

May 30, 2003



Alaska United Fiber  
Systems Partnership

Alcatel Submarine  
Networks

AT&T Corp.

Columbia Ventures  
Corporation

Gemini Submarine  
Cable System, Inc.

Global Crossing Ltd.

Global Marine  
Systems Limited

Globenet  
Communications  
Group, Ltd.

Level 3  
Communications,  
LLC

New World Network  
USA, Inc.

Southern Cross  
Cable Network

Sprint  
Communications  
Corporation

Tyco  
Telecommunications

WorldCom, Inc.

Via e-mail: [coffen-smout@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.va](mailto:coffen-smout@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.va)

ESSIM Forum Secretariat  
Oceans and Coastal Management Division  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Bedford Institute of Oceanography  
PO Box 1006  
Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 4A2 CANADA

Dear Mr. Coffen-Smout;

Please accept for filing on behalf of the North American Submarine Cable Association ("NASCA") the comments in this letter and in the enclosed white paper, addressing the May 2003 discussion paper titled "Considerations for Seabed Utility Corridors to Offshore Nova Scotia."

NASCA is a non-profit trade association whose members own, install or maintain submarine telecommunications cables that land in North America. For the reasons summarized in the attached, NASCA believes that mandatory corridors are completely inappropriate for telecommunication cables. Any potential conflict with commercial fishing can be minimized instead through consultation on route selection and through cable burial.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Shorb  
NASCA Vice President