

# World's worst submarine accidents



**1 Apr 10, 1963, *USS Thresher* USA**  
Sank after losing power in tests off Cape Cod. Highest ever submarine death toll. **129 dead**

**2 Aug 12, 2000, *K-141 Kursk* RUS**  
Sank in Barents Sea after blast in torpedo bay. Some crew survive but later suffocated. **118 dead**

**3 May 22, 1968, *USS Scorpion* USA**  
Sank off Azores, most likely due to torpedo explosion. Vessel found at depth of 3,000m. **99 dead**

**4 Jun 1, 1938, *HMS Thetis* GBR**  
Sank during final sea trials in Liverpool Bay. Repaired but sunk by Italian navy in 1943. **99 dead**

**5 Mar 8 1968, *K-129* URS**  
Sank off Oahu, cause still unknown. Located by U.S. ship after Soviet search failed. **98 dead**

**6 Apr 16, 2003, *Great Wall (Ming 361)* CHN.** Yellow Sea. Faulty diesel engines consume oxygen supply, suffocating crew. **70 dead**

**7 Apr 12, 1970, *K-8* URS**  
Sank in Bay of Biscay after suffering two fires. Some crew evacuated safely. **52 dead**

**8 Apr 7, 1989, *K-278 Komsomolets* URS.** Sank off Norwegian coast after fire breaks out following short circuit. **42 dead**

**9 Nov 8, 2008, *K-152 Nerpa* RUS**  
Sea of Japan. Fire extinguishing system accidentally activated, releasing poisonous gas. **20 dead**

**10 Aug 14, 2013, *INS Sindhurakshak* IND.** Russian-built submarine explodes in fireball in Mumbai harbour soon after major refit. **18 dead**