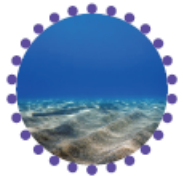
International Cable Protection Committee®



at-a-glance
roadmap



library and
publications



outreach to and education of
key stakeholders



engagement on law and policy with
governments and treaty bodies



scientific
research



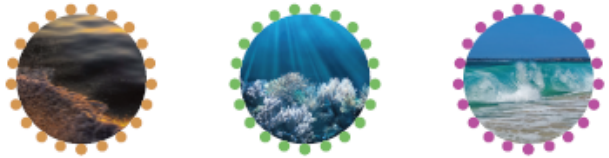
webinars, workshops and
conferences

The ICPC has more than **255 MEMBERS** from **77 NATIONS** and its **ACHIEVEMENTS** and **ACTIVITIES** advance the organisation towards its **VISION:**

The ICPC envisions a global network of reliable and resilient submarine cables that coexist with the marine environment.

International Cable Protection Committee

represents **98%** of the world's subsea telecom cables



International Cable Protection Committee

also represents:

- Most cable ships that lay and repair submarine cables.
- A great number of leading international HVDC power cable operators/owners and manufacturers.



at-a-glance *roadmap*

ICPC CORE FUNCTIONS

- Outreach and engagement with governments, international organisations, and other users of the ocean and seabed
- Development of ICPC Recommendations and Best Practices
- Protection and development of treaty protections and freedoms
- Publications, Newsletters and Environment Updates
- Annual Plenary and Member engagement
- Cable films and webinars
- Notifications of cable laying and recovery
- Promotion of environmental research regarding submarine telecommunications and power cables
- Liaison with regional cable protection committees

ICPC PRIORITY ISSUES

- Protection of submarine cables from natural and human risks of damage
- Reduction of permitting times and regulatory restrictions (including cabotage) for new cable builds and repairs
- Protection of submarine cables from uncoordinated deep seabed mining
- Preservation of treaty protections and freedoms in new treaty for Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)
- Cable security
- Charting of submarine cables—particularly in mining areas

ICPC WORKING GROUPS

- Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)
- Cable Materials
- Fish Aggregation Device (FAD)
- Mining
- Recommendations Steering Group
- Business Plan
- Charting
- Media & Public Relations
- Sensing

RESEARCH & MONITORING

- Environmental research
- Submarine cable permitting times database
- Legal developments: treaties, tribunal and court decisions, and national legislation

OUTREACH & LIAISON

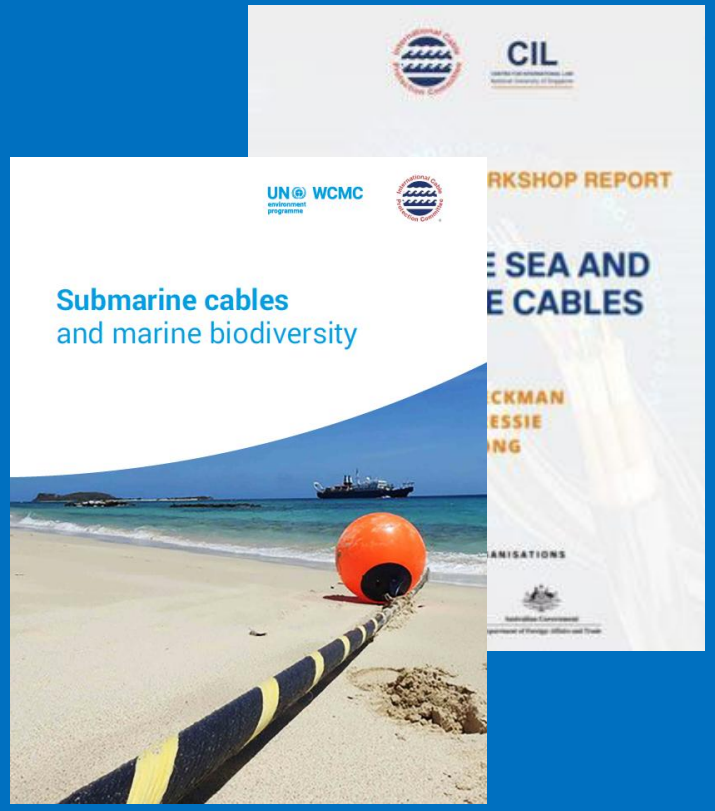
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Maritime Crime Programme
- UN Economic and Social Committee and UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) Conference of Parties
- Governments—particularly Australia, China, European Union, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, United States, and UK
- Regional organisations—particularly the Association of Southeast Asian Nations,
- Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Regional cable protection committees, including the European Submarine Cables Association (ESCA), North American Submarine Cable Association (NASCA), Danish Cable Protection Committee, and Oceania Submarine Cable Association (OSCA)
- Cable awareness initiatives, particularly in West Africa
- International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
- Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Oslo Paris Convention (OSPAR Commission)
- International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- National Oceanographic Centre (NOC)
- International Law Association Committee on Submarine Cables and Pipelines
- SubOptic and Sargasso Sea Commission
- Academic and law of the sea scholars and Environmental scientists

library and *publications*



- **COMPILATION** of an extensive, dedicated source of international cable legislation, legal articles and cases, and a topic index of reported cases and rulings involving submarine cables—the only such collection worldwide.
- **COMPILATION** of a very large source of environmental information and data related to the installation, maintenance and protection of submarine cables.
- **UNIQUE DATA** available nowhere else. **'The Global Comparison of Cable Repair Times'** is produced annually showing average repairs per year, average time to begin repair, and repair cause breakdown.

library and *publications*



(2026) 3rd ICPC Viewpoint published:' As fibre-optic sensing in submarine cables develops rapidly, governments should exercise restraint in regulating

(2025) 'Law of the Sea and Submarine Cables:' Joint report by ICPC and Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore (CIL) detailing results from a one-day law of the sea workshop jointly organised by the ICPC and CIL (with support from Infocomm Media Development Authority Singapore and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) following the 2024 ICPC Plenary that was held in Singapore. The report addresses key law of the sea issues and prospects for collaboration between industry and governments on installation, repair, protection, and security of submarine cables.

(2025) 'Submarine Cables and marine biodiversity:' Following its 2009 publication, the ICPC collaborated with UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to explore the probable impacts of installing, operating and removing submarine cables. The report also looks at strategies to mitigate the identified risks and any negative impacts.

(2024) 'ICPC Government Best Practices for Cable Protection Resilience of Submarine Telecommunications Cables' (in English, French and Spanish): The document assists governments in developing laws, policies, and practices to foster the development and protection of telecommunications cables—the infrastructure of the Internet. Best Practices Annex—**'Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)-Risks to Submarine Cable Deployment and Operations,'** was also published to accompany the document.



library and *publications*

- ICPC booklet: **'Fishing and Submarine Cables Working Together.'**
- An Authoritative **REFERENCE BOOK Submarine Cables –'The Handbook of Law and Policy.'** This book is the only recognised authoritative legal treatise published on submarine cables.
- **ICPC RECOMMENDATIONS** on submarine cable industry best practices. Currently there are 19 Recommendations published which are available online.
- ICPC educational presentations **About Submarine Telecommunications Cables and About Submarine Power Cables.**
- Monograph titled **'ISA Technical Study 24 '**is published from the outcome of the joint ICPC/ISA 2018 workshop that was held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Monograph titled **'International Submarine Cables and Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, The Cloud Beneath the Sea.'** This book provides a one-stop-shop of essential information relating to the international governance of submarine cables.
- **'Submarine Cables and Deep Seabed Mining: Advancing Common Interests and Addressing UNCLOS 'Due Regard' Obligations, ISA Technical Study No. 14'** (2015).
- Article titled **'Sargasso Sea, Submarine Cables in the Sargasso Sea,'** published in 'The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law.'



outreach to and education of

key stakeholders

ICPC HAS ESTABLISHED WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH:



- United Nations Environnent Programme **(UNEP)**
- The Centre for International Law **(CIL)** of the National University of Singapore (NUS), Center for Oceans Law and Policy **(COLP), (USA),** and China Institute of Marine Affairs **(CIMA) (PRC)**
- International Council on Large Electric Systems **(CIGRE)**
- International Telecommunication Union **(ITU)**
- ICPC has ongoing MoUs with **ESCA, ISA** and **SubOptic**
- ICPC has cooperative relationships with **NASCA, DKCPC** and **OSCA**
- Strategic Alliance Partner with the **Sargasso Sea Commission**

outreach to and education of

key stakeholders

OPERATIONAL LINKS ESTABLISHED WITH individual members of the ICPC, Durham University (UK), National Oceanography Centre (UK), Sun-Yat-Sen University Taiwan via:



- Non-financial support for a **NERC proposal** of Dr Michael Clare (ICPC Marine Scientific Adviser) to evaluate the response of fibre-optic cables to sediment density flows on the modern Fraser River delta.
- Collaboration with Professor Peter Talling and Dr Ed Pope of **Durham University** who undertook a global analysis of cable faults resulting from earthquakes and cyclones with the assistance of Global Marine Systems Limited.
- ICPC works with Professor James Liu, **National Sun-Yat-Sen University,** Taiwan regarding natural hazards and cables off Taiwan.
- Collaboration with **ESCA** regarding joining support for a study of seabed recovery from ploughing.

outreach to and education of

key stakeholders

Rhodes Academy Submarine Cables Writing Award

ICPC has an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **RHODES ACADEMY** of Oceans Law and Policy to sponsor an annual writing competition on the subject of **INTERNATIONAL LAW** and **SUBMARINE CABLES**. Each year, ICPC International Cable Law Adviser teaches as part of the faculty.



Kent Bressie (ICPC Cable Law Adviser) presented the 2024 winner of the Rhodes Academy-ICPC Submarine Cables Writing Competition with an official award at the 2025 ICPC Plenary. Pictured from left to right, Graham Evans (ICPC Vice Chair) Albert Vlodder, (winner for the paper 'The Consequences of Damaging Submarine Cables: An Examination of the Applicability of Effects Jurisdiction over the Unlawful Act of Damaging Submarine Cables on the High Seas'); and Kent Bressie.

engagement on law and policy with

governments and treaty bodies



June 2025: A Joint Initiative Statement for Subsea Connectivity Ecosystem Development in Indonesia was signed at the **Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs'** office in Jakarta with the goal to strengthen digital infrastructure and resilience in Indonesia. Along with several institutions, ICPC united in this commitment recognising critical infrastructure to foster digital talent, economic growth, innovation, enhance social connectivity, and support technological advancement.

November 2024: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the **United Nations Agency for Digital Technologies,** and ICPC formed the International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience to strengthen the resilience of this vital telecommunication infrastructure.

engagement on law and policy with *governments and treaty bodies*



- In 2018, the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** held a coordination and management meeting where ICPC was awarded special consultative status, as recommended by the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) committee of ECOSOC. The ICPC is the **FIRST AND ONLY** submarine cable organisation in status with the UN.
- **ICPC REPRESENTATION** influenced the development of The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management **(ESSIM)** so that the rights of cables under **UNCLOS** were successfully recognised and coastal State encroachment risk reduced.
- As a direct result of efforts by ICPC and its Members with their national governments, the **UNESCO** respects the rights of submarine cables as set out in **UNCLOS** and excluded international submarine cables from the Convention's requirements on underwater cultural heritage.

scientific
research

‘Submarine Cable Protection and the Environment’



Written by ICPC’s Marine Scientific Adviser Dr Mike Clare, the bi-annual issue of **‘Submarine Cable Protection and the Environment,’** is a reference for all seabed users, the scientific community and public who share the same vital goal as the ICPC **safeguarding submarine telecommunications and power cables worldwide.**

scientific research



THE ICPC SUPPORTS PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH INTO CABLES and their interaction with the marine environment. Below is an archived sampling of published papers:

- Kraus, C., and Carter, L., 2018. '**Seabed recovery following protective burial of cables observations from the continental margin.'** *Journal of Ocean Engineering* 157, 251-261.
- Clare, M.A., Vardy, M.E., Cartigny, M.J., Talling, P.J., Himsworth, M.D., Dix, J.K., Harris, J.M., Whitehouse, R.J. and Belal, M., 2017. '**Direct monitoring of active geohazards: emerging geophysical tools for deep-water assessments**.' *Near Surface Geophysics,* 15(4), pp.427-444.
- Azpiroz-Zabala, M., Cartigny, M.J., Talling, P.J., Parsons, D.R., Sumner, E.J., Clare, M.A., Simmons, S.M., Cooper, C. and Pope, E.L., 2017**. 'Newly recognized turbidity current structure can explain prolonged flushing of submarine canyons.'** *Science advances,* 3(10), p.e1700200.
- Clare, M.A., Clarke, J.H., Talling, P.J., Cartigny, M.J. and Pratomo, D.G., 2016**. 'Preconditioning and triggering of offshore slope failures and turbidity currents revealed by most detailed monitoring yet at a fjord-head delta.'** *Earth and Planetary Science Letters,* 450, pp.208-220.
- Gavey, R., Lionel Carter, James T. Liu, Peter J. Talling, Ray Hsu, Edward Pope, Graham Evans, 2016. '**Frequent sediment density flows during 2006 to 2015, triggered by competing seismic and weather events: Observations from subsea cable breaks off southern Taiwan.'** *Marine Geology.*
- Pope, Ed, Peter J Talling, Lionel Carter, 2016.'**Which earthquakes trigger damaging submarine mass movements: insights from a global record of submarine cable breaks?'** *Marine Geology.*
- Carter L, Gavey R, Talling P J, Liu J T., '**2014 Insights into submarine geohazards from breaks in subsea telecommunication cables','** *Oceanography.*

webinars, workshops and *conferences*



Submarine Networks World; SINGAPORE: SEPTEMBER 2026 (ICPC UPDATE)

European Subsea Cables Association 66th Plenary (ESCA); COPENHAGEN, SEPTEMBER 2026 (ICPC UPDATE)

Valentia Island Symposium on Subsea Cable Security and Resilience; VALENTIA ISLAND, APRIL 2026

ASEF / WIOCC Subsea & Digital Infrastructure Summit; NAIROBI, DECEMBER 2025

webinars, workshops and *conferences*



European Subsea Cables Association 64th Plenary (ESCA); UK, OCTOBER 2025

Submarine Networks World; SINGAPORE: SEPTEMBER 2025

Centre for International Law Event; SINGAPORE, SEPTEMBER 2025: ICPC International Cable Law Adviser Kent Bressie and Executive Committee Member Darren Griffiths participated at the 'Conference on International Law and the Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines: Multi-Dimensional Perspective.' The event was organised by NUS Centre for International Law.



webinars, workshops and *conferences*





International Submarine Cable Resilience Summit; NIGERIA, FEBRUARY 2025: ICPC International Cable Law Adviser presented **'ICPC and Industry Cable Protection Initiatives,'** and ICPC Operations Manager moderated the panel **'Responding to Disruptions: Crisis Management and Recovery.'** The event was organised by the ITU.

ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) Seminar Series: Submarine Cables; JAKARTA, FEBRUARY 2025

Valentia Island Subsea Cable Security and Resilience Symposium; VALENTIA ISLAND TRANSATLANTIC CABLE STATION, CO. KERRY, OCTOBER 2024: Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Micheál Martin TD gave an opening address to the Symposium, highlighting the importance of resilience of key infrastructure on the seabed.

webinars, workshops and *conferences*



- **Law of the Sea Workshop:** ICPC and CIL organised a one-day closed-door workshop: **SINGAPORE; MAY 2024**
- ICPC GM Moderates Sensing Panel at **PTC'24:** **HAWAII, JANUARY 2024**
- ICPC Hosts **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Workshop** for Members: **VIRTUAL, SEPTEMBER 2023**
- Representation at the **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** 28th Session Council Meetings: **JAMAICA; JULY 2023**
- 15th Session of the **IHO Hydrographic Standards and Services Committee** (HSSC-15): **HELSINKI, JUNE 2023**
- ICPC Represents at **Submarine Networks EMEA:** **UK, MAY/JUNE 2023**
- ICPC Represents at the **International Hydrographic Organization Assembly** (IHO): **MONACO, MAY 2023**
- ICPC Participates in **Indonesia Service Dialogue Council** (ISD) Focus Group Discussion: Subsea Cable Networks for Connectivity and Advancement of the Digital Economy: **INDONESIA, MAY 2023**

webinars, workshops and *conferences*



- ICPC Presents at **Submarine Networks World 2022**: **SINGAPORE, SEPTEMBER 2022**
- ICPC Speaks at **International Seabed Authority** 27th Annual Session: **JAMAICA, JULY 2022**
- ICPC ICLA Instructs at **Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy: GREECE, JULY 2022**
- Informal **Consultative Process (ICP)** on Ocean Observing: **USA, JUNE 2022**
- 32nd Meeting of States Parties to the **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea** (UNCLOS): **USA, JUNE 2022**
- **Hydrographic Standards and Services Committee Meeting** (HSSC-14): (hosted by Indonesian Naval Hydro Oceanography Center (Pushidrosal): **INDONESIA, MAY 2022**
- ICPC Presents at **European Subsea Cables Association Plenary: UK, MAY 2022**
- ICPC Presents at **Submarine Networks EMEA: UK, MAY 2022**
- ICPC Participates at IGC-4 on **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction** (BBNJ): **UK, MARCH 2022**
- ICPC Participates in **Cable Resilience Workshop with UNODC and Indian Ocean Commission Governments: JANUARY 2021**

webinars, workshops and *conferences*



- ICPC Participates in **Marine Sensing Technologies Panel at PTC'21**: **USA, JANUARY 2021**
- ICPC Participates in **Maritime Security Workshop with UN Office of Counter-Terrorism** and UN Counter-Terrorism Committee: **DECEMBER 2020**
- **Submarine Networks World** (Virtual Update on ICPC Outreach and Activities): **SINGAPORE, NOVEMBER 2020**
- ICPC Participates in **Cable Resilience Workshops with UNODC and Sri Lankan Government: SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER 2020**
- ICPC Participates in **UN ESCAP Tsunami Monitoring Steering Committee Meetings: MAY AND NOVEMBER 2020**
- ICPC Participates in **SubOptic Spotlight Series** Highlighting COVID-19 Pandemic Challenges: **MARCH-MAY 2020**

Click here to view ICPC INAUGURAL PUBLIC WEBINAR: Cables and the Marine Environment—From Ocean to Cloud

The ICPC is the world's premier submarine cable protection organisation. It was formed in 1958 to promote the protection of international **telecommunications** and **power submarine cables** against human and natural hazards. It provides a forum for the exchange of technical, legal, and environmental information about submarine cables and engages with stakeholders and governments globally to promote submarine cable protection. The ICPC has more than **255 MEMBERS** from **77 NATIONS** including cable operators, owners, manufacturers, industry service providers, as well as governments. For further information about the ICPC and its events, submarine cables generally, best practices for cable protection, and applicable international law and treaties, visit: www.iscpc.org and www.linkedin.com/company/icpc-ltd/. If interested in joining the ICPC, click on thefollowing **LINK.**