

Outrage over end of submarine alerts

By Iain Duff 5C 2(1/9)

AN MP has been told that the Subfacts scheme, which warns fishermen of submarine movements, will end in June.

The revelation comes in a letter from the transport minister Lord Caithness to George Foulkes, honorary president of the Clyde Fishermen's Association, who last night described the proposal as outrageous.

Mr Foulkes had written to Lord Caithness to protest about changes to Subfacts "being considered without any consultation with the fishermen or even the Royal Navy".

In his reply to the Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley, the minister ended, after saying that various options are still under review: "A positive solution

should be reached by MoD on how the service will continue by June 1993 when the existing Subfacts scheme is currently planned to end."

Mr Foulkes says that when Subfacts was set up no time limit was placed on it.

Earlier this month, the defence minister Archie Hamilton had told Mr Foulkes that in spite of controversy about how the information was broadcast, the MoD still planned to extend the scheme to cover areas regularly used by submarines, including West coast fishing grounds.

In his reply to the Lord Caithness, Mr Foulkes said: "The new ideas expressed in your letter are quite contrary to the undertaking given by Archie Hamilton."