Nordic countries cut fiber optic cables



Overview

At least 11 cables running along the Baltic seabed have been damaged since October 2023, officials say.

Key Takeaways

Several undersea fiber optic cables in the Baltic Sea connecting Nordic countries have been damaged in recent years, with suspicions of deliberate sabotage amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Recent Incidents

Since late 2023, at least 11 undersea cables in the Baltic Sea have been damaged, including connections between Finland and Estonia, Latvia and Gotland, and Finland and Germany (C-Lion1). Notable incidents include: Estlink 2 cable between Finland and Estonia, damaged on December 25, 2025, shortly after the tanker Eagle S departed from Koskolovo.

BCS East-

West Interlink (Lithuania–Sweden) and C-Lion1 (Finland–Germany) cables cut near-simultaneously in November 2024, prompting investigations into potential sabotage. Damage to a fiber-optic cable linking Latvia and the Swedish island of Gotland, raising concerns about deliberate targeting.



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Suspected Causes

While accidental damage from ship anchors or fishing equipment is common, the frequency and concentration of these incidents in the Baltic Sea have led authorities to suspect deliberate sabotage, potentially linked to hybrid warfare strategies. Investigations have focused on: Russian involvement, as suggested by NATO officials and regional leaders, though conclusive attribution remains unproven. Chinese-flagged vessels, such as the Yi Peng 3 and NewNew Polar Bear, which were present near damaged cables during incidents, raising suspicions of accidental or intelligence-linked interference.

Security and Response Measures

In response to these threats, Nordic countries and NATO have taken several steps: Maritime patrols, naval drones, and frigate deployments to monitor and protect undersea infrastructure. NATO's Baltic Sentry mission, aimed at safeguarding critical underwater infrastructure in the Baltic Sea. Increased coordination between governments, private telecommunications operators, and intelligence agencies to detect and deter potential sabotage.

Strategic Implications

Undersea fiber optic cables are critical for internet connectivity, financial systems, and military communications, carrying over 97% of intercontinental data flows. The repeated disruptions highlight the vulnerability of Europe's strategic infrastructure, particularly in shallow, geopolitically sensitive waters like the Baltic Sea. These events underscore the need for enhanced resilience, monitoring, and rapid response capabilities to protect essential communications networks.

In summary, the Nordic region has experienced a series of undersea cable disruptions, with both accidental and potentially deliberate causes under investigation.

Governments and NAT

O are actively enhancing security measures to prevent further incidents and ensure the stability of critical communications infrastructure.

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Article Content

Eleven damaged cables in 15 months: what is

At least 11 cables running along the Baltic seabed have been damaged since October 2023, officials say. The latest of these incidents

Sweden: Damage to fibre-optic cable in the Baltic Sea was not

In the early hours of January 26, a fiber optic cable of the Latvian National Radio and Television Centre (LVRTC) connecting the Swedish island of Gotland to the Latvian city of Ventspils

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NATO vessels raced to the site of a damaged fiber-optic cable in Swedish waters on January 26, 2025 where a trio of ships carrying Russian cargo, including one recently sanctioned by

Finland, Sweden probe suspected sabotage of undersea telecoms

Swedish and Finnish police are investigating a suspected case of sabotage to the telecom system in the Baltic Sea, after multiple seabed cables were damaged in recent months.

Underseas communication cables cut linking Finland and Germany ...

The underseas data communication cables linking Finland with Germany, and Lithuania with Sweden, have been severed in the Baltic Sea under suspicion of malicious intent.

Finland, Sweden investigate suspected sabotage of Baltic Sea

Some Baltic Sea incidents have been ruled accidental, including the cutting last month of a different telecoms cable in Swedish waters, while other cases are still under police investigation.

Undersea internet cables to Europe cut — Chinese ship suspected

Two fiber-optic undersea internet cables connecting Scandinavia to mainland Europe were severed within 24 hours of one another. European officials suspect the cuts are a sign of

Two internet cables connecting Sweden and Finland suffered damage

However, two fiber optic lines were disrupted between Sweden and Finland just weeks after two undersea internet cables had been cut in the Baltic Sea.

Damaged cables appear to be accident, Finland says

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Finland''s transport agency says that fibre-optic cables connecting Finland and Sweden appear to have been cut accidentally. "Both cables appear to have been cut during construction...

2024 Baltic Sea submarine cable disruptions

On 17–18 November 2024, two submarine telecommunication cables, the BCS East-West Interlink and C-Lion1 fibre-optic cables, were disrupted in the Baltic Sea. The incidents involving both cables

Sabotage suspected after Baltic Sea telecoms cable C

An undersea fibre optic cable between Germany and Finland has stopped working and might have been deliberately cut by an unknown party,

Sweden opens "sabotage" investigation into severed Baltic Sea fibre ...

Sweden opened a probe Tuesday into “sabotage” after two undersea fibre-optic cables in the Baltic Sea were cut, including one linking Finland and Germany. The incident recalled other

Russia suspected in sabotage of undersea cables

Questions 1. What acts of sabotage do European countries believe Russia has orchestrated over the past week? 2. Define the following as used in the article: sabotage hybrid

Two undersea internet cables connecting Finland and Sweden to

A fiber-optic internet cable connecting Finland to Germany and another between Lithuania and Sweden, both running under the Baltic Sea, were cut within 24 hours of one another.

Baltic nations investigate undersea cable cuts as

Europe nations investigate cut cables in the Baltic Sea. Was it Russian sabotage? Communication cables linking Finland to Germany and

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 global internet data traffic, facilitating

How vulnerable are undersea cables?

The global internet is connected by roughly 570 fiber optic cables on the seabed. Recent breaks have industry watchers questioning the resiliency

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Vocabulary list of GPT-4o (o200k_base) and GPT-4/GPT-3.5 (cl100k_base) tokenizers. Special tokens are excluded. - kaisugi/gpt4_vocab_list

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