

Fishing boats face threa

EXCLUSIVE
By IAN BRUCE
Defence Correspondent

BRITAIN'S chief coastguard has threatened to stop broadcasting submarine movement warnings to fishermen around the UK. He says the warnings themselves could pose a threat to safety because they are tying up search and rescue emergency frequencies for up to three hours a day.

Commander Derek Ancona, a retired Royal Navy officer now in charge of the coastguard service, has already rejected plans to extend the Subfacts scheme. It was drawn up two years ago to avoid collisions or the snagging of fishing nets by subma-

rines. The new areas, covering the waters around Lewis, Skye, and the Hebrides, were due to be included from January 4.

The system is designed to give fishing boats at least four hours' advance warning of submarine activity in their vicinity. It was set up in the aftermath of the Antares incident in November, 1990, when the nuclear hunter-killer HMS Trenchant accidentally dragged down the Carradale trawler in the Sound of Bute with the loss of all four crewmen.

Commander Ancona's stance has been criticised by both the Navy and fishermen. Senior officers at the Clyde submarine base at Faslane were said last night to be "in despair" at the potential undoing of two years

of co-operation and confidence-building with local fishermen. Almost 90% of Royal Navy submarine activity takes place in and around the Clyde.

Mr Patrick Stewart, secretary of the Clyde Fishermen's Association, warned: "As long as submarines are operating in fishing waters, there is a risk to fishing vessels. But the industry and the Royal Navy are agreed that Subfacts is a major contribution to safety."

"If it is discontinued, it would, at one stroke, take us back to the position before the loss of the Antares. Fishing vessels would be operating blind in areas of submarine activity. The consequences are inevitable."

Mr Stewart is writing to Scottish Secretary Ian Lang, the De-

fence Minister Transport Minister to intervene

Commander An is part of the I Transport, which up new safety which Subfacts is ment. Agreement last week between Navy and fishermen extending the giving more detail for particula

However, last Commander Ancona s running a broadc ity. My primary search and rescue scheme is of de and can interfere and rescue opera

... at Yale of Le-Den Hospital, 992, 6th Brother for Kirsty Special thanks to all staff in attendance.



CREIGHTON
Stephen and Norma delighted to announce the birth of their son, David Stephen, on 9th December, 1992, at Rutherglen Maternity Hospital. Special thanks to all staff in attendance.



FELL
Iain and Rhona (nee Napier) delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Laura Janet at Rutherglen Maternity Hospital, on 16th December. Special thanks to all staff in attendance.

MRS ELIZABETH C. ROSS
Scotts Place, Airdrie extends to all her friends and neighbours the Christmas greetings of the Season.

AGNES McCALL
wishes all her friends and family a Merry and Prosperous New Year. 17 Golf course Road, Girvan.

ANN H. PAUL
Won't be sending Christmas cards this year. She wishes all her friends a Merry and Prosperous New Year.

Monday, 21st at 12 noon, flowers only, please. At Sauchiehall, Dundee, on 1st ANABELLA T. (late of Applin Loan), wife of Douglas Gray, eldest grandchild of the family. Set Monday, 21st at 12 noon, North Parish Funeral Home, Family Flower please. Donations to Hospital.

HAMILTON - Sudd home, on 16th December, son of their and Annie Harris, much daughter of it Colonel Frank and the late Alexander Harris and the late Ar Frank. Funeral on Monday, 21st at 12 noon. All are respectfully No flowers, please.

HARRIS - Sudd 16th December, son of the late Mr and Mrs HARRIS, much daughter of it Colonel Frank and the late Alexander Harris and the late Ar Frank. Funeral on Monday, 21st at 12 noon. All are respectfully No flowers, please.

HART - A. Sarr