

# Antares inquiry told of damage to vessels

G HER 14 9 91

By CARL GORDON

A MARINE consultant produced scale models of the fishing boat Antares and the nuclear submarine Trenchant yesterday to show his reconstruction of the moment of collision.

Relatives of the four crew members who died when the fishing boat sank off Arran on November 22 last year, listened intently at the fatal accident inquiry at Paisley, as Captain Samuel Pollock, an examiner of masters and mates with the Ministry of Transport, demonstrated his conclusions.

Captain Pollock said he had looked at a monitor while an underwater camera filmed the Antares lying on the seabed. He examined it again when it was towed to Greenock, and had also examined the Trenchant's damage when it was drydocked.

He said the Antares was virtually undamaged but there was a sprung plank half way up the port bow. The submarine's starboard log pole had been sheared off, and other damage was done to the Paris dome on the casing, and the pinger under the hull.

Captain Pollock, who helped prepare a report on the accident for the Department of Transport, said he believed the submarine passed almost directly beneath the fishing vessel at an acute angle of five to 10 degrees, and between the wire warps stretching from the boat's stern to the opening of the pelagic net some distance behind.

The Antares was moving away from the sub-

merged Trenchant and the port warp was broken 168 metres from the top, damaging the submarine's pinger. It also sheared off the log pole and the starboard warp fouled the Paris dome.

Captain Pollock said he felt the initial contact with the warps caused the Antares to capsize. The breaking away of the warps would occur in rapid succession in a very short space of time, and the Antares would be free of the Trenchant.

Earlier, he had talked of the fishing vessel's rudder being hard to starboard, the engines being full ahead, a searchlight switch on, and the starboard window of the wheel house being open. This was consistent with the vessel making a normal turn as opposed to an emergency manoeuvre.

Sheriff Robert Hay allowed a fishing boat skipper to be called to give evidence despite an objection on the ground of relevance by Mr Thomas Williamson, representing Commander David Per-

fect who has already given evidence to the inquiry.

Mr Williamson said Commander Perfect had referred to a previous incident and had contrasted the noise which had been made when he snagged the gear of the fishing boat Prevail. His evidence was that it was a considerable noise compared with the two thuds heard in the case of the Antares.

His evidence was that this was one factor which led him to take the action he did after the snagging of the Antares.

The witness, Mr John Gibson, 61, of Dunure, Ayrshire, said that on December 6, 1987, he was skipper of the Prevail which was snagged south of Sanda while fishing in the North Channel.

Describing the incident, he said the vessel came to a stop and was then towed astern for a few seconds at about eight knots.

He decided to return to Ayr and about an hour later saw a submarine on the surface several miles away.

The inquiry was adjourned until Tuesday.

## STRATHCLYDE

(WEST GEORGE STREET, GLASGOW)  
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) (No.2) ORDER 1991

The Strathclyde Regional Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 62 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, make the above named Order to be observed by vehicles (with the exception of vehicles connected with craneage operations) between 0600 hours and 2400 hours on Sunday, 15th September 1991.

**ROAD CLOSURE** - West George Street, Glasgow between Hope Street and Renfield Street.

Contravention of the order could result in a penalty of up to £100. The Order may be inspected at Strathclyde Regional Headquarters, 20 India Street, Glasgow.

ROBERT CALDERWOOD, Chief Executive

Strathclyde House, 20 India Street, Glasgow G2 4PF

## SPEND SUNDAY AT THE BEACH

### SPECIAL SUNDAY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

**ONE SESSION SUNBED** — A visible colour difference in minutes. Was £20. Now **£12**

OR

**ONE SESSION TONING TABLES** — Loose inches where you want. Was £12. Now ..... **£6**

OR

**ONE SESSION FORMOSTAR** — Rapid inch loss. Was £20. Now ..... **£10**

**FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY**

## DON'T FORGET — BEAUTY AT THE BEACH



TANNING, TONING & BEAUTY

29 ROYAL EXCHANGE SQUARE, GLASGOW

041 248 8282