT THE DELIMITATION OF THE SEA OF AZOV BOUNDARY AND THE SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES RELATED TO THE DEFINED AREA OF WATER OF THE KERCH STRAIT SHALL BE CARRIED OUT BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES**
- **TREATY REPRESENTED A MILESTONE IN VIEW OF PREVIOUS RUSSIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD BOUNDARY**

SEA OF AZOV BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

- **SIGNED AT KYIV 30 NOVEMBER 2007**
- **BOUNDARY, TERRITORIAL SEA, EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND CONTINENTAL SHELF IN SEA OF AZOV TO BE DELIMITED BY SHOWING COORDINATES ON A MAP**
- **NO AGREEMENT REACHED REGARDING DELIMITATION OF KERCH STRAIT BOUNDARY**

SEA OF AZOV AND KERCH STRAIT



LAND BOUNDARY

- **THE RUSSIA - UKRAINE LAND BOUNDARY TERMINUS ON THE NORTH SHORE OF THE SEA OF AZOV IS NOT IN DISPUTE**

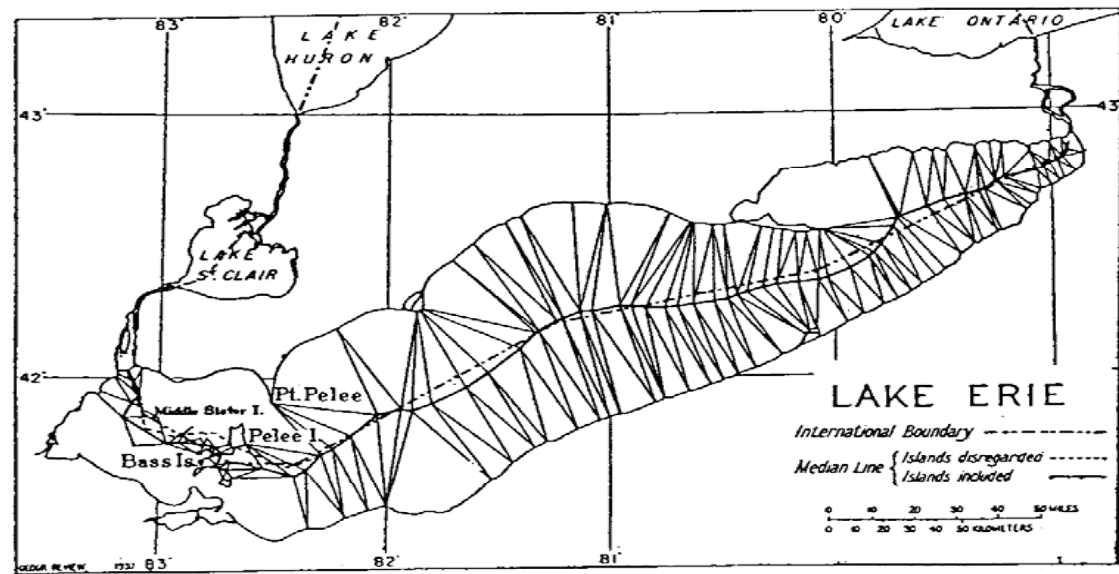
POSSIBLE METHODS FOR SEA OF AZOV BOUNDARY DELIMITATION

- **MEDIAN LINE**
- **LINE DIVIDING AREA OF WATER SURFACE INTO TWO EQUAL PARTS**
- **LINE DIVIDING AREA OF WATER SURFACE INTO TWO PARTS PROPORTIONAL TO LENGTH OF THE RESPECTIVE COAST LINES**

MEDIAN LINE

- A LINE WHICH AT ALL POINTS IS EQUALLY DISTANT FROM OPPOSITE SHORES
- LINE CONSISTS OF A SERIES OF CONNECTED STRAIGHT-LINE SEGMENTS WHOSE TERMINAL COORDINATES ARE DETERMINED
- POSSIBLE MINOR ADJUSTMENT OF LINE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SEGMENTS AND TURNING POINTS

LAKE ERIE MEDIAN LINE BOUNDARY



EQUAL WATER - AREA BOUNDARY

- **ONE DISADVANTAGE IS THAT EQUAL AREAS CAN BE DETERMINED BY MANY DIFFERENT GEOMETRIC SUBDIVISIONS OF THE WATER SURFACE**
- **MAY BE ADVISABLE TO COMPROMISE BY ADOPTING GENERAL LINE OF THE SHORE AND DISREGARDING MINOR INLETS**

WATER AREAS BASED ON LENGTH OF RESPECTIVE COAST LINES

- **DETERMINE LENGTH OF UKRAINE AND RUSSIAN COAST LINES, DRAWING A STRAIGHT LINE ACROSS THE MOUTH OF ANY BAY OR INLET THAT IS LESS THAN 24 NAUTICAL MILES IN WIDTH**
- **UKRAINE HAS ABOUT 51% OF THE TOTAL COAST LINE**
- **NO OFFICIAL UNCLOS BASE LINES EXIST**

UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION 1982

- **SIGNED 10 DECEMBER 1982**
- **CAME INTO FORCE 16 NOVEMBER 1994**
- **RUSSIA RATIFIED UNCLOS 12 MARCH 1997**
- **UKRAINE RATIFIED UNCLOS 26 JULY 1999**
- **BOUNDARY DELIMITATION TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW TO ACHIEVE "EQUITABLE SOLUTION".**



SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- **HISTORIC CLAIMS TO BAYS, ETC.**
- **PRESENCE OF ISLANDS**
- **SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL OR ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS (E.G. FISHERIES) NOT NORMALLY A FACTOR IN JUDICIAL BOUNDARY DELIMITATION**
- **PROPORTIONALITY**

KERCH STRAIT



TUZLA ISLAND IN KERCH STRAIT

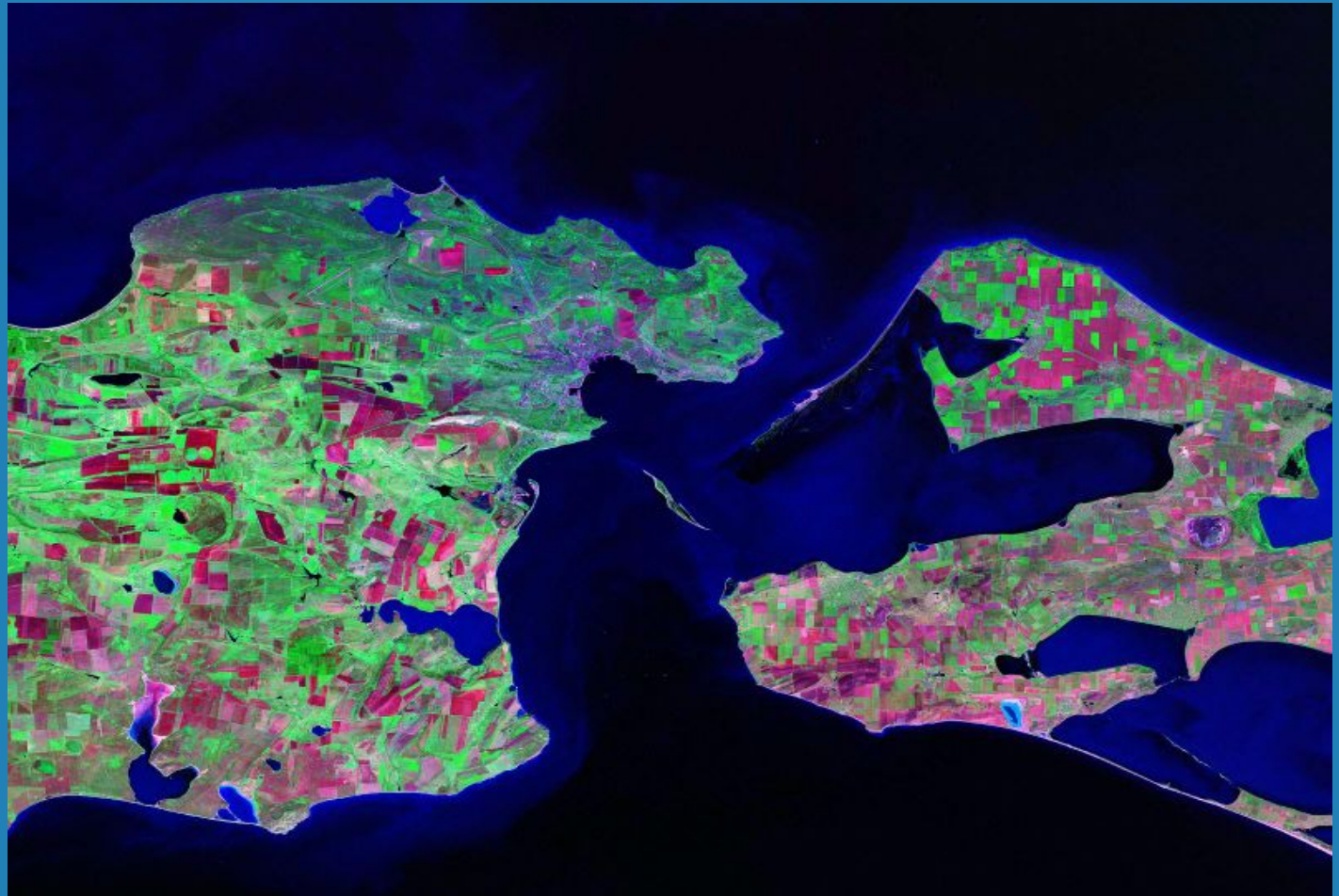
- AREA APPROXIMATELY 6 SQ KM
- POPULATION OF 30 FAMILIES IN 2003
- FORMERLY CONNECTED TO TAMAN PENINSULA BY A SAND BAR
- 1925 STORM REMOVED THE SAND BAR
- MAIN SHIPPING CHANNEL IN KERCH STRAIT LIES ON WESTERN SIDE OF TUZLA ISLAND

TUZLA ISLAND CAUSEWAY

- **IN OCTOBER 2003 RUSSIA COMMENCED CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM OR CAUSEWAY CONNECTING THE TAMAN PENINSULA WITH TUZLA ISLAND**
- **UKRAINE PROTESTED THE CONSTRUCTION**
- **THE CONSTRUCTION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED (AS AT OCTOBER 2008)**

LANDSAT IMAGE OF KERCH STRAIT

2006



KERCH STRAIT CHANNEL EAST OF TUZLA ISLAND

- **EXISTING NAVIGABILITY OF CHANNEL**
- **LARGE-SCALE HYDROGRAPHIC CHARTS SHOW WIDTH AND DEPTH OF CHANNEL AND THE LOCATION OF OBSTRUCTIONS TO NAVIGATION [ROCKS, SUNKEN SHIPS]**
- **FEASIBILITY OF ENLARGING CHANNEL TO ACCOMMODATE LARGE VESSELS**
- **CHANNEL ONLY 4 M DEEP IN SOME PLACES**

Thank You

ANY QUESTIONS?

