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Ukrainian drones damage Russian grain export terminal on Kerch Strait, source says

By Reuters

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MOSCOW, July 30 (Reuters) - A Ukrainian drone attack has inflicted "significant damage" on a major grain export terminal at Russia's Taman port on the Kerch Strait linking the Black Sea and Sea of Azov, an agricultural market source told Reuters on Thursday.

The terminal in Russia's southern Krasnodar region is controlled by Demetra, one of Russia's largest agricultural firms, and has a capacity of 5 million metric tons. Demetra declined to comment.

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Russia, the world's largest wheat exporter and Ukraine, also a major agricultural exporter, have been attacking each other's agricultural export facilities and commercial vessels in the Black Sea area in recent weeks.

Shipping in the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait, which previously handled up to one-quarter of Russian grain exports, has been halted due to drone attacks since July 10.

Russian exporters have redirected grain from southern regions away from the Sea of Azov to deep-sea grain terminals in the Black Sea by truck and rail. However, attacks on Black Sea ports have also increased.

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International wheat prices have been rising on concerns over Black Sea supplies amid the attacks.

In a separate attack on Thursday, Ukrainian drones hit a sunflower oil export facility at the port of Taman, three agricultural market sources told Reuters. The facility is owned by Efko, one of Russia's leading agriculture and food processing firms.

One of the sources said that the damage was not significant. Efko declined to comment.

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