

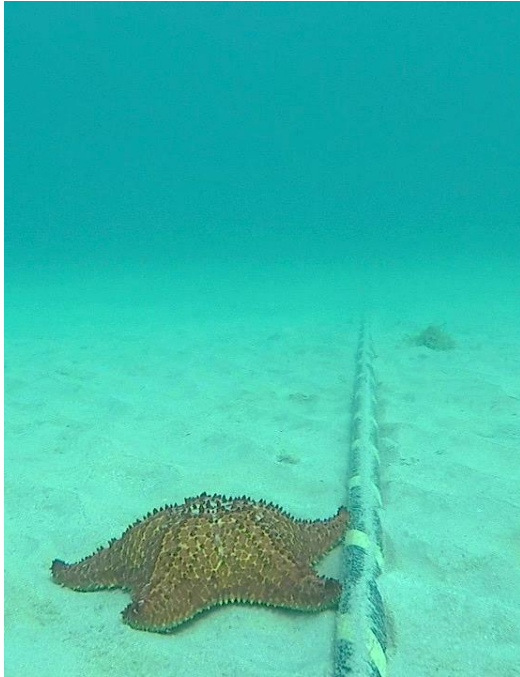
Subsea Cables

Sector Overview

EUROPEAN
SUBSEA CABLES
ASSOCIATION

3rd ENISA Telecom & Digital
Infrastructure Security Forum
24th May 2023

Who is ESCA?

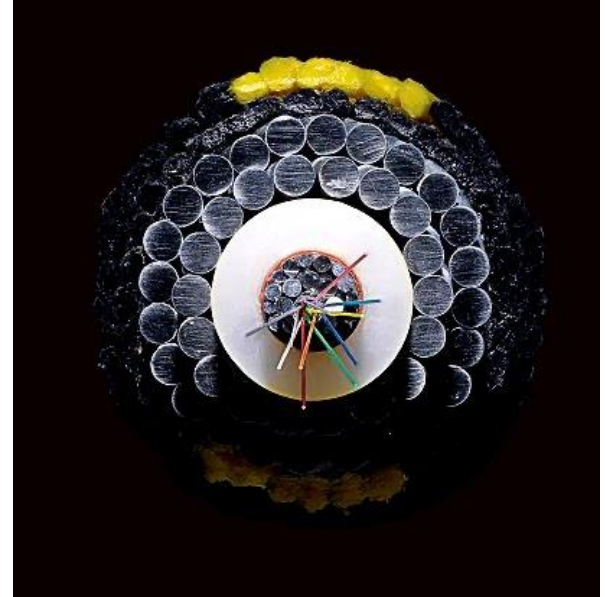


<https://www.escae.org/>

- **Regional Cable Protection Committee (CPC)**
- **Telecommunications cables, Data cables, Power cables (OREI, Interconnector, TSOs)**
- **Cable system owners** join as full members, and suppliers, consultants and other organisations who are involved with subsea cables as associate members.
- **Government membership** is encouraged by ESCA and ICPC.
- All come together with a common aim to provide a **voice for the cable industry** in an increasingly busy and crowded environment.

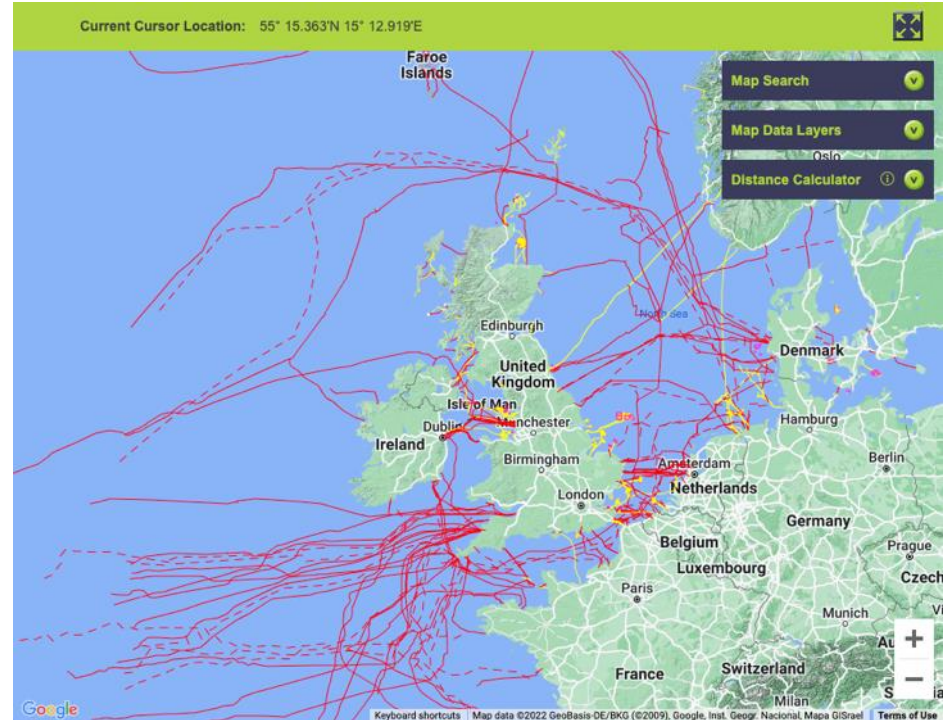
Subsea Telecoms/Data Connectivity

- Carry more than **99%** of intercontinental global telecommunications.
- They carry in excess of **\$10 trillion** financial transactions **per day**.
- International commerce reliant on subsea cables.
- **What about satellites...?** (Hint – satellites also need subsea cables)
- Domestic cables provide essential services (blue light etc) – and vital links to island communities.



Cable Awareness - KIS-ORCA

- **Cable Awareness Charting – Maritime Safety**
- Interactive map
<https://kis-orca.org/map/>
- **Kingfisher bulletin** – live notices to sea users by SMS and email
- Shared good practice
- Led by cable industry and **respected and supported by fishing industry.**



<https://kis-orca.org/>

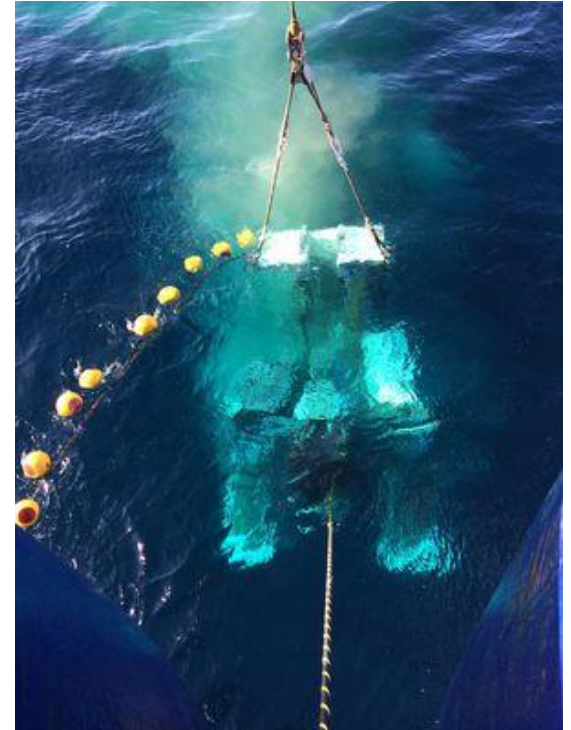
Subsea Cable Resilience

- The subsea cable industry has maintained resilient and diverse robust cable systems meaning significant government interventions not needed.
- Balancing the risks – fishing, anchors, natural, other (including sabotage).
- Media and military interest brings focus on the industry.
- Faults caused by an act of intentional sabotage is no different to a fault caused by accident or through negligence. They all need to be **repaired**.
- Rapid cable maintenance solutions are vital for subsea cable resilience.
- **ICPC Best Practices for Cable Resilience** – guidance for Governments.



Offshore Development

- Offshore renewables – fixed and floating wind – focus has been on European Energy Security.
- Also vital to consider physical Internet Security – trans-national issues for a **Global Industry**.
- Other new technologies and industries – CCUS, Aquaculture.
- Marine Protected Areas – and Highly Protected Marine Areas. In the future Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Consideration of the need to protect strategic space for ‘linear’ cables that have a **route** instead of a **footprint**.



What about Fishing/Anchoring?

- Burial is primary protection – however the deeper a cable is buried, the more difficult it is to recover to be repaired.
- ESCA advises avoidance of fishing over cables in line with guidance in NP100 - **safety**.
- Maintenance agreements & vessels around the world to repair cables **24/7/365**.
- The primary causes of damage to submarine cable come from human activities, fishing (~60% of cable faults), shipping (~10%), as well as natural hazards (~12%).
- Effective Cable Awareness, regulatory interventions, safety advice and guidance.



Summary

- Subsea cables are **increasingly important** for all aspects of modern life.
- Telecoms cables have historically been **resilient through design and operation** – and it is important to work with the industry to maintain this.
- Any interventions should be developed **through consultation with industry**, and focussed on overall **cable resilience**.
- The offshore landscape is changing at a rapid pace – and current and future needs of telecommunications must be met.



Any Questions?

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