

SHAWMED SUB TO GO HOME

The shamed America submarine which nearly caused a disaster similar to the Antares will return to the States next week.

USS Sturgeon was owed to Faslane after it snagged the nets of the fishing boat Lupina in the North Channel, between Scotland, northern Ireland. It had been engaged in war exercises in the North Sea the time.

Divers have been working none stop on the sub, since the accident happened on Wednesday night, trying to correct the buckled propellers.

A full enquiry has been launched at Faslane Naval Base, where the sub was visiting.

It was understood the submarine surfaced after the incident, fired flares and contacted the fishing vessel on an emergency radio frequency.

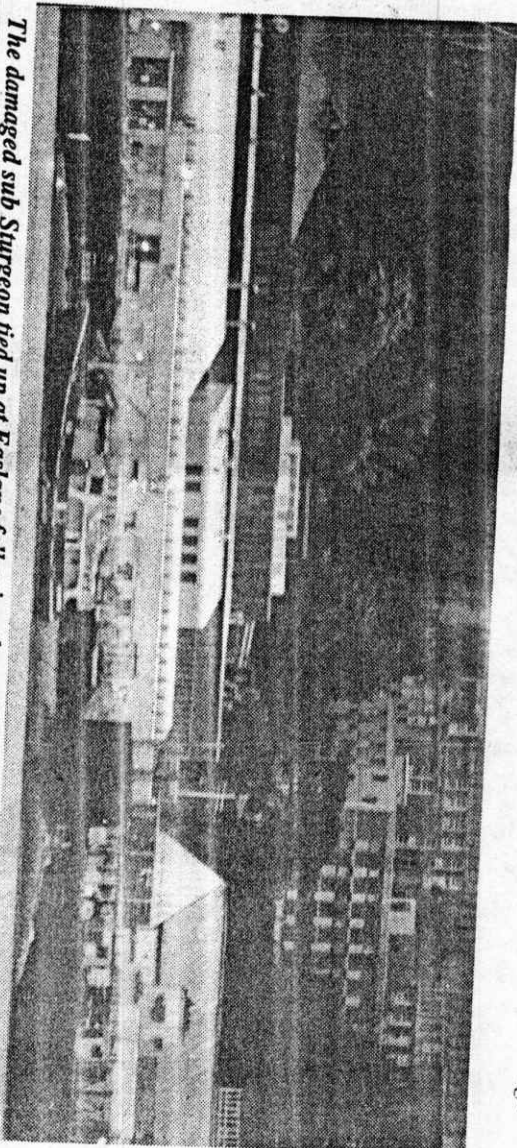
Fortunately winching gear on board the Lupina released the nets when they were snagged before it was

dragged into the water.

None of the crew were injured but the incident has heightened fishermen's fears over the activities of submerged submarines in fishing areas and it brings back bad memories of the Antares tragedy which happened two years ago.

Base officials expected the submarine to be docked at Faslane for a few weeks but the damage was not as bad as expected.

A Base spokesman said: "Work has nearly been completed on the submarine and she will be returning home."



The damaged sub Sturgeon tied up at Faslane following the accident. Photo provided by Peace Camp.