

# CLYDE SUB BLOCKADE

## Fishermen's threat over sinking of the Antares



THE ANTARES . . . to be raised from the seabed.

**ANGRY fishermen today pledged to blockade Faslane unless all Clyde sub activity is halted.**

They said the sinking of the Antares, with the loss of four lives, was the final straw.

Their leaders have demanded to meet Scots Secretary Malcolm Rifkind in a bid to stop submarines using the Firth of Clyde until a full inquiry is held.

"There is no reason to believe this accident could not happen again today or tomorrow," said Clyde Fishermen's Association secretary Patrick Stewart.

"From the details we have, the submarine's sonar failed to detect

By HUGH BOAG

that there had been five fishing vessels in the vicinity and when it surfaced after snagging fishing nets there were only four."

And the Navy today admitted the sub was on exercise with a trainee commander, but refused to say if he was in command.

Fishermen in Carradale on Kintyre, home port of the Antares, and nearby Campbeltown had demanded an immediate blockade of Faslane nuclear submarine base.

### PRESSURE

But a visit to Carradale yesterday by Commodore Tom Blackburn, boss of Faslane, helped allay fears. Fishermen say they will wait for the meeting with Mr Rifkind

but have not ruled out a blockade.

It has the backing of Labour's Scottish fishing spokesman Brian Wilson. The MP for Cunninghame North said: "They can't be expected to work under the strain of constant fear that they could be next."

The four crew of the Antares drowned when their boat sank off Arran on Thursday morning after its nets were believed to have been caught by the hunter-killer submarine HMS Trenchant.

After pressure from families, the Navy has agreed to raise the boat from its watery grave in 400ft of water.

Mr Wilson today tabled a Commons motion accusing the Ministry of Defence of "evasions and denials" over its explanation that the sinking was a "freak accident".