

Cable Awareness & Emergency Procedures

Please keep clear and do not damage submarine telecoms cables. You risk the loss of your gear and catch, and international communications can be disrupted. These cables carry high voltages and can be dangerous to life. It is an offence to wilfully damage submarine cables.

The coasts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Europe have a large number of submarine cable systems. When fishing gear fouls a cable the results can be expensive and dangerous. Many cables have high breaking strains, some over 70 tonnes.

If gear is caught in these you may cause damage to nets and lines as well as disrupting international communications.

If you suspect that you have fouled a submarine telecoms cable the following action should be taken

1. If weights are excessive and you suspect you are fast to a cable, **DO NOT** endanger your vessel and crew by attempting to recover your gear.
2. Carefully plot your ships position as accurately as possible.
3. Advise your Coastguard station of your situation or call the 24 hour Emergency Number and state that an incident is occurring concerning an underwater Submarine Telecommunications Cable.

This chart is provided to indicate the route positions of the Northern Lights submarine telecommunications cable system. It is given for assistance and guidance. The Sea Fish Industry Authority nor BT accept liability for any inaccuracies however caused.



Kingfisher®

Special Charts Services

Produced by the Kingfisher Department of the Sea Fish Industry Authority, St Andrews Quay, Hull, HU3 4QE
on behalf of BT.

www.seafishmarineservices.com



Useful Addresses

BT

Doug Percy, 18-20 Millbrook Road East
Southampton, SO15 1HY.

Tel: +44 (0) 2380837928 Mob: +44 (0) 7715482694

Duty Liaison Officer (Out of Hours)

Tel: +44 (0) 2380829806

Kingfisher Information Services

Sea Fish Industry Authority

St. Andrews Dock, Hull, HU3 4QE

Tel. +44 (0) 1482 327837

Orkney Fisheries Association

4 Ferry Terminal Building, Kirkwall Pier

Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1HU

Tel: +44(0) 1856 871818

Scrabster Harbour Office

Harbour Office, Scrabster, Caithness, KW14 7UJ

Tel: +44(0) 1847 892779

SFF

24 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen, AB10 1XE

Tel: +44 (0) 1224 646944

HM Coastguard

MRCC Shetland

The Knab, Knab Road, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0AX

Tel: +44 (0) 1595 743514

MRCC Aberdeen

4th Floor, Marine House, Blaikies Quay, Aberdeen, AB11 5PB

Tel: +44 (0) 1224 592334

24hr Emergency Contact No:

+44 (0) 8457 555999

www.kisca.org.uk

SUBMARINE CABLE AWARENESS CHART

Northern Lights (Installation June 2008)

Submarine Cable System



Edition May 2008

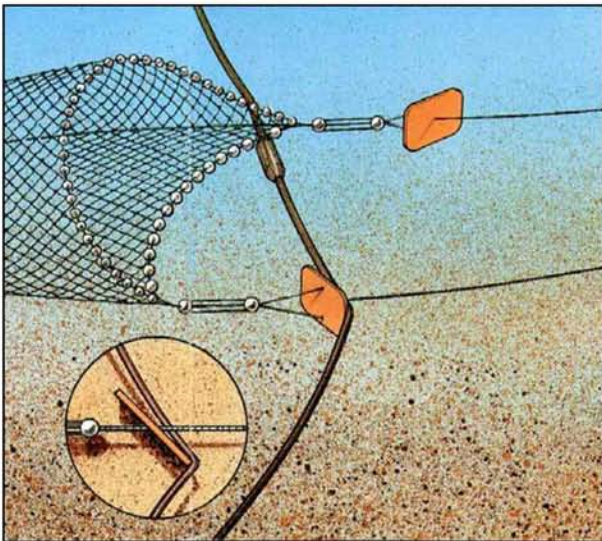
Submarine Cables and the Risk of Snagging

Subsea (submarine) telecommunications cables have been laid on the seabed since the eighteen fifties. Cables installed since 1983 have been buried at the time of installation, as will the Northern Lights system, with a target burial depth of 0.8 metres. Unfortunately there remains the possibility, in places, of the cable not being buried or becoming unburied. It is not possible to show these areas, thus the entire cable route should be treated with the utmost caution.

The vessels most at risk are those with towed gear, bottom and beam trawls and dredges. Static gear, whilst not entirely free from risk, is less likely to be affected.

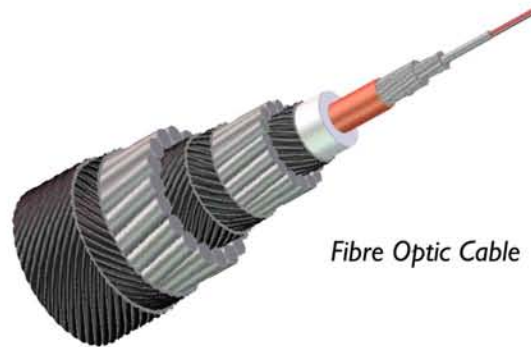
In the event of becoming entangled with the cable there is a high probability of damage to or loss of fishing gear as well as fishing time and catch. If attempts are made to lift the cable to the surface or to pull the gear free there is the very real risk of loss of stability eventually leading to capsize with resultant loss of life.

Trawl door fouling a cable



Submarine Cables and Repair Hazards

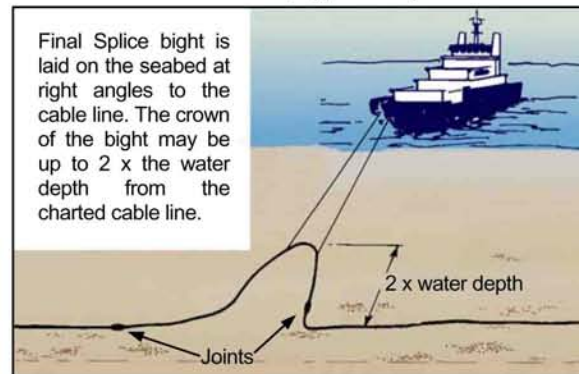
Fibre Optic cable consists of an inner optical core encased within a copper clad high tensile steel wire rope insulated with polyethene. In water less than 1500 meters deep, protection is added against fishing and anchor damage in the form of external steel wire armour. The heaviest form of armoured cable has 70 tons breaking strength.



Fibre Optic Cable

If a cable is broken by fishing, anchoring or other seabed activities it will be repaired. The damaged section is recovered to the surface and a new section spliced in. This spliced area represents a risk to fishermen, there will be slack cable on the seabed equal to approximately twice the water depth and post repair burial is not as effective as installation burial.

Plan View of Typical Repair



Final splice bight is laid on the seabed at right angles to the cable line. The crown of the bight may be up to 2 x the water depth from the charted cable line.

How to Reduce the Risks Associated with Submarine Cables

1. Immediately plot the route co-ordinates on your paper charts and/or enter them into your fishing plotter.
2. Avoid fishing directly over the cable route with heavy bottom contact gear.
3. Remember that areas of bare or outcropping rock and where the cable crosses other cables and pipelines, are the areas where the cable is most likely to be least buried.

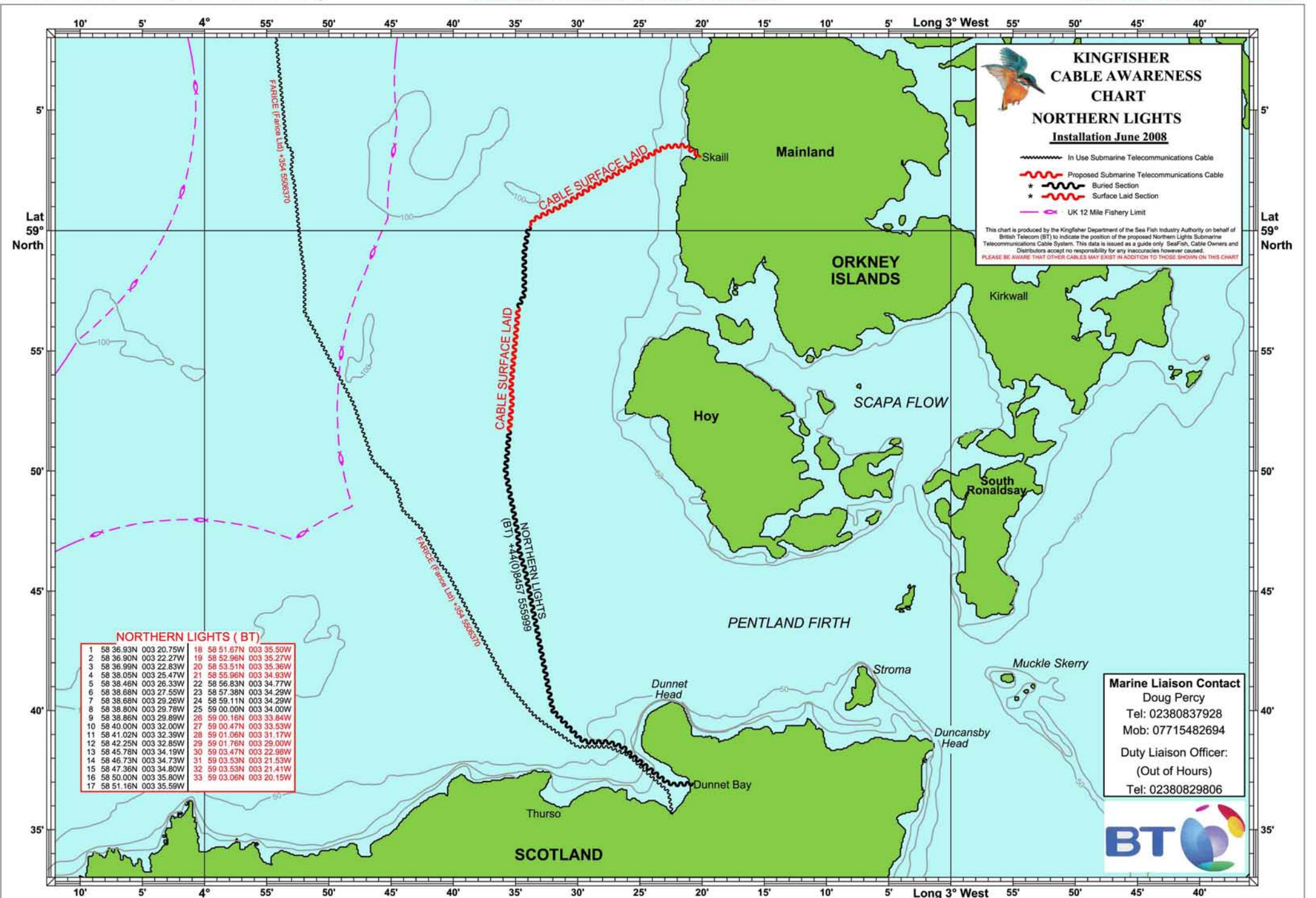
The closer to the surface a telecommunications cable is lifted when fouled by fishing gear, the more danger there is to the fishing vessel

If it is thought prudent to slip or cut one of both warps or bridles in an attempt to clear a cable from the fishing gear, always lower the gear to the seabed first. Never attempt to slip anything bearing excessive weight.

Cable Installation Vessel

Vessel: **CS Sovereign**
Call Sign: **MNNU8**





Marine Liaison Contact
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 Tel: 02380829806

