

Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

Report of the International Cable Protection Committee *Docs: HSSC9-07.12A*

ICPC activities affecting HSSC

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International Hydrographic Organization
Organisation Hydrographique Internationale

HSSC-9, Ottawa, Canada 6 – 10 November 2017

International Cable Protection Committee



Principal activities and achievements

- Reorganization of ICPC Focus Group into IHO Working Group with enhanced membership
- Endorsement by ICPC EC of MoU objective of accurate charting of submarine cables
- Adoption by Assembly of Text Box related to Submarine Cables – IHO Resolution 4/1967 as amended by IHO A-1
- Submission of paper NCWG3-08.3A for consideration at NCWG3 addressing Action HSSC8/68 proposing adaptation of S4 Charting Specification B443 & C408 for Submarine Cables taking account of Deep Seabed Mining and to align with IHO Resolution 4/1967 as amended by IHO A-1
- Participation at ISA 23rd Session Kingston, Jamaica
- ICPC Statement to ISA Assembly emphasising need to respect UNCLOS Due Regard principle between deep sea mining contractors and the owners of submarine cables



Problems or outstanding issues

- Action HSSC8/66 – ICPC unable to attend S-100WG2 in Genoa due timing and human resource issue
- Action HSSC8/68 – Schedule conflict prevented ICPC attendance at NCWG3 consequently there is an outstanding matter of addressing proposed amendments of S4 - B443 & C408 specifically to:
 - Align with IHO Resolution 4/1967 as amended by IHO A-1 and
 - Remove a misleading assumption promulgated in S4-B443.8 with respect to buried cables which even if deep buried remain at risk from anchoring and certain types of fishing activity
- Action HSSC8/69 – The ICPC has not had sight of the next version of the draft GEBCO roadmap for “Seabed 2030” but will review and comment if/when available
- Action HSSC8/70 – The ICPC now believes the development of a roadmap contributing to the implementation of the IHO-ICPC MoU is on target for presentation at HSSC-10



Future work programme

- The ICPC will work with the IRCC to promote the criticality of the submarine telecommunications cable infrastructure and adoption of a unified submarine cable charting standard by regional HOs
- The ICPC will work with the MSDIWG with a focus on:
 - Data exchange and submarine cables
 - Development of data quality standards
 - Development of a submarine cable S4XX product specification
 - Development of a pilot study
- Develop a work plan that will prioritize the charting of cables in deep sea mining areas

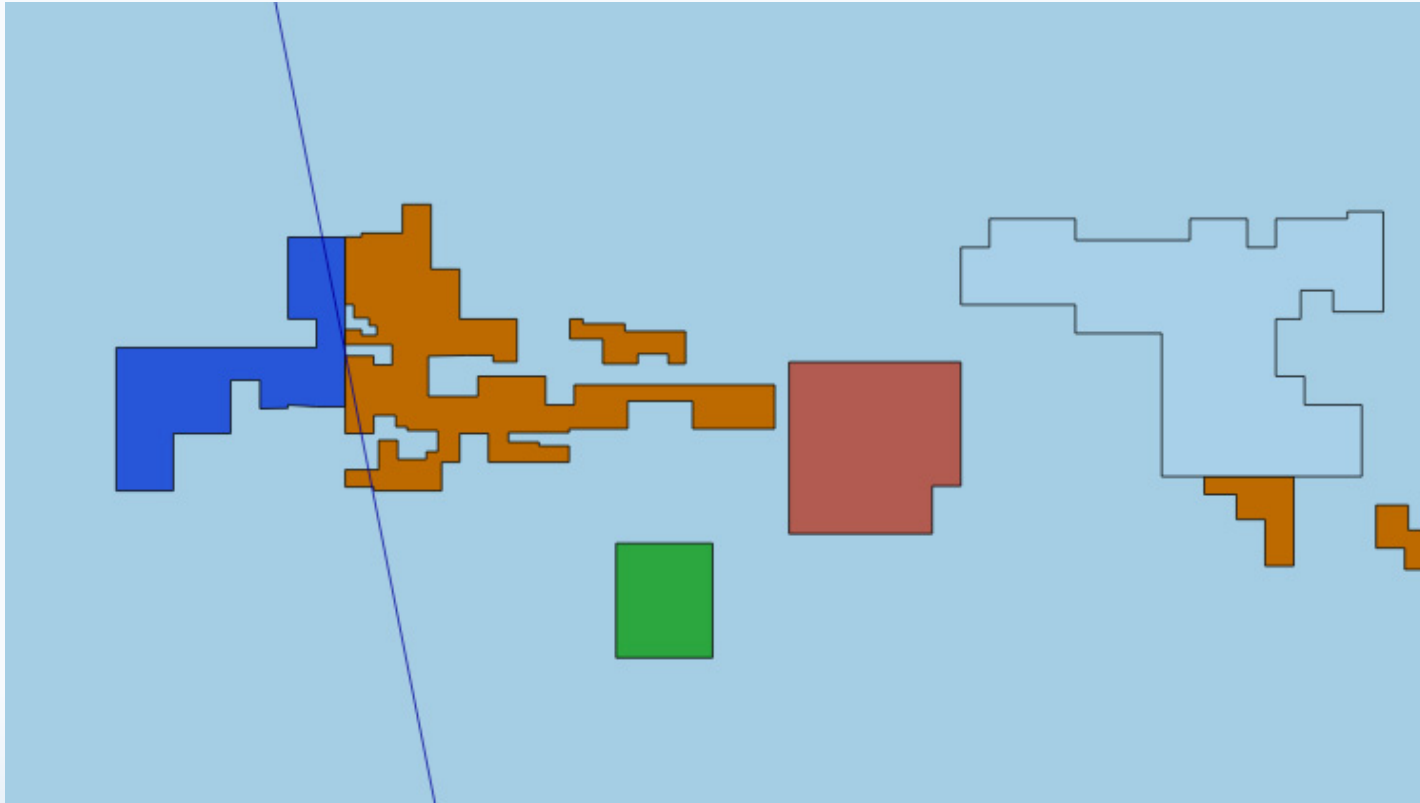


Deep Seabed Mining – Threat to Uncharted Cables

- The ISA is currently developing Deep Seabed Mining Extraction Regulations
- The ICPC has submitted comments on the Draft Regulations
- The ICPC has engaged with the ISA Secretariat to reinforce the UNCLOS principle of Due Regard – the Draft Regulations have watered this down to Reasonable Regard
- In May 2017 the ICPC issued Recommendation No. 17 *Submarine Cable Operations in Deep Seabed Mining Concessions Designated by the International Seabed Authority*
- The Recommendation encourages dialogue between cable owner and mining contractor; in the absence of charted cable positions; mining contractors are unaware of existing submarine cable infrastructure
- Follow the Kingston meetings, a search of the ISA database revealed potential conflicts between cables and mining blocks previously un recognised



Clarion Clipperton North Pacific

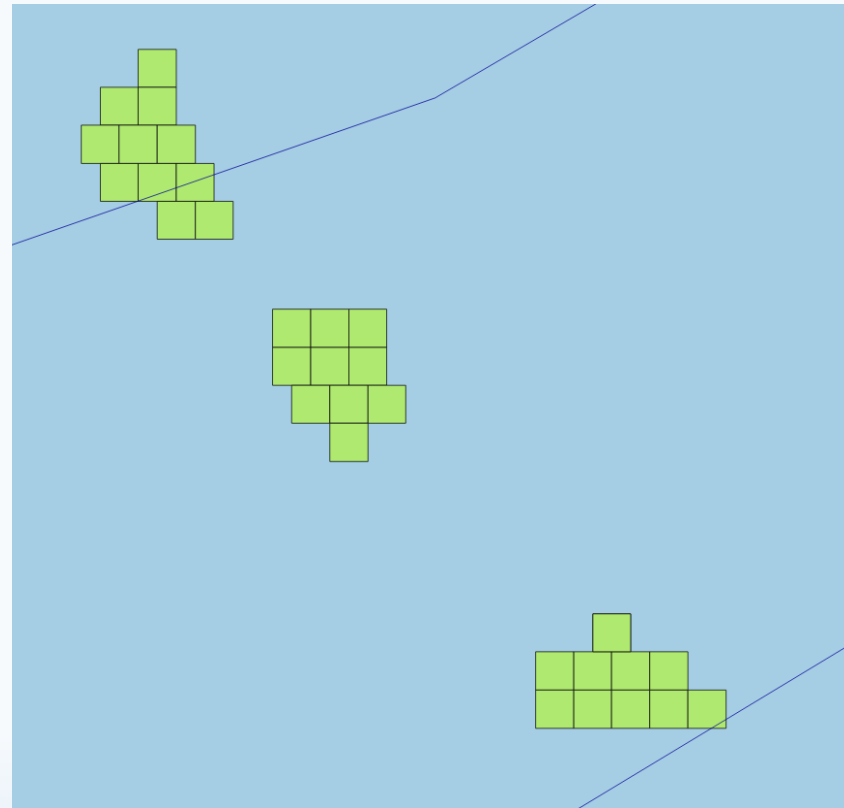


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Indian Ocean

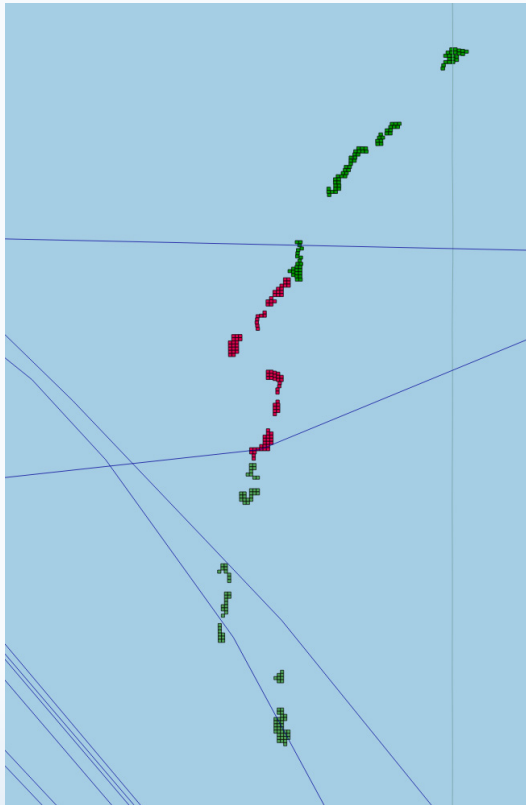


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North Atlantic Ridge

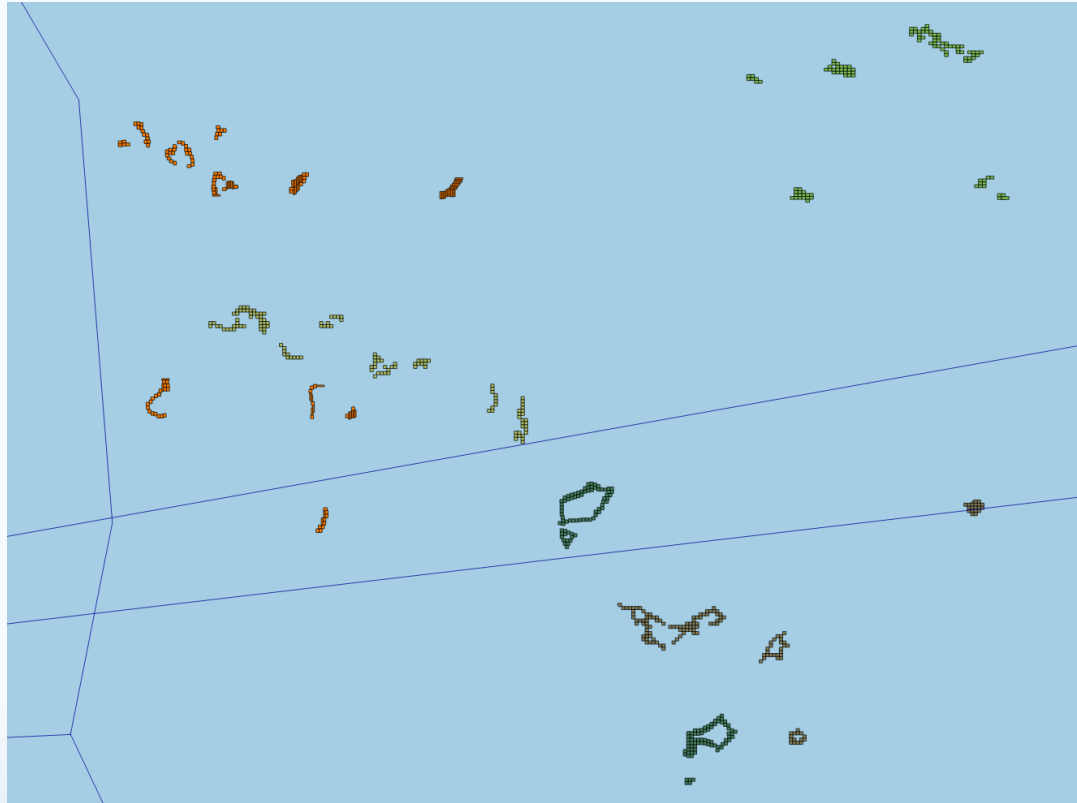


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Northwest Pacific

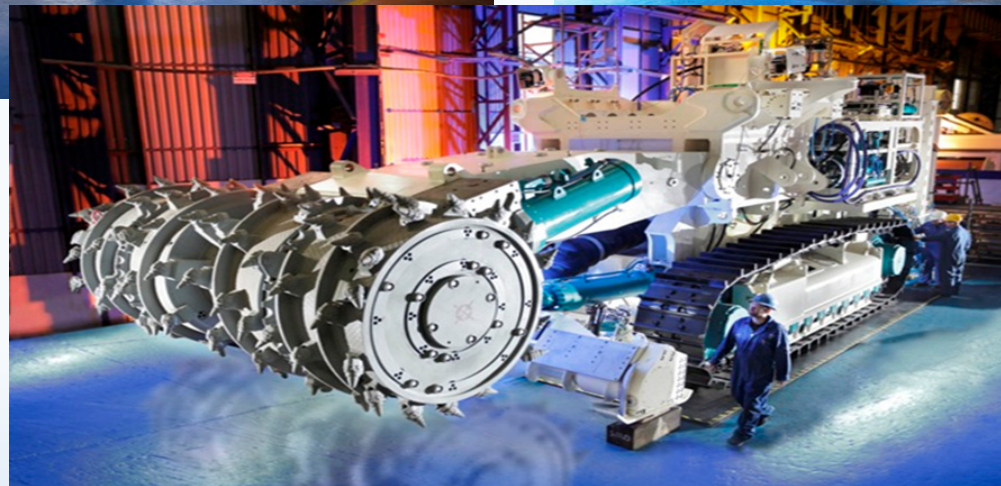
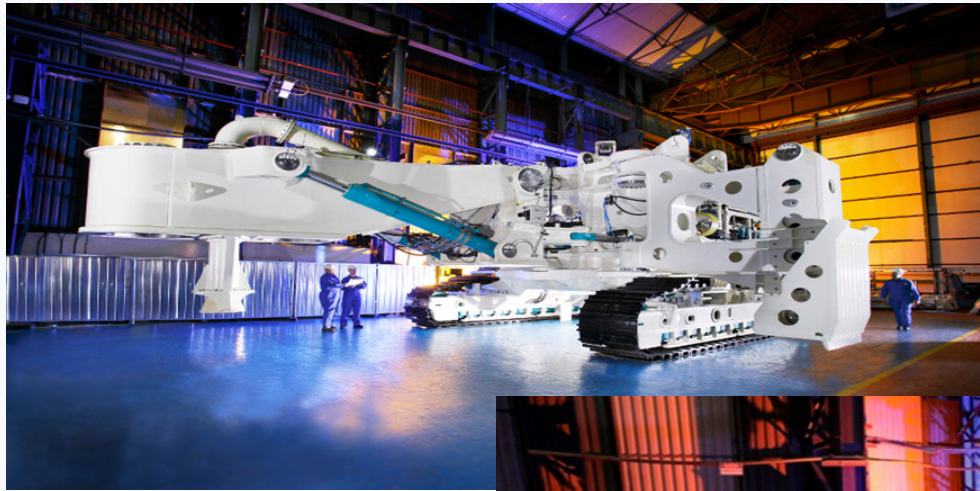


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Deep Seabed Mining – Threat to Uncharted Cables



Nautilus Minerals Deep Sea Mining Equipment



17mm cable = No contest



Crowd Sourcing

- No change in ICPC position to previous presentation
- ICPC does support the principle of crowd sourced bathymetric data collected as part of cable route surveys
- Bathymetry data collected during a cable route survey is proprietary information and requires the consent of the cable owner for it to be included in a crowd sourced data set
- Concerns voiced by the ICPC international law advisor cautions that crowd sourcing cable route survey data could compromise submarine cable protections under UNCLOS by having the cable route survey activity categorized as MSR
- Opinions sought during last ICPC Plenary and at ICPC EC meeting indicates that some cable owners would approve the release of data after cable installation
- Cable route survey data would typically have been archived; recovery from archive would have a cost associated with it
- Crowd sourcing could be included in in the MSDIWG pilot study



Action requested of HSSC

- ICPC invites the HSSC to note this report
- ICPC invites the HSSC to note the reorganisation of ICPC Focus Group into expanded ICPC/IHO Working Group
- ICPC invites the HSSC to note the ICPC will work with the IRCC and MDSIWG to further the objectives of the IHO/ICPC MoU
- HSSC to note the commitment of ICPC to complete outstanding action by HSSC-10

