

ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE UNDERTAKEN IF CABLE OWNERS ARE CONSULTED PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY AND IF THE ACTIVITY OCCURS IN A MANNER THAT IS UNLIKELY TO CAUSE CABLE DAMAGE

Installing, maintaining or removing an electricity cable, an oil or gas pipeline, or any like cables or pipelines, and using any associated equipment
Constructing, maintaining or removing an installation for the use of ships
Conducting civil engineering work, including constructing and removing navigation aids
Exploring or exploiting resources (other than marine species)
Conducting research that involves contact with the seabed

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship trawl gear designed to work on or near the seabed, or a mid-water trawl
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a dredge, including for scallop dredging
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a demersal longline, including setlines or trotlines
Establishing, maintaining or using a spoil ground or other ocean disposal point (including dumping materials at sea)
Scuttling or attempting to scuttle a ship
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a structure moored to the seabed with the primary function of attracting fish for capture (such as a fish aggregating device (FAD))
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a Scottish or Danish seine
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a type of net, rope, chain or other object used in fishing operations that is capable of contacting the seabed, other than those activities listed in the restrictions

For more information about the Perth Protection Zone please phone 1300 856 337 or visit www.acma.gov.au/subcables.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES, WHICH VARY DEPENDING ON DISTANCE FROM SHORE AND/OR WATER DEPTH

Activity	0 – 500 metres from low-water mark	500 metres from low-water mark to 100 metres water depth	Waters of greater than 100 metres depth
Lowering, raising or suspending an anchor from a ship	Permitted	Is permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the anchor is fitted with a trip release mechanism; and the anchor line has a maximum breaking strain of 1,090 kg or less; and the ship uses a danforth anchor or sand and reef (SARC) anchor that weighs less than 15 kg; or the ship uses a plough anchor or reef pick anchor that weighs less than 25 kg 	Not permitted
Lowering, raising or suspending a shotline from ship	Permitted	Is permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the shot weighs 20 kg or less; and the shotline has a maximum breaking strain of 2.7 tonnes* or less 	Not permitted
Demersal fishing using J-hooks	Permitted	Is permitted, providing the fishing line has a breaking strain of 50 kg or less	
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a demersal dropline	Permitted	Is permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> only circle-type hooks are used; and the dropline has a breaking strain of 2.7 tonnes* or less; and the dropline does not use a wire snood, trace, dropper, branch line or mainline; and the breaking strain of each branch line is 500 kg or less; and the dropper weight used to sink the dropline is 15 kg or less 	
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a single pot or trap (e.g. for fish or lobster trapping)	Permitted	Is permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the base of the trap is 2 metres or less in length, width or diameter; and the trap rope is not composed of wire and has a breaking strain of 2.7 tonnes* or less 	
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship multiple pots or traps (e.g. as often used in octopus and crab fisheries)	Permitted	Is permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> multiple pots or traps are fixed to a single mainline; and each individual pot or trap is 15 kg or less in weight when dry; and the base of the trap is 2 metres or less in length, width or diameter; and the branch line has a maximum breaking strain of less than 500 kg; and the mainline is not composed of wire and has a breaking strain of 2.7 tonnes* or less 	
Harvesting the benthos	Permitted	Not permitted, unless harvesting is conducted by hand	
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a demersal gillnet	Permitted	Permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> anchors or weights are not used during the fishing operation; and the net is composed of individual lines that have breaking strain of 2.7 tonnes* or less; and fishing is retrieved vertically, to the greatest extent practicable, so that the net does not drag on the seabed 	Not permitted
Use of an explosive or explosive device	Permitted if used in the course of mineral or petroleum operations, civil engineering work or an exercise conducted by or with the Australian Defence Force		
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a grapnel	Permitted	Not permitted unless in the course of work on electricity, oil or gas pipelines and cables, installations for the use of ships, civil engineering, mining or petroleum operations, or in conducting research that involves contact with the seabed	

* Commercially available ‘silver dan’ rope, with a diameter of 11 millimetres, has a breaking strain that does not exceed 2.7 tonnes



WHAT ARE SUBMARINE CABLES?

Submarine telecommunications cables lie on the sea floor and connect Australia with other countries. Australia's submarine communications cables carry the bulk of our international voice and data traffic and are a vital component of our national infrastructure.

WHY ARE SUBMARINE CABLES IMPORTANT?

Submarine cables are vulnerable to damage and breakage, which can disrupt the flow of information to and from Australia. In recent years, trawling and anchoring has severed key submarine cables. Cable damage can cause data loss, significant delays of data transmission and severe financial loss to businesses, cable owners and individuals who rely on communication links with other countries.

WHAT ARE THE SUBMARINE CABLE PROTECTION ZONES AND WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

Schedule 3A of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* gives ACMA the power to declare protection zones for existing and new submarine cables of national significance. Within a protection zone, activities that could damage submarine cables are prohibited or restricted.

ACMA HAS DECLARED A PROTECTION ZONE OFF PERTH

On 1 February 2008, a protection zone over the nationally significant SEA-ME-WE3 cable will commence. The Perth Protection Zone commences at the cable landing point at City Beach, Perth and extends approximately 51 nautical miles or 95 kilometres offshore. It covers an area up to one nautical mile either side of the cable.

There are two other submarine cable protection zones off Sydney, which protect key communications cables landing on the east coast of Australia.

SOME MARINE ACTIVITIES WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROTECTION ZONE.

ACMA has made certain activities prohibited or restricted in the Perth Protection Zone to avoid risk of damage to the cable. The prohibitions and restrictions have been designed to minimise impact on marine users, following extensive consultation. Many recreational fishing and diving activities will be unaffected by the protection zone.

Some activities are restricted depending on gear specifications, such as anchor weight, trip release mechanisms or line breaking strain. A list of what you can and cannot do within the Perth zone is set out the table over the page. It is recommended that you read the zone declaration, the *Submarine Cable (Perth Protection Zone) Declaration 2007*, to determine whether your planned activity is a prohibited or restricted activity.

PENALTIES APPLY

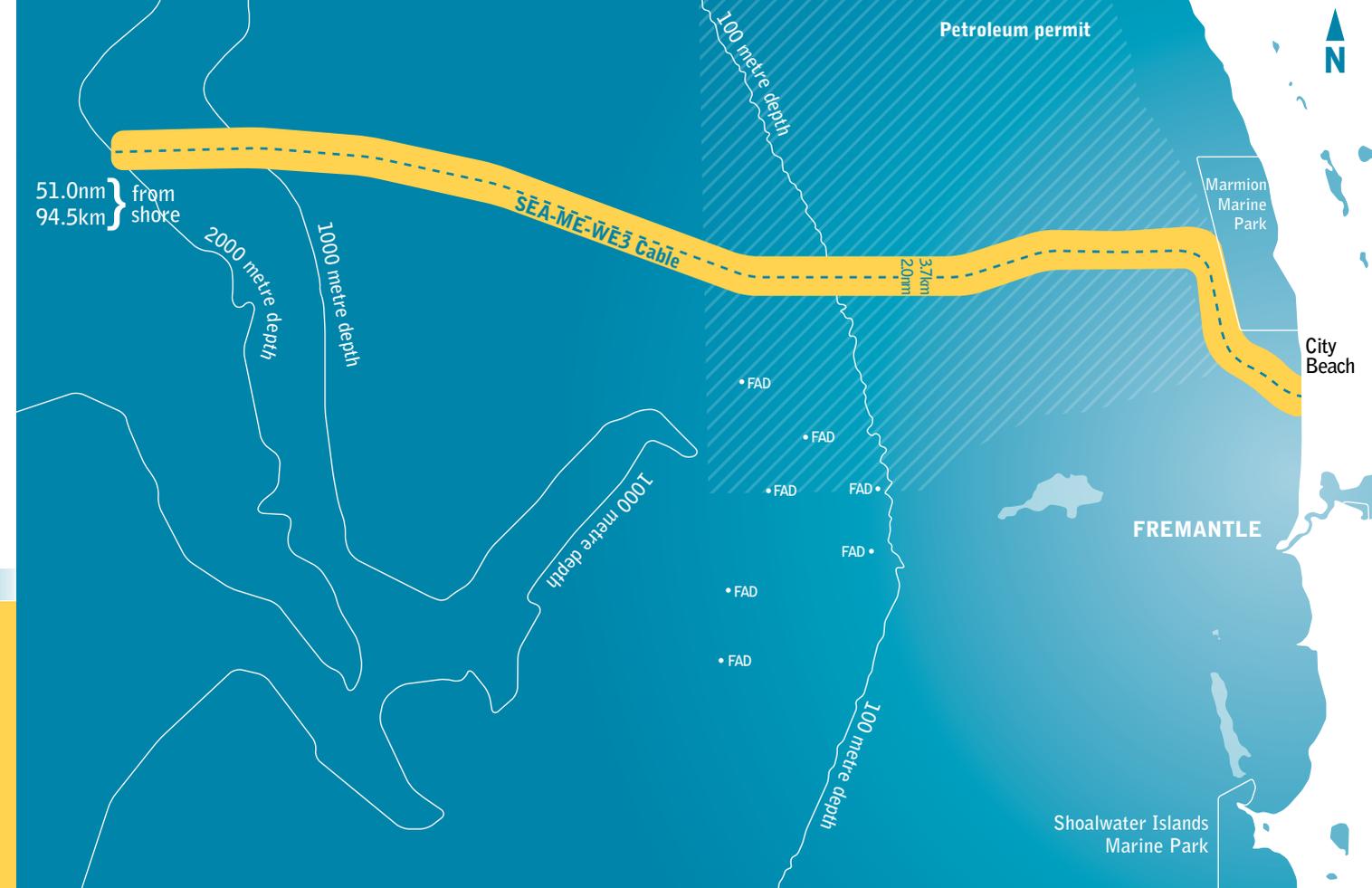
It is an offence to damage a cable, to engage in conduct that is prohibited or contravene a restriction in a protection zone. Penalties for offences include fines of up to \$66,000 for an individual (or up to \$330,000 for a corporation) and/or 10 years imprisonment for an individual. The Australian Federal Police are responsible for enforcing these offences.

Parties suffering loss or damage as a result of a person causing damage to a cable or engaging in prohibited conduct or contravening a restriction in a protection zone may claim civil damages in the Federal Court of Australia against that person.

ACMA recommends that parties seek their own independent legal advice about compliance and have regard to the zone declaration and Explanatory Statement to ascertain whether planned activity will be affected.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about the Perth Protection Zone, contact ACMA on telephone **1300 856 337** or visit www.acma.gov.au/subcables.



HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM IN A PROTECTION ZONE?

- Navigational charts and other publications from the Australian Hydrographic Office include the Perth Protection Zone.
- Coordinates information for upload to GPS units is available from the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au/subcables or by contacting ACMA on telephone 1300 856 337
- This map shows the protection zone area. Please note that more detailed maps should be used for navigation purposes.