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# ICPC Recommendation

## Recommendation No. 5

### Standardization Of Cable Awareness Charts

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**Note:** Issue status suffix 'A' relates to minor format changes, not content.

## Contact for Enquiries and Proposed Changes

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*NB: ICPC Recommendations are subject to periodic review and users are cautioned to obtain the latest issues. This Recommendation may be revised or withdrawn at any time without further notice to the recipient.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Before, during and after cable installation, one of the first steps necessary to protect a submarine cable from external aggression is to communicate the cable location to sea bed users that engage in activity that may endanger the cable. An essential step is to communicate the cable route to the appropriate national Hydrographic Offices (see ICPC Handbook, section 25 for list of Hydrographic Offices), so that cables will be shown on government produced and commercially available nautical charts.

In addition, a common and successful method to communicate cable route information to the sea bed users who need it is through the production and distribution of charts depicting the cable route. These charts are known by various administrations as "Cable Warning Charts", "Cable Protection Charts", "Cable Awareness Charts" or similar names. Whether these charts are produced by overprinting onto government charts or are printed independently, they possess the advantages over the standard government produced charts in that they can be produced, updated and distributed rapidly and customized to highlight cable routes and important additional information. Also, the size and format of the charts can be customized to increase acceptance by specific user groups such as fishermen, oil & gas industry, merchant fleets etc.

Given the far reaching distribution of international fishing fleets and merchant vessels, it is envisioned that some degree of standardization for the production of Cable Awareness Charts is desirable to avoid confusion among sea bed users who may obtain such information from various ICPC members. In addition, given that many members now have maintenance responsibilities for cables in identical geographic regions with other ICPC members, some degree of co-operation among members in the production and distribution of cable route information is desirable.

## 2. CHART SPECIFICATIONS

ICPC members may wish to consider the following recommendations when issuing cable route information in chart form:

### 2.1. Name/Title

It is suggested that the charts be named "Cable Awareness Charts" (CAC's) rather than Cable Warning or Cable Protection charts. The term Cable Awareness Chart suggests a more friendly and co-operative approach to sea bed users who work the sea bed in the vicinity of submarine cables.

### 2.2. Format

The size and format of the chart shall be chosen with the ultimate goal of ensuring its use by the intended sea bed users. In producing the chart, members must first choose between overprinting cable routes and information on existing, commercially available nautical charts, or producing an entirely original chart, customized to meet the specific needs of the members and the intended users.

Sample portions from both format types are attached. It is suggested that members survey the intended user groups to ascertain the appropriate format. If a government chart is modified or reproduced, members are advised to obtain any necessary government permissions.

Members shall consider that bridge and wheel house space in many vessels is limited, and some captains prefer a small size custom chart or document such as a leaflet or "flyer" from which they can transfer relevant information to their navigation charts or plotters.

An additional advantage of custom produced charts is that they can be designed to specifically cover designated fishing grounds or cable areas. For example, in European waters, charts can be produced to correspond with government fisheries regulation zones such as the ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) areas, which are well known to fishing industries. Members may find that both formats are necessary, depending on all the conflicting uses of the sea bed at the cable grounds.

Charts shall be kept as simple as possible with no unnecessary features which may detract from the cable information. For custom charts, the addition of navigation lattices (such as DECCA or LORAN) shall be carefully considered, weighing the accuracy of such grids and the distraction from the intended purpose of the chart such grids may create. On overprinted charts, care must be taken not to obscure information the intended users may find valuable. For example, it may not be appropriate to obscure submarine canyons or fishing banks with overprinted text, logos or symbols.

### **2.3. Date**

Charts shall be clearly marked with a date and issue number.

### **2.4. Cable Coverage**

Accurate positions of all known cables shall be depicted.

### **2.5. Position Lists**

A list of "alter courses" may be provided so that cable route information can be easily be transferred to electronic navigation plotters commonly used by commercial fishing vessels.

### **2.6. Symbols**

Wherever possible, the use of standard symbols, such as those approved by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) shall be used. When non standard symbols are used, their meaning shall be conveyed by a clear legend.

Examples of IHO symbols include:

- 2.6.1.** In Service Submarine Telecommunications Cables - IHO monochrome "wavy line".
- 2.6.2.** Out of Service Submarine Telecommunications Cables - IHO broken monochrome "wavy line".
- 2.6.3.** Submarine Power Cables - IHO "wavy line with flash".

Suggested non IHO symbols:

- 2.6.4.** Recovered Cables - Recovered cables would not generally be shown on custom charts, unless the purpose of the chart is to communicate the recovery to sea bed users. On overprinted charts, it may be necessary to over print the route originally depicted on the government chart with a symbol indicating cable recovery, until the chart is re-issued by the government with the cable route removed. Suggested symbol - heavy dotted line.
- 2.6.5.** Planned Cable/Cable Under Installation - A "short dash" line. Additionally, the cable may be labelled as "Planned" or "Under Construction" with an appropriate date.
- 2.6.6.** Safe Working Distance or "Cable Buffer Zone" - Members may wish to designate a "safe working distance" on either side of the cable route. Such a zone indicates the recommended distance sea bed users who conduct activity likely to cause damage to a submarine telephone cable shall keep from the cable. The depiction of this zone also serves to highlight the location of the cable. The width of the zone can be determined by the cable owner, taking into account such factors as water depth, local navigational accuracy, and the accuracy with which the cable was installed. Suggested symbol in most coastal areas - translucent red zone two nautical miles wide (one nautical mile to either side of the cable).

## **2.7. Supplementary Information**

Members may wish to print various types of supplementary information on their charts, including:

- 2.7.1.** Emergency contact information and instructions to assist mariners who may become entangled in a cable.
- 2.7.2.** Chart ordering information.
- 2.7.3.** Legal Disclaimers such as "Not To Be Used For Navigation".

## **2.8. Logos**

The ICPC logo and individual company logos may be printed if desired.

## **2.9. Paper Quality**

Chart paper, finish and ink shall be suitable for use in the marine environment.

### 3. REFERENCES

Document Number	Title
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### 4. DEFINITIONS

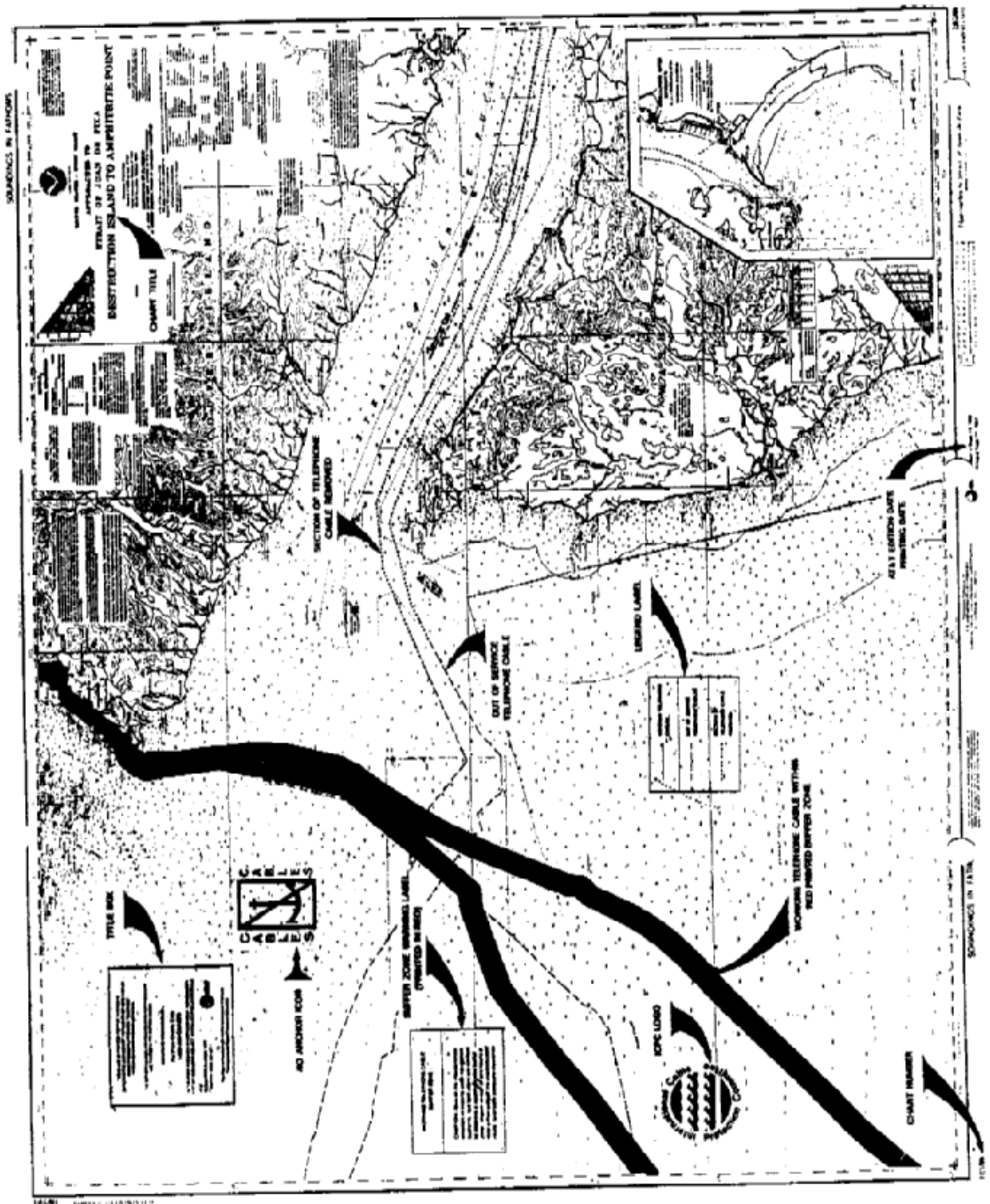
The following words, acronyms and abbreviations are referred to in this document.

Term	Definition
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### 5. ATTACHMENTS

Document Number	Title
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-	Chart Samples from AT&T, Pacific Telecom Cable, Telstra, Kingfisher Charts
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THIS CHART IS PROVIDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
DEPICTING THE LOCATION OF WORKING TELEPHONE CABLES  
AND IS FREQUENTLY UPDATED TO REFLECT  
KNOWN CHANGES IN CABLE LOCATIONS.

THE EDITION NUMBER AND RELEASE DATE FOR THIS CHART  
ARE PRINTED IN THE BOTTOM MARGIN.




FOR UPDATE INFORMATION OR  
**For Free Charts Call:  
1-800-235-CHARTS**

IN THE EVENT THE CABLE IS HOOKED IN GEAR, PLEASE NOTIFY  
AT&T BY TELEPHONE COLLECT, GIVING LOCATION AND DETAILS:

AT&T  
BEDMINSTER, NJ 07921, USA  
Telephone: (808) 234-6771

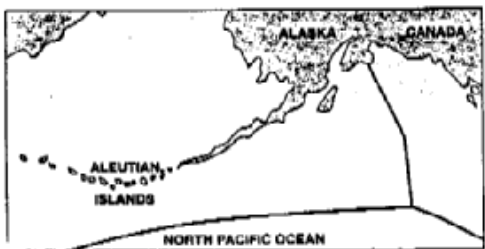
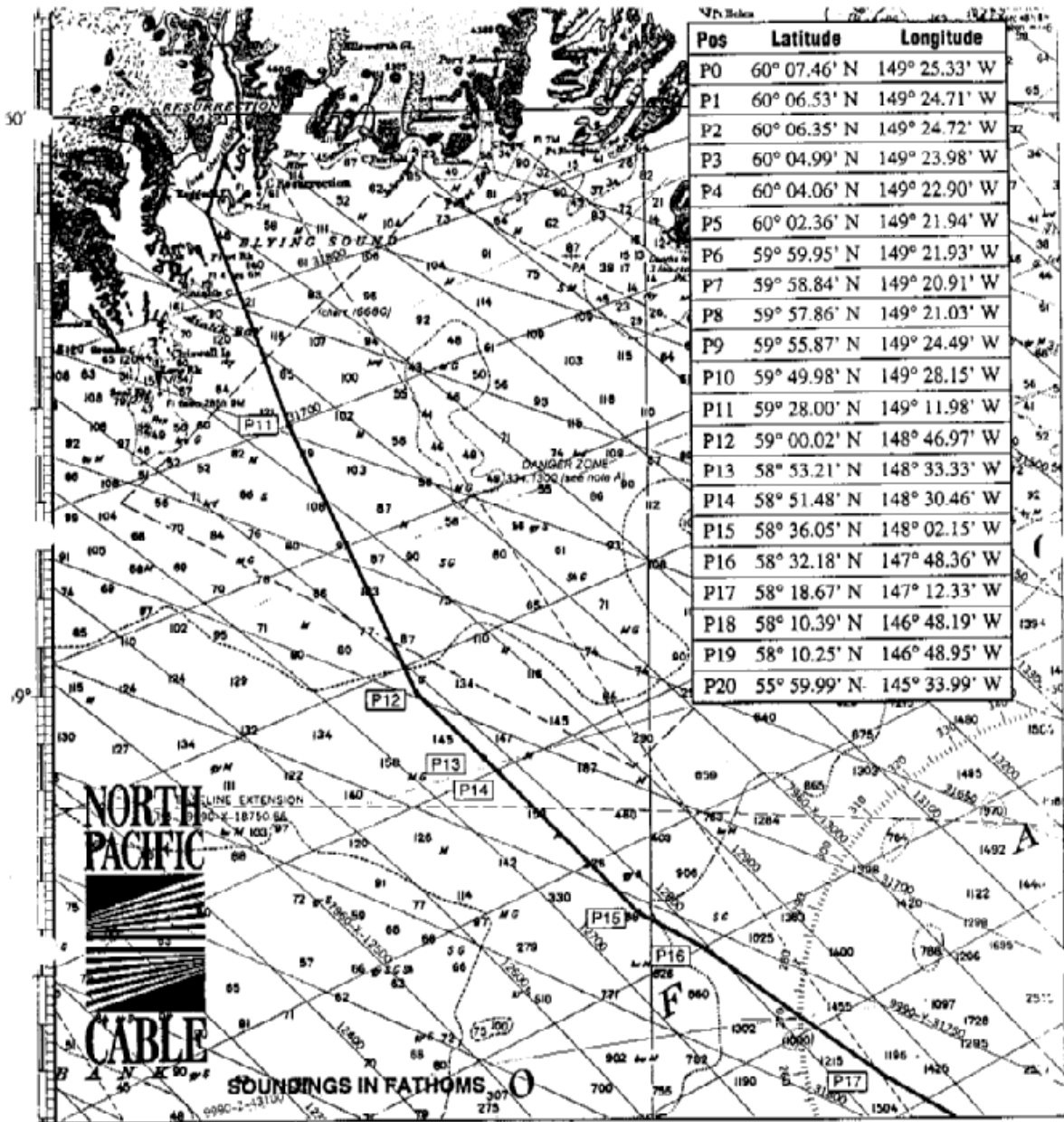


This Chart is Provided with the Compliments of AT&T and  
The International Cable Protection Committee.

	<b>WORKING TELEPHONE CABLES</b>
	<b>OUT OF SERVICE TELEPHONE CABLES</b>
	<b>SECTION OF TELEPHONE CABLE REMOVED</b>

<b>WORKING TELEPHONE CABLE BUFFER ZONE</b>
<b>CAUTION - Due to the inaccuracies inherent in marine radio navigation systems, seabed users are advised to observe a working cable buffer zone (shown in red) of one nautical mile either side of the charted cable route, to ensure adequate clearance.</b>



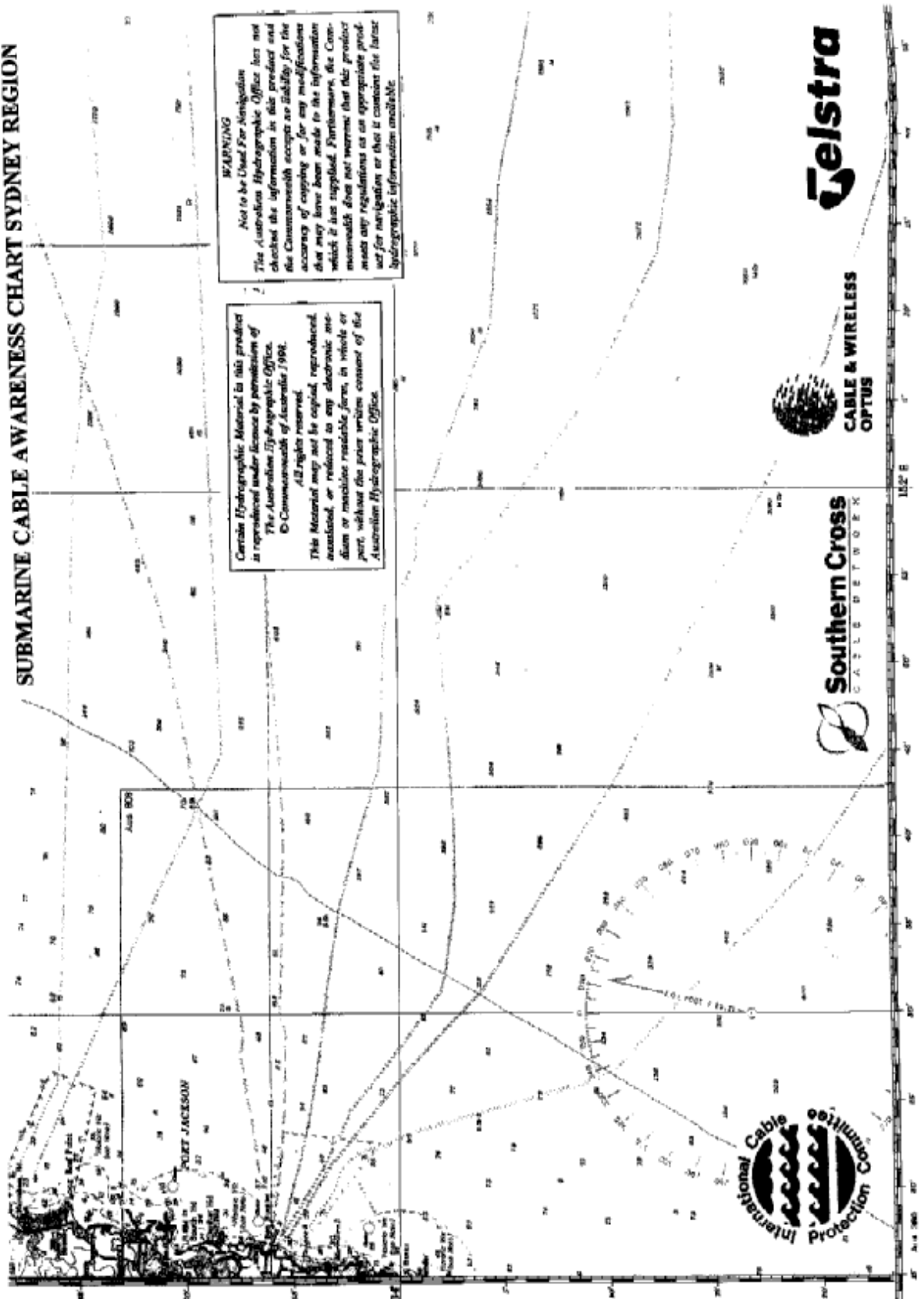


A fiber-optic communications cable, called the North Pacific Cable (NPC), has been buried on the sea-bed out of Seward, Alaska. Beyond Resurrection Bay, the cable crosses the Aleutian Trench and subsequently branches to landing points in Pacific City, Oregon and Miura, Japan.

Fisherman can prevent costly damage to the cable, and their own gear, by avoiding operations along the route of NPC. If contact with the cable occurs, or is suspected, please report the incident at the following 24-hour toll-free number.

**Pacific Telecom Cable, Inc. 1-800-833-6430**

**SUBMARINE CABLE AWARENESS CHART SYDNEY REGION**



**WARNING**  
Not to be Used For Navigation  
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