



Workshop on Submarine Cables & Law of The Sea

Problems Caused by Overlapping Maritime Boundaries
What Best Practices can be adopted?

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Best Practices - Underlying Considerations



- No prejudice of Coastal State claims.
- Primary concern with ensuring marine operations are performed safely and without undue hindrance.
- Compliance with UNCLOS and other relevant international agreements.
- Acknowledgement of the special importance of submarine cables to the global economy and the consequent necessity to ensure repairs can be completed as quickly as possible, so as to minimise any adverse economic impacts.

Best Practices - Proposals



- Coastal States agree upon the special treatment of submarine cables within areas of overlapping EEZ or continental shelf claims, having due regard for the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.
- Coastal States establish common Expedited Prior Approval and Notification Procedures for the granting of permits within waters with overlapping sovereignty claims.
- Coastal States accept notices from cable operators as the sole requirement for allowing cable laying and repair activities within waters with overlapping sovereignty claims.
- Cable Operators render notices to Coastal States in accordance with a common format and periodicity agreed with all the interested Coastal States.