

The Kiev, rusting on the dried bottom of what had been a portion of the Small Aral Sea, August 30, 2005. From the 1920s until the late 1970s, a fleet of transport and fishing vessels plied the waters of the Aral Sea. But as the sea dried, it became impossible to continue commercial fishing and shipping. By the early 1980s, these activities ceased. Ships, such as the one pictured, were grounded and allowed to rust in the desert sun or were (and still are) being cut up for scrap. (Photograph by Philip Micklin.)

