
RUSSIAN FEDERATION NAVY

Possible redeployment of Baltic Fleet operational submarine to other Russian fleets

Reported movements and potential fleet reassignment

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AUTHOR

Antonio Masiello | Senior Naval Analyst

Preface

The Baltic Fleet's conventional submarine capability is its most significant conventional weakness. The sea's shallow, acoustic complex waters, variable salinity, and high shipping density make submarine operations difficult but also make detection harder for both sides. Russian submarines regularly move in the Baltic Sea. Each transit is regularly controlled by ships and fighters from coastal nations and NATO partners. Currently, the conventionally powered submarines operational and belong to the Baltic Fleet are the:

- **Project 877 Kilo-class submarine Dimitrov (B-806).** This submarine is primarily used for training and anti-submarine exercises in the Baltic Sea.
- **Project 677 Lada-class submarine Velikiye Luki (B-587)** operational from end 2025 and of future assignment to the Northern Fleet. The **Kalibr** cruise-missile complex is the primary strike system, integrated with the boat's six 533 mm bow torpedo tubes and modern combat management architecture.
- **Project 0636.3 Kilo-class submarines Novorossiysk (B-261) and Krasnodar (B-265)**, design armed with 533 mm torpedoes and Kalibr cruise missiles. Belong to the Black Sea Fleet but moved in Baltiysk since the beginning of the war.



Project 677 Lada-class submarine Velikiye Luki (B-587)



Project 0636.3 Kilo-class submarine

CONTEST

In early October, OSINT sources reported that the Russian Navy General Staff, in light of current political-military tensions between NATO and Russia in the Baltic region, intends to redeploy the conventional submarines currently operational serving with the Baltic Fleet to other Russian fleets (Lada-class submarine *Velikiye Luki* and Kilo-class submarines *Novorossiysk* and *Krasnodar*),

DEPARTURE OF A KILO-CLASS SUBMARINE FROM BALTIYSK - TIME OF EVENTS

On Oct 12, 2026, the Baltic Fleet Deep-sea Tug SB-921 Evgeniy Churov, vessel typically used for support operations for Kilo-class submarines and Project 0636.3 improved Kilo-class SSK, left Baltiysk. On Oct 16, 2026, the Tug Evgeniy Churov reportedly located 80nm south of Stavanger (Norway), alongside the Kilo-class submarine. On Oct 19, 2026, the tugboat Evgeniy Churov was reportedly seen returning alone to Baltiysk, while the submarine remained undetected south of Stavanger.



ASSESSMENT

Assuming the reports regarding the decision to withdraw operational conventional submarines from the Baltic Fleet are accurate (no Russian official statements has been disclosed so far), what is certain is that a KILO-class submarine is now operating south of Stavanger (Norway). However, the current lack of OSINT reports on the presence of the Russian submarine along the Norwegian coast, does not rule out its deployment in covert role in the English Channel instead of towards the Northern Fleet.

The presence of the most modern Russian multi-role ship Project 03182 *Valentin Rykov* in the English Channel in support of the NEUSTRASHIMY frigate, in that area since July 2026 in escort operations to ships linked to Russia's shadow fleet, does not also preclude the possibility that she could provide support to the Kilo-class submarine, arrived in that area to ensure the safety of Sea Line of Communication (SLOC) from the seabed.



Only afterwards, could the Kilo class submarine head toward the Northern Fleet to be assigned to the 161st submarine brigade based to Polyarny or move into the Mediterranean Sea to continue operational activities.

During its alleged presence in the Mediterranean Sea, logistic port calls in friendly countries such as Algeria (Algiers), Egypt (Alexandra) and Syria (Tartus) Siria (Tartus), will certainly be carried out, the latter port following the recent agreement between Russia and Syria on hosting Russian ships again in Tartus port.