

Damage to fiber optic cables in Eastern Europe



AI Overview

Recent incidents in Eastern Europe have seen both physical ruptures and suspected sabotage of fiber optic cables, disrupting internet and data services across multiple countries. Recent Incidents In November 2024, two major submarine fiber optic cables in the Baltic Sea—the BCS East-West Interlink (Lithuania-Sweden) and C-Lion1 (Finland-Germany)—were disrupted almost simultaneously. These incidents caused significant concern among European officials, with investigations considering both accidental damage from ship anchors and potential intentional sabotage as possible causes. The Chinese cargo ship Yi Peng 3 was scrutinized for its proximity to the cables, while Western intelligence suggested possible Russian involvement. Repair timelines for such undersea cables can range from five to fifteen days, depending on the extent of the damage. Earlier, in 2025, a fiber optic cable connecting Helsinki to Tallinn, Estonia was damaged by a cargo ship named Fitburg, prompting a national response from Finnish authorities, including the Border Guard and Defense Forces. Although the cable carried a modest amount of data, it highlighted the vulnerability of undersea infrastructure, which carries 97% of intercontinental data flows. Additionally, Google fiber optic cables experienced physical ruptures affecting Eastern Europe, Iran, and Turkey, causing internet outages lasting up to two hours. While the exact cause was not disclosed, such incidents are rare but can result from accidental cuts or mechanical stress.

Common Causes of Fiber Optic Damage

- Fiber optic cables are highly sensitive due to their ultra-thin glass cores. Damage can occur from:
- Mechanical stress:** bending, crushing, or accidental cuts during construction or maintenance
- Rodents or wildlife:** chewing through cables in suburban or rural areas
- Maritime activity:** ship anchors or fishing equipment damaging undersea cable...

Article Content

Suspected Baltic Sea cable sabotage by Russia's "shadow fleet" is ...

Numerous incidents of suspected Russian-linked sabotage of undersea cables in the Baltic Sea has seen tensions rise among nearby countries, and an increased Nato presence.

Eastern Europe invests in fiber rollouts

Eastern Europe's fiber development pace picked up as it became the dominant broadband platform in most markets. A combination of government funding, rising demand and the efforts of telcos to

Explainer: Baltic Sea undersea cable cuts stoke

Subsea cables — massive fiber-optic cables laid on the seabed — are the backbone of the global internet, carrying 99% of the world's

Resilient Internet connectivity in Europe mitigates

Two recent cable cuts that occurred in the Baltic Sea resulted in little-to-no observable impact to the affected countries, in large part because of

Baltic Sea Undersea Cable Security

The EU is taking the concrete steps needed to ensure Europe's subsea cable security, as the continued incidents in the Baltic Sea have displayed the

Sweden opens sabotage probe into Baltic undersea

An undersea fibre optic cable between Latvia and Sweden was damaged on Sunday, likely as a result of external influence, Latvia said,

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What we know about the cut subsea cables in the Red

Two cables linking Europe to the Middle East and Asia have been reportedly cut in the Red Sea, affecting internet connections.

Google fiber optic cables snap, cause problems in Eastern Europe

The two-hour outage was caused by the physical rupture of several fiber optic cables, a highly unusual occurrence. Damaged Google fiber optic cables caused internet problems in Eastern

Seabed zero: Baltic sabotage and the global risks to

On several occasions, European navies have detected Russian submarines sailing near vital undersea infrastructure, including fiber-optic cables

Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, February 26,

Russian forces also reportedly use fiber-optics for ground communication. Russian forces have been using fiber-optic cables since

Light Reading

Light Reading is the leading source of news analysis for communications industry professionals.

Two undersea cables in Baltic Sea cut, Germany and

Two undersea fibre-optic communications cables in the Baltic Sea, including one linking Finland and Germany, were severed, raising suspicions of

Russia accused of escalating hybrid attacks in Europe

Russia has been accused by European governments of escalating hybrid attacks on Ukraine's Western allies after two fibre-optic

A Chinese-Flagged Ship Cut Baltic Sea Internet Cables.

Over the past couple years, suspicious Russian activity near critical underwater infrastructure in NATO's Northeast has alarmed European

Severing of Baltic Sea Cables Was "Sabotage," Germany Says

Germany's defense minister on Tuesday called the severing of two fiber-optic cables in the Baltic Sea an act of sabotage aimed at European countries that are supporting Ukraine in its war...

Damage to 11 Baltic cables in 15 months prompts NATO to up its

At least 11 Baltic cables have been damaged since October 2023 — the most recent being a fiber optic cable connecting Latvia and the Swedish island of Gotland, reported to have

Europe faces rising risk of underwater cable sabotage

Underwater fiber-optic cable breaks in the Baltic Sea and elsewhere are becoming more common, with many observers suspecting intentional sabotage by states including Russia and China.

Sweden opens inquiry into damaged undersea cable as Nato deploys

A vessel has been seized after suspected sabotage of fibre optic line, probably due to external influence, Latvia says An undersea fibre optic cable between Latvia and Sweden was

Submarine Cable Security at Risk Amid Geopolitical Tensions & amp ...

Explore the rising threats to global submarine cable networks amid escalating geopolitical tensions, sabotage incidents, and limited repair capacity. Discover essential resilience strategies and

Europe''s Strategic Blind Spot: Securing Undersea Cables

A recent report by the China Strategic Risks Institute (CSRI), a UK-based research organization, documented 12 suspected undersea cable sabotage cases across Europe from

Europeans Probe Baltic Cable Damage As Suspensions

European governments have accused Russia of intensifying "hybrid attacks" following reports that Baltic Sea fiber-optic communications cables were

Telecoms: Efforts to Damage Undersea Cables Could

In November 2024, a Chinese ship was surrounded by European vessels due to suspicions that it attempted to sabotage fiber-optic undersea

Undersea cables cut or damaged, leading European nations to

A Chinese-flagged cargo ship draws attention after undersea internet cables were severed, leading European countries to investigate possible sabotage.

Baltic Sea Undersea Cable Security

Subsea cables cover over 900,000 miles of sea floor from the Atlantic to Pacific. These small, fiber-optic cables are responsible for carrying 99% of

War in the Gulf Severs the World''s Digital Arteries: How

The fiber-optic infrastructure in Russia is already well-developed, with existing rights-of-way, operational terrestrial networks, and established

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