

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, 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

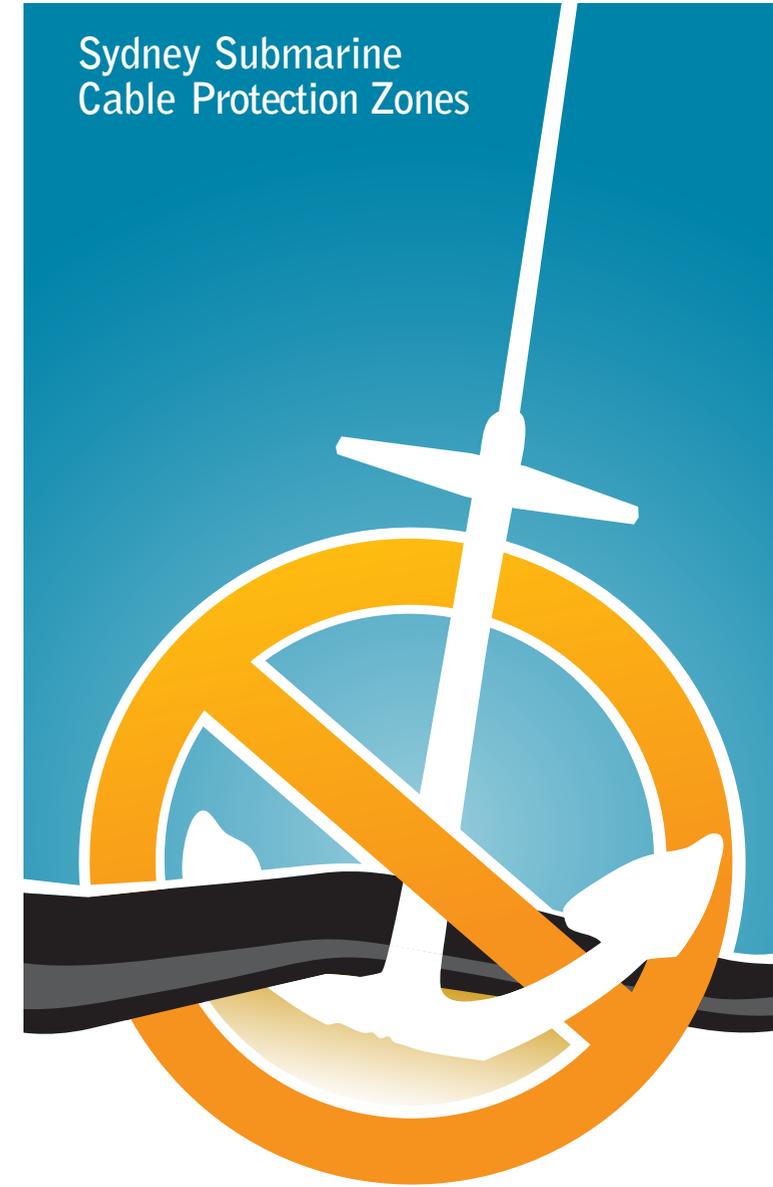
PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

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 for commercial demersal line fishing
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 further information about the Sydney protection zones 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
Anchoring in the Northern Sydney Protection Zone	Permitted	Is permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the anchor weighs 20 kg or less; and the anchor is fitted with a trip release mechanism; and the anchor line has a breaking strain of 850 kg or less; or the anchor weighs no more than 30 kg and is anchored within 200 metres of an ACMA specified shipwreck site. 	Not permitted
Anchoring in the Southern Sydney Protection Zone	Permitted	Is permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the anchor weighs 20 kg or less; and the anchor is fitted with a trip release mechanism; and the anchor line has a breaking strain of 850 kg or less; or the anchor weighs no more than 30 kg and is anchored around The Peak (as specified by ACMA's coordinates). 	Not permitted
Lowering, raising or suspending from a ship a shotline	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 850 kg or less. 	Not permitted
Demersal fishing using J-hooks	Permitted	Is permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 850 kg or less; and the dropline does not use a wire snood, trace or mainline. 	
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a pot or trap	Permitted	Is permitted, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the base of the trap does not exceed 2 metres in length, width or diameter; and the trap rope breaking strain is 850 kg or less. 	
Harvesting the benthos	Permitted	Is permitted, providing harvesting is conducted by hand.	
Use of or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a net anchored to the seabed	Permitted	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 or towing, operating or suspending from a ship a grapnel	Permitted	Permitted if used 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.	



WHAT ARE SUBMARINE CABLES?

Submarine telecommunications cables are cables that lie on the sea floor and connect Australia with other countries. Australia's submarine communications cables carry over 99 per cent 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 cause serious consequences for the flow of information to and from Australia. In recent years, trawling and anchoring have severed key submarine cables off Sydney. 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 over submarine cables of national significance. Within these protection zones, activities that could damage submarine cables are prohibited or restricted.

ACMA HAS DECLARED TWO PROTECTION ZONES OFF NORTHERN AND SYDNEY BEACHES

From 1 October 2007, two protection zones declared by ACMA over nationally significant submarine cables landing in Sydney will commence. The two zones are:

The Northern Sydney Protection Zone

This zone extends from Narrabeen Beach to 40 nautical miles off shore and protects the Northern branches of the Australia Japan Cable and Southern Cross Cable, including the area between these two cables.

The Southern Sydney Protection Zone

This zone extends from Tamarama and Clovelly Beaches to 30 nautical miles off shore and protects the Southern branches of the Australia Japan Cable and Southern Cross Cable, including the area between these two cables.

These high capacity cables are vital to our national interests as they connect Australia with Japan, Asia, New Zealand and Northern America.

SOME MARINE ACTIVITIES WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROTECTION ZONES

The prohibitions and restrictions for the two Sydney zones are designed to minimise the risk of damage to submarine cables and have been developed through extensive consultation with marine users. Many recreational fishing and diving activities will be unaffected by the protection zones.

A list of what you can and can't do in the Sydney zones is set out in the tables over the page. It is recommended that you read the zone declarations, the *Submarine Cable (Northern Sydney Protection Zone) Declaration 2007* and the *Submarine Cable (Southern Sydney Protection Zone) Declaration 2007* to determine if your planned activity is a prohibited or restricted activity.

PENALTIES APPLY

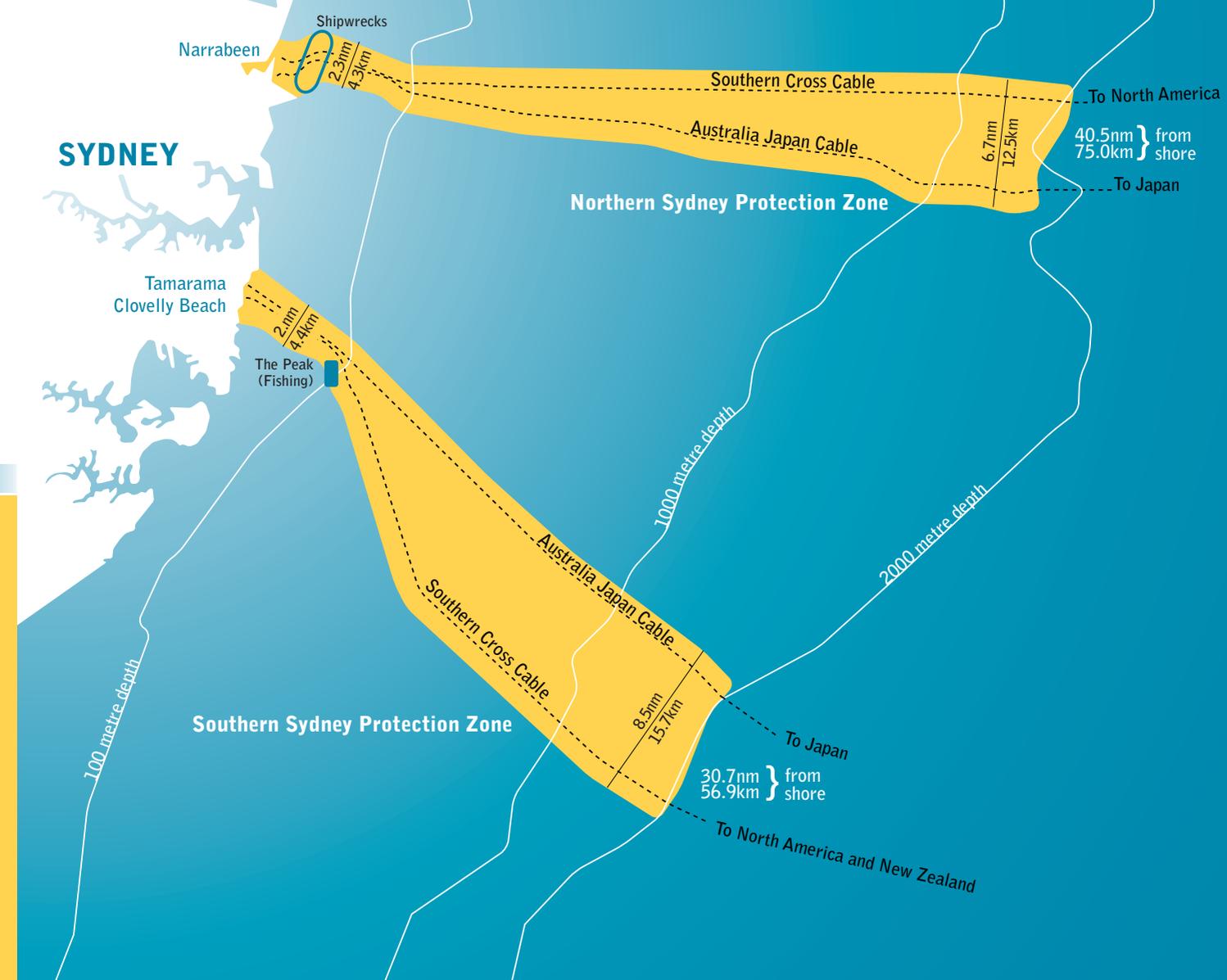
Within the Sydney protection zones, there are other communications cables as well as the Australia Japan Cable and the Southern Cross Cable. It is an offence to cause damage to any submarine cable in a protection zone. It is also an offence to engage in conduct that is prohibited or contravenes a restriction in a protection zone. Penalties for contravention include fines of up to **\$66,000** for an individual (or up to **\$330,000** for a corporation) and/or ten years imprisonment for an individual. The Australian Federal Police are responsible for enforcing these offences.

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

ACMA recommends that the parties seek their own independent legal advice about compliance and have regard to the relevant legislation such as the Zone Declarations and their Explanatory Statements to ascertain whether planned activity will be affected.

NEED FURTHER INFORMATION?

For more information about the Sydney protection zones please phone **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 Australian Hydrographic Service publications will depict the Sydney protection zones.
- Coordinates information for upload to GPS units is available from the ACMA website www.acma.gov.au/subcables or by calling ACMA on 1300 856 337.
- This map shows the protection zone area. Please note that more detailed maps should be used for navigation purposes.