



Working Group 8: Submarine Cable Routing and Landing Working Group

Status Update

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WG8 Overview

- WG8 is examining the risks posed to submarine cable infrastructure and how proximity to other marine activities, governmental permitting processes, and clustering of cable routes and landings can increase the risk of cable damage and harm U.S. network resilience.
- Cable protection is critical, as submarine cables carry approximately 99 percent of U.S. traffic with the rest of the world, not to mention Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. territories.
- WG8 will recommend separation standards and alternative architectures, government policies, and interagency coordination mechanisms to promote a more resilient submarine cable infrastructure.



WG8 Deliverables

- WG8 will produce three separate reports:
 - Report 1 will recommend approaches for spatial separation of submarine cables and other offshore activities/infrastructure to ensure infrastructure protection and continuity of communications.
 - Report 2 will examine gaps, conflicts, and sources of delay in existing federal, state, and local interagency coordination for offshore permitting and recommend mechanism for enhancing coordination without increasing regulatory burdens.
 - Report 3 will address industry best practices and government policies for promoting geographic diversity of submarine cable routes and landings.



WG8 Status

- WG8 consists of approximately 20 members, representing diverse interests including submarine cable operators, cable system customers, marine services consultants, federal energy agencies, and state regulators, all with subject matter expertise to accomplish WG8's objectives.
- As WG8 members are geographically dispersed, WG8 works primarily by conference call, email, and a SharePoint site.
- WG8 has adopted a work plan for Reports 1, 2, and 3, and has appointed task leaders for work plan elements for Reports 1 and 2.
- WG8 is currently drafting Report 1.



WG8 Deliverables Schedule

- CSRIC June 2014 meeting: submission of Report 1 (spatial separation)
- CSRIC December 2014 meeting: consideration of Report 2 (interagency coordination)
- CSRIC March 2015 meeting: consideration of Report 3 (promoting geographic diversity)

