

BBC HOMEPAGE | WORLD SERVICE | EDUCATION

low graphics version | feedback | help

BBC NEWS

You are in: UK: **Scotland**

Wednesday, 23 August, 2000, 11:54 GMT 12:54 UK

[Front Page](#)[World](#)[UK](#)[Northern Ireland](#)[Scotland](#)[Wales](#)[UK Politics](#)[Business](#)[Sci/Tech](#)[Health](#)[Education](#)[Entertainment](#)[Talking Point](#)[In Depth](#)[AudioVideo](#)[BBC SPORT >>](#)

Fishermen fear Kursk radiation



Herring stocks are the biggest concern

Scottish fishermen have urged the Russian authorities to do all they can to stop radioactive leaks from the crippled submarine, the Kursk.

While the task of recovering the vessel's bodies continues, questions are being asked about the best way to protect the internationally important fishing grounds around Norway.

Scottish fishermen are frequent visitors to the area and have expressed concerns about contamination.

Ian Duncan, secretary of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, said there was great concern that radiation, following the disaster less than a fortnight ago, would hit herring stocks.

The young fish come from the Barents Sea and can end up in Scottish fishing grounds the following summer.

Mr Duncan said: "Fish know no boundaries, they can travel great distances and herring from this affected area could be found in fishing nets and eventually onto the

Kursk timeline

12 Aug: Sinks during Barents Sea exercises

14 Aug: Russian navy inspects sub

15 Aug: Attempts to attach rescue capsule fail

16 Aug: Russians report no signs of life. Accept help from the West

17 Aug: British and Norwegian craft

Search BBC News Online

Advanced search options

[Launch console for latest audio/video](#)

[BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN](#)

[BBC ONE TV NEWS](#)

[WORLD NEWS](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[PROGRAMMES GUIDE](#)



[Click here for more news and background](#)

Key stories:

[What went wrong?](#)

[Media leads mourning](#)

[Putin's reaction](#)

[Taking the blame](#)

[Radiation fears](#)

[The story in pictures](#)

CLICKABLE GUIDES

[Inside the Kursk](#)

[Britain's rescue sub](#)

[Rescue options](#)

AUDIO VIDEO

[Key BBC coverage](#)

BBC WORLD SERVICE

[Coverage in Russian](#)

TALKING POINT/ FORUM

[Has Russia changed?](#)

[A sub expert answers your questions](#)

[Our correspondent](#)

[answers your questions](#)

See also:

[23 Aug 00 | Europe](#)

[Kursk wreath-laying cancelled](#)

[22 Aug 00 | Scotland](#)

[Kursk bodies recovery planned](#)

[22 Aug 00 | Europe](#)

[Analysis: Nuclear subs here to stay](#)

[22 Aug 00 | Europe](#)

[Kursk's final hours](#)

[21 Aug 00 | UK](#)

[Sub rescue team returns home](#)

eventually onto the tables of Scots."

Environmentalists from Norway are monitoring radiation levels.

They say they have seen no signs of problems in the Barents Sea, but are currently examining samples at a lab in Oslo.

However, unconfirmed reports were made on Wednesday that radioactive contamination had been found a few kilometres from where the nuclear submarine sank.

'Radiation levels normal'

Russia's independent television station NTV said there was an increase in radiation levels on the coast near the site where the Kursk went down.

But the head of the Russian navy's main headquarters, Admiral Viktor Kravchenko, said radiation levels in the area were normal.

John Ainsley, from CND, Scotland, believes there could be about a tonne of uranium on the submarine.

"At the moment we are not talking about massive releases of radiation, but there is probably a small percentage of what was found after the Chernobyl accident.

"However, there is obviously a long-term potential for material to leak into the sea and affecting fish in the area and then into the food chain," said Ainsley.

He added: "The reactor circuit material might well have broken in the explosion but if it hasn't and it is ruptured during the raising of the sub then that is creating additional problems."

Deeper water

Norwegian craft readied for rescue attempt

19 Aug: British and Norwegian teams arrive at scene

20 Aug: Norwegian and British divers examine Kursk

21 Aug: Divers enter flooded sub

22 Aug: President Putin arrives in Murmansk

Putin arrives in Murmansk

home

Internet links:

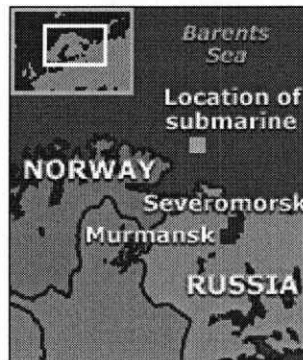
Scottish CND
Bellona - Nuclear Russia
Scottish Fishermen's Federation

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

Other top Scotland stories:

Fishermen fear Kursk radiation
Highlands university chief 'quits'
Minister's new exams pledge
Body disorder book plans
Date set for 'star'
Lockerbie witness
Council chiefs face accounts hearing
Cars dumped in street 'scrapyards'
Valleys spirit to challenge scotch

Links to top Scotland stories are at the foot of the page.



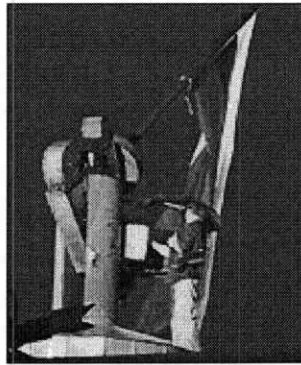
The submarine remains underwater

There are currently two American and three other Russian submarines lying on the sea bed.

They do not pose the same problems as the Kursk because they are situated in much deeper water.

However, Mr Duncan said: "Fishermen rely on the health of the sea, anything which affects the health of the sea has an effect on consumer confidence of all fish stocks."

It is understood a number of farmers in Scotland are continuing to feel the affects of the Chernobyl explosion 14 years ago.



A flag is lowered in St Petersburg to remember the dead sailors

The world's worst nuclear disaster killed an estimated 30,000 people and contaminated grazing areas used by sheep being bred in Scotland.

The cause of the accident involving the 118-manned Kursk is still unclear.

Russian officials say they believe the submarine may have collided with a Western submarine that was in the Barents Sea to monitor a large naval exercise in which the Kursk was taking part.

Western experts say the damage to the submarine appears to have been caused by a catastrophic explosion in the torpedo bay.

Links to other Scotland stories

In This Section



GO



^^ Back to top

[News Front Page](#) | [World](#) | [UK](#) | [UK Politics](#) | [Business](#) | [Sci/Tech](#) | [Health](#) | [Education](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [In-Depth](#) | [Talking Point](#) | [Audio/Video](#)

 >To [BBC Sport](#)