

'89 Naval Accidents in the Atlantic Ocean

03/01/89: The USS Will Rogers (SSBN-659) surfaces under the British fishing vessel New Dawn in the Firth of Clyde off the coast of Scotland. The New Dawn sustains major damage to her hull. No injuries are reported.

17/04/89: The British fishing vessel Laurel is forced to cut her fishing nets after being towed by an unidentified U.S. nuclear-powered submarine for 15 minutes in the Irish Sea off the coast of the Isle of Man.

24/05/89: The French Navy diesel submarine La Praya is caught in the nets of a Norwegian fishing vessel in the North Sea off the Shetland Islands. The trawler severs its nets to free the submarine.

28/06/89: An unknown Royal Navy submarine is involved in an incident with the fishing vessel Huntress in the Clyde area of the Irish Sea.

01/07/89: In early July, the Royal Navy diesel submarine Upholder experiences a power failure and plunges several hundred feet while submerged off the west coast of Scotland during sea trials.

05/08/89: A fire breaks out in an electric motor aboard the Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine Valiant while in port at the Faslane submarine base on the River Clyde in southwest Scotland. There are no reported injuries and a Defence Ministry spokesperson says the fire posed no danger to the submarine's nuclear reactor.

12/09/89: A Royal Navy Resolution class nuclear-powered ballistic missile

submarine loses a very low frequency (VLF) communication buoy, when the buoy snags the nets of the fishing vessel Contester in the Irish Sea 25 nautical miles northeast of Dublin, Ireland. The submarine, which had been trailing the buoy while submerged, came to periscope depth after the incident to check for damage. According to a British Ministry of Defence spokesperson, the buoy's towing wire parted almost immediately and the submarine sustained no damage. Irish reports, however say the Contester was dragged backwards for about a mile at a speed of two knots before it broke free. The Contester pulled in the buoy when it winched in its nets.

20/10/89: Towards the end of October, the Royal Navy mine sweeper Brecon runs aground on the Isle of Arran off the western coast of Scotland during exercises.

09/11/89: The Norwegian diesel-powered submarine Utsira is hit by a training torpedo during an exercise in the North Sea and is slightly damaged.

13/11/89: An unknown Royal Navy submarine snags the nets of the fishing vessel Scotia off the coast of Scotland and drags the vessel backwards for two miles before breaking free. The submarine surfaces and reports the incident and ensures that the crew of the Scotia are safe. The Scotia sustains damage to its propeller as well as to its gear, and the submarine has minor damage.