

Mystery shrouds Russian submarine fire

Russian officials have faced accusations of trying to cover up the full details of the deadly incident involving a top-secret military submarine

Jul 2: State media reports that 14 senior officers died of smoke inhalation as result of fire in battery compartment of deep-sea submersible while surveying seabed in Russian territorial waters

Severomorsk

Barents Sea

NORWAY

200km
120 miles

SWEDEN
FINLAND

St Petersburg

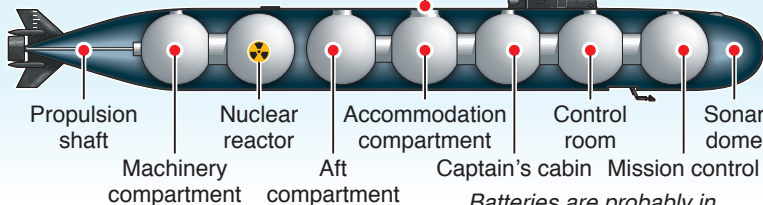
RUSSIA
Moscow

Russian media has identified vessel as nuclear-powered **AS-12** submarine – nicknamed **“Losharik”**



Main hatch: Connects vessel to host submarine

Hydraulic manipulators



SPECIFICATIONS

■ **Length:** 60m ■ **Crew:** 25 (all officers)

■ Titanium spheres built into hull allow water to be pumped inside, helping vessel to cope with water pressure at depths of up to 6,000m

■ **Designed to be carried under belly of larger submarine – such as BS-64 – to avoid detection**

■ **Operated by Russian military's Chief Directorate for Deep Water Research (GUGI)**

■ Can perform topographical research and take part in rescue missions. May even be able to tap and sever communications cables on seabed