

The country's area is 17,075 mln. sq. km. The Russian Federation includes 21 autonomous republics, 47 regions, 8 territories, 6 autonomous okrugs, one autonomous oblast and two cities of federal significance – Moscow, the capital, and Saint-Petersburg.

Russia is a multinational country. The population is 143,4 mln. people, 4/5th of them living in the European part of the country. The population consists of Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Armenians, Tatars, and many others.

Russia borders on China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Norway. The Russian Federation has the longest border in the world.

Russia is the country of big river systems. There are more than 2,5 mln. rivers here that belong to the basins of three oceans and to the inner basin of the Caspian Sea. Six out of 34 world biggest rivers completely flow through Russia's territory (the Lena, the Yenisei, the Ob, the Volga, and the Kolyma). The Dnieper, the Seversky Donets, the Don, and the Psou belong to the rivers of the Black Sea basin. The river Don which flows into the Sea of Azov is a water way connecting the Black Sea with the Caspian, Baltic, and the White Seas. The biggest Russian ports on the Black Sea are: Novorossiysk, Sochi, Tuapse.

The Russian Black Sea coastline is about 475 km long. 45 rivers flow into the Black Sea from the Russian territory. The river water flow is distributed unevenly. The shelf length is up to 50 km in the north-west and 3-5 km in the south-east. Thus the south-eastern part of the Black Sea coast is mostly subjected to the pollution due to the river flow.

It is nearly landlocked and the exchange of its water with the Mediterranean Sea is very limited.

Permanent natural anoxia exists within 90% of its volume (547 000 km³), making the Black Sea the largest anoxic water body in the world. The Black Sea surface area (432 000 km²) is five times smaller than its basin (more than 2 mln km²) covering parts of Europe and Asia.