

## LESSON 2

### Ships Today

In 2007, the world's fleet included 34,882 commercial vessels with gross tonnage of more than 1,000 tons, totaling 1.04 billion tons. These ships carried 7.4 billion tons of cargo in 2006, a sum that grew by 8% over the previous year. In terms of tonnage, 39% of these ships are tankers, 26% are bulk carriers, 17% container ships and 15% were other types.

In 2002, there were 1,240 warships operating in the world, not counting small vessels such as patrol boats. The United States accounted for 3 million tons worth of these vessels, Russia 1.35 million tons, the United Kingdom 504,660 tons and China 402,830 tons. The 20th century saw many naval engagements during the two world wars, the Cold War, and the rise to power of naval forces of the two blocs.

The size of the world's fishing fleet is more difficult to estimate. The largest of these are counted as commercial vessels, but the smallest are legion. Fishing vessels can be found in most seaside villages in the world. As of 2004, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimated 4 million fishing vessels were operating worldwide. The same study estimated that the world's 29 million fishermen caught 85,800,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish that year.

### Vocabulary

gross tonnage – валовой тоннаж;

totaling – общая грузоподъемность;

previous – предыдущий;

bulk carrier – балкер;

patrol boat – патрульное судно;

naval engagement – военно-морской бой;

bloc – блок, объединение;

to estimate – оценить, посчитать;

legion – множество;

shellfish – моллюски.

### Exercises

1. *Read and translate the text.*
2. *Give the Russian equivalents for the following expressions:*

The world's fleet, in terms of tonnage, other types, operating in the world, not counting, accounted for, two world wars, the Cold War, the rise to power, naval forces, of the world's fishing fleet, commercial vessels, can be found, seaside villages, were operating worldwide, fish and shellfish.

3. *Are these sentences true or false? Prove your answer with the help of the text.*

1. The world's fleet includes commercial vessels only.
2. Tankers, bulk carriers, container ships and warships are commercial vessels.
3. Patrol boats are warships.
4. There were few naval engagements in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
5. Fishing boats can be found in most seaside villages in the world.
6. It is easy to estimate the size of the world's fishing fleet.
7. The largest of fishing vessels are counted as commercial vessels.
8. Four million fishing vessels were operating worldwide in 2009.
9. About 85,800,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish were caught by fishermen in 2004.
10. The world's fleet has been growing from year to year.

4. *Answer the following questions:*

1. How many commercial vessels did the world's fleet include in 2007?
2. How many tons of cargo were carried by commercial ships in 2006?
3. What types of ships can be called commercial vessels?
4. How many warships were operating in the world during 2002?
5. What wars did warships take part in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
6. Why is it difficult to estimate the size of the world's fishing fleet?
7. Where can fishing vessels be found?
8. How many fishing vessels were there in the world in 2004?