



Working Group 8: Submarine Cable Routing and Landing Working Group

Status Update

June 18, 2014

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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 25 members.
 - They represent 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.
 - Numerous government agency reps have joined WG8 in recent months.
- As WG8 members are geographically dispersed, WG8 works by conference call, email, and a SharePoint site.
- WG8 is currently finalizing Report 1 and is focused on developing its specific recommendations.



WG8 Deliverables Schedule

- CSRIC September 2014 meeting: submission of Report 1 (spatial separation)
 - This delivery date was pushed back from June 2014
- CSRIC December 2014 meeting: consideration of Report 2 (interagency coordination)
- CSRIC March 2015 meeting: consideration of Report 3 (promoting geographic diversity)

