

9th CSPWG MEETING
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 13-16 November, 2012

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG
Submarine Cables

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Submitted by: | UK |
| Executive Summary: | How to maintain charts for new submarine cables. |
| Related Documents: | IHO Specs S-4 B443, B620.3i and C-408 |
| Related Projects: | None |

Introduction / Background.

At CSPCWG8 we had an interesting and informative discussion as various WG members explained their national policies for dealing with the increasingly heavy burden of maintaining charts for new submarine cables.

Subsequently, UK has reviewed its practice in the light of those discussions and also discussions with cable companies and internally. Consequently, UK's practice has changed and this paper is for information and possible consequences for S-4.

Analysis / Discussion (UK's revised practice).

1. **Cable types.** It was agreed that there is no justification for applying a different NM policy for different types of cables (ie power v telecom), as telecom cables often carry high voltages.
2. **Chart updating action** should be taken for all cables everywhere to a depth of at least 200m (as S-4 B-620.3).
3. **NMs.** If possible such cables should be promulgated by textual NM. As current policy, a selection of turning points can be made to ensure the cable is sufficiently accurately plotted to avoid likelihood of fouling it. The course should be more exact in areas where fouling by anchor is possible. Beyond about 70m, the course may be more generalized, as trawls cover a wide area so an approximate course should give sufficient awareness of the risk of fouling the cable. The 'maximum 10-point rule of thumb' may be relaxed for cable NMs, in consultation with MSI section. Occasionally, a NM Block may be appropriate.
4. **NEs.** Despite the relaxation of the 10-point rule, it is likely that a few more NEs to promulgate cables in <200m will be required.
5. **Flexibility beyond 200m.** It was agreed that recommending 'flexibility for some geographical areas where it is known that there is seabed activity at greater depths' (B-620.3i) is pointless as:
 - We do not know where fishing/trawling is carried out
 - There may be no evidence on the chart to suggest such a need
 - Some seabed activity may start after the decision not to chart a cable beyond 200m has been taken
 - Areas of seabed exploitation would normally be licensed and require knowledge of submarine cables from sources other than the chart.
6. However, 200m is a minimum depth and still allows for cartographic judgement to chart cables beyond 200m (eg to the edge of the chart, across small deeper areas).

7. **Chart bases.** It was agreed that the complete course of a cable (out to 2000m) should be inserted on paper chart (including raster ARCS) and ENC bases immediately the 'as-laid' positions are received.

This will ensure that ENC and ARCS users get the full picture almost immediately and paper chart users as soon as they purchase a reprinted chart (although a new purchase from a distributor may still be an unrevised print if the distributor has not obtained new stock).

8. **(P)NMs.** It was agreed that the practice of issuing a (P)NM for 'to-be-laid' cables is still required (including generalization if appropriate), but there is no purpose in listing positions beyond where the chart-updating NM would promulgate the 'as laid' positions. Once the 'as-laid' positions have been received, and any chart-updating action taken including updating chart bases to 2000m, no further (P)NM is required.
9. **Pipelines.** Most pipelines can be inserted on charts by normal NM practice. However, occasional very long pipelines should be treated in the same way as long cables.

10. **Disused cables:** Existing UK policy is:

'Disused cables are to be shown (symbol L 32) on New Charts and New Editions to a depth of 20 metres, (which is the likely depth of water to which smaller vessels may be endangered by anchoring and fouling the cable) and through known anchorage areas. The inclusion of disused cables is normally to be limited to the largest scale chart(s) of an area, and they are not normally to be shown on charts of scale smaller than 1:200 000.'

S-4 B-620 does not list disused cables as something which should be inserted, or changed from 'active' by NM (UK agrees). S-4 B-443.7 does not suggest any cut-off for charting disused cables (2000m for active cables). In UK's opinion, these cables are only of concern to small vessels whose anchor could become entangled and lost as a consequence of fouling them. Showing them further to sea is adding chart clutter of doubtful value.

Conclusions.

None

Recommendations.

1. Delete the phrase 'although this should be flexible for some geographical areas where it is known that there is seabed activity at greater depths' from B-620.3i.
2. Add to B-443.7: 'eg: stopping them at 20m (which is the likely depth of water to which smaller vessels may be endangered by anchoring and fouling the cable).'

Justification and Impacts.

1. As stated above.
2. Minor clarifications to S-4.

Action required of CSPCWG.

The CSPCWG is invited to:

Consider the above recommendations.