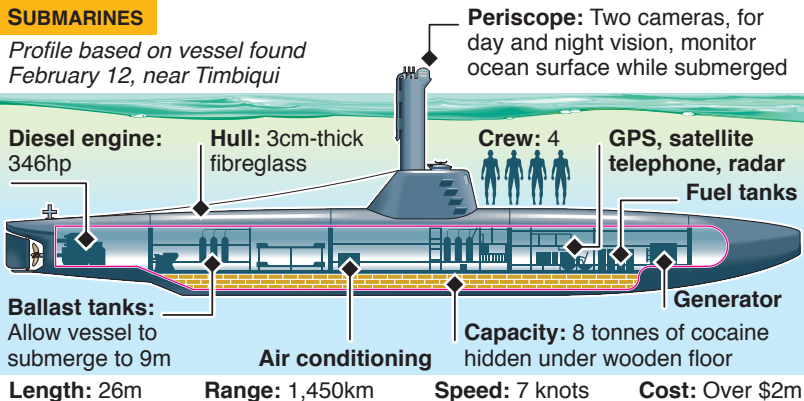


Submarines are cartels' new secret weapon

Homemade submersibles are increasingly the preferred means of transport for Colombian drug cartels. Despite their crude appearance, they can carry up to 10 tonnes of cocaine and evade advanced military equipment

SUBMARINES

Profile based on vessel found February 12, near Timbiqui



SEMI-SUBMERSIBLES

Ventilation and exhaust pipes

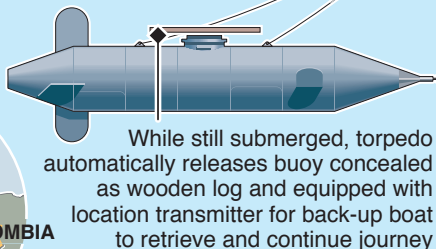
Crudely designed like speedboats with another hull on top – travel just beneath surface to escape detection



NARCO TORPEDOES

Cargo container, weighted with ballast, towed 30m under water by fishing boat. If ship is intercepted, torpedo is released

Subs take around two weeks from Colombia to drop-off points in Central America and Mexico



Experts estimate 70% of cocaine leaving Colombia's Pacific coast in 2009 was packed aboard semi-subs