

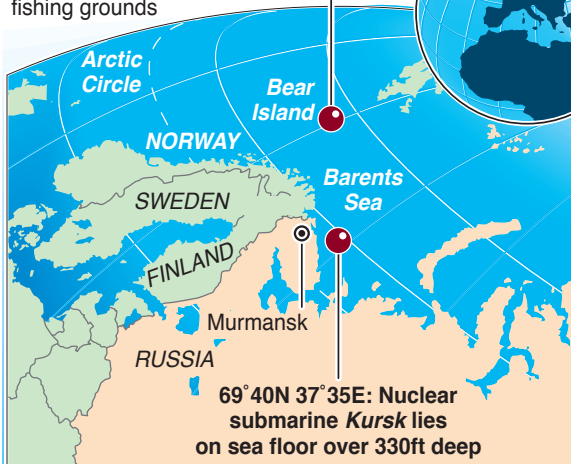
How Russian rescue effort could succeed

An operation is underway to evacuate 116 Russian sailors trapped on the nuclear submarine *Kursk* on the bed of the Barents Sea, but bad weather is delaying a full-scale rescue

Kursk-K141 Oscar II-class nuclear cruise missile submarine

Nuclear reactors closed down

April 1989: Soviet submarine *Komsomolets* sank. Radioactive material leaks into Norwegian fishing grounds



Damage: Russian rescue officials say an underwater scan shows signs of an explosion in the submarine's torpedo section

Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV): Can evacuate up to 24 people at a time. Crew able to connect umbilical cord to supply air to stricken submarine

Rescue submarine: Carries two DSRVs which can operate at over 2,000ft. Mother vessel manoeuvres close to sunken sub using active sonar and radar. DSRV must make water-tight dock with forward or aft escape hatch – despite water pressure of 150lb per sq. in.

DSRV: 39.7ft long

Speed: 26 knots underwater

"Yankee Stretch" sub: Adapted to carry submersibles

"Moon Pool" carries two DSRVs

Lengthened centre section used for underwater research