



Details of Russia's Auxiliary Fleet

OE Watch Commentary: The accompanying excerpted article from *Krasnaya Zvezda* discusses Russian plans to upgrade its Auxiliary Fleet. According to *Krasnaya Zvezda* the Auxiliary Fleet consists of 445 seagoing and harbor vessels with plans to build another 180 vessels by 2028. Russia's Auxiliary Fleet is not only an important asset for Russian force projection, reportedly transporting over 112,000 tons of cargo to Syria since 2015, but is also important for routine military operations. In 2019, Auxiliary Fleet vessels traversed 476,000 nautical miles, transported 328,000 tons of cargo, performed 175 ice breaking missions, repaired 308 kilometers of undersea cables, and conducted 14,962 towing operations. As explained, the future of Russia's Auxiliary Fleet involves a reduction in the number of types of vessels. As older vessels retire, they are intended to be replaced with four general ship designs



Project 23130, Medium Sea Tanker "Akademik Pashin".

Source: Darina Aveegres, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_23130_replenishment_oiler#/media/File:Средний_морской_танкер_проекта_23130_\"Академик_Пашин\".jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_23130_replenishment_oiler#/media/File:Средний_морской_танкер_проекта_23130_\), CC BY 4.0

(mooring lighter, general-purpose tanker, general-purpose transport, logistic support vessel) based on a standardized platform that will fulfill most Auxiliary Fleet requirements. In general, this development plan for the Auxiliary Fleet is in tune with other developments in the Russian Armed Forces emphasizing standardization and modularity to promote interoperability, and reduce production and maintenance costs. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bartles)**

“The main priority in developing the Auxiliary Fleet is the construction of general-purpose and multifunctional vessels, a reduction in the number of types of ships, and capability of performing integrated logistic support missions, above all in supporting ship groupings in remote ocean areas.”

Source: Vladimir Mokhov, “Время обновления [Time for Renewal],” *Krasnaya Zvezda* Online, 5 August 2020, <http://redstar.ru/vremya-obnovleniya/>

The Auxiliary Fleet currently numbers 445 seagoing and harbor vessels maintained at a level guaranteeing support to performance of assigned missions of supporting Navy ship groupings in the far sea zone as well as combat training activities and day-to-day activity of fleets in base facilities and in the near sea zone. Today the Auxiliary Fleet is a large (over 10,000 personnel), highly professional, cohesive collective performing diverse logistic support missions in all fleets and flotillas and in all base facilities.

In accordance with the Concept for Auxiliary Fleet Development From 2012 Through 2020, 105 state-of-the-art vessels (27 seagoing support vessels, 78 harbor support vessels) have been built. The main priority in developing the Auxiliary Fleet is the construction of general-purpose and multifunctional vessels, a reduction in the number of types of ships, and capability of performing integrated logistic support missions, above all in supporting ship groupings in remote ocean areas. The tug fleet is also being updated. Over 50 of the newest seagoing and harbor tugs have been built and transferred to the fleets in recent years. The makeup of seagoing self-propelled floating cranes is being updated. A series of 11 vessels already has been built, and another eight seagoing self-propelled floating cranes will be delivered up to 2028... The diesel-electric icebreaker Ilya Muromets, which will perform icebreaker support missions in Northern Fleet, became operational with the Navy in 2017. Delivery of a shallow-draft icebreaker to Pacific Fleet is planned in 2027...

A medium oceangoing tanker became operational in the Navy for the first time in the last 37 years. The vessel was built using state-of-the-art technologies, has a reinforced ice class, and is capable of carrying over 7,500 tons of cargo of varying nomenclature and transferring it underway to three ships simultaneously. In accordance with a decision of the Russian Federation defense minister, it is envisaged building a series of five Project 23130 medium sea tankers, which will permit updating the composition of the tanker fleet.

The development of Russian shipbuilding permitted beginning the construction of state-of-the-art cable vessels, small tankers, and armament transports. New vessel projects such as a general-purpose vessel for monitoring physical fields and degaussing, a lighter, clean-up boat, and passenger boat also are being developed as part of experimental design work. Approaches to standardization of Auxiliary Fleet vessels were determined and four engineering designs (mooring lighter, general-purpose tanker, general-purpose transport, multifunctional logistic support vessel) developed for Auxiliary Fleet vessels based on a standardized platform as a result of experimental design work by Platforma-DTO. Standardized modular compartments have been used on these vessels that permit reducing vessel construction time and expanding their specifications and performance characteristics and their capabilities.

Over another 180 seagoing and harbor support vessels will be built up to 2028 (in accordance with the State Armaments Program), which will increase the proportion of state-of-the-art vessels in the Auxiliary Fleet to 70 percent...