

International Cable Protection Committee

Sargasso Sea Workshop
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Prime Activities of ICPC

- Promote awareness of submarine cables as Critical Infrastructure to Governments and other users of the seabed
- Establish internationally agreed standards for cable installation, protection and maintenance
- Monitor the evolution of international treaties and national legislation and help to ensure that submarine cable interests are fully protected
- Liaison with UN Bodies(UNEP, ISA, ITU, IMO)

Recent Notable Activities

- ICPC membership engage Governments to support **United Nations** approval of an Omnibus Resolution on the Oceans and Law of the Sea.
- CIL Workshop II **ASEAN**- Singapore - Organized by Centre for International Law and ICPC
- **APEC** – ICPC engage the Telecommunications and Trade & Investment forums to increase awareness of submarine cable issues and best practices.
- ICPC MOU with **International Seabed Authority** enabling workshop of practical solutions to issues such as deep sea mining and cables.
- ICPC Member of **ITU/UNESCO-IOC/WMO Joint Task Force** on cables and climate monitoring
- **Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)** proposed measures for moving forward at a regional level to protect submarine cables, reduce the risks to cables, and improve repair
- Granted Observer status with the **OSPAR Convention** in June of 2014

Membership – August 2014

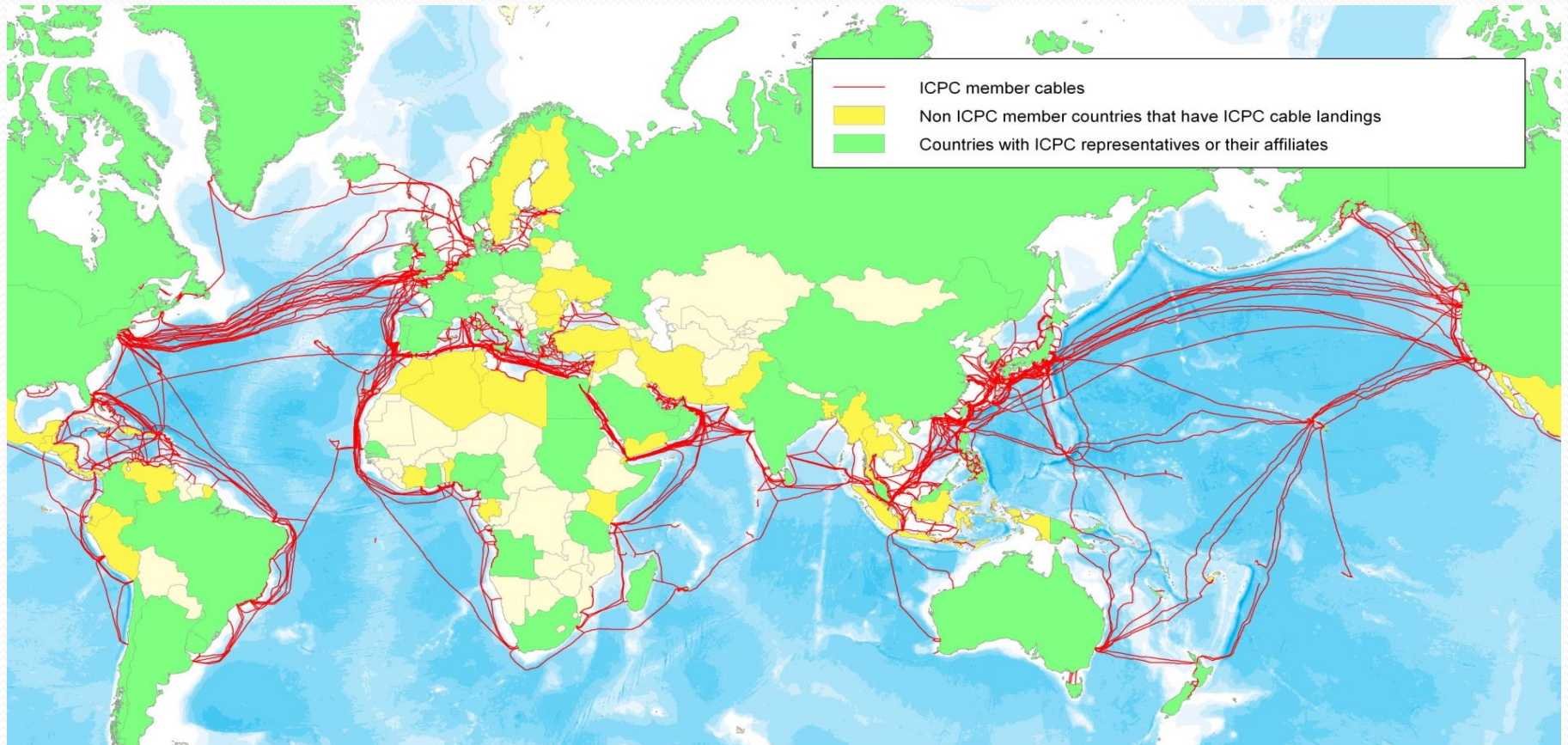
143 Members

from

64 Countries

- Established in 1958 for Owners and Operators of submarine cables
- In 2010, membership opened up to Governments, Ship Operators, System Suppliers and Survey Companies.
- In 2013, Associate Membership class created for Industry supporters
- Australian, United Kingdom, Malta, New Zealand and Singapore Government Departments are now members

Membership Coverage



ICPC represents 98% of International Telecoms Cable Kilometres.

How Do Submarine Cables Underpin the Global Economy?

- International telecommunications links are predominantly provided by submarine cables, because of low latency and scalability. Satellites are limited by physics and the Sun.
- Financial transactions affect all aspects of the economy, not just banks, typically involving many billions/trillions of US dollars each day, dependent upon the individual country.
- Major events impacting multiple cables can effectively isolate a country's economy and other countries relying upon the financial services provided by that country.
- Many companies and institutions rely on offshore processing of financial transactions.

ICPC and the Environment

- The ICPC works in the marine environment and is a responsible steward. —
- Joined UNEP regarding research on cables and the marine environment (1 UNEP-ICPC peer-reviewed report).
- Facilitated research on the interactions of whales and cables (peer-reviewed paper)
- Assisted graduate research on the carbon footprint of the cable industry (MSc. thesis)
- Ongoing long-term university research on leaching from submarine cables (1 report) —
- Pioneering research published in peer review journals on turbidity currents triggered by Tsunamis and typhoons. (3 peer-reviewed papers)
- Alert for opportunities to partner with marine scientists and graduate students on environmental issues and cables. (1 PhD thesis, 1 peer-reviewed paper)
- Publishes an environmental newsletter for members to improve awareness

International Submarine Cables

The Challenge of Change

- Decision making and policy development with limited facts on submarine cables
- Rapid development of offshore renewable energy and deep sea mining
- Increased incidence of damage caused by shipping
- Seabed becoming crowded in some areas
- Need to maintain harmony with other seabed users
- Need to ensure harmony with seabed environment
- Need to improve the security of submarine cables



International Cable
Protection Committee

ICPC - Sharing the seabed in harmony