

SubOptic  
2007

*Enabling Global Communications*

# The history and activities of the International Cable Protection Committee

Bob Wargo

ICPC Vice-Chairman



# Presenter Profile

Bob Wargo is the Marine Liaison Manager for AT&T. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the ICPC and President of NASCA. Bob has worked in the marine field since 1985 and in Undersea Cables since 1990



**Bob Wargo**

*ICPC Vice Chairman*

*rwargo@att.com*

*(908) 234 3280*

# Presentation overview

International Cable Protection Committee

History

Technical (Traditional Cable Protection)

Legal & Regulatory

Environmental

Incorporation

Conclusion

# ICPC History

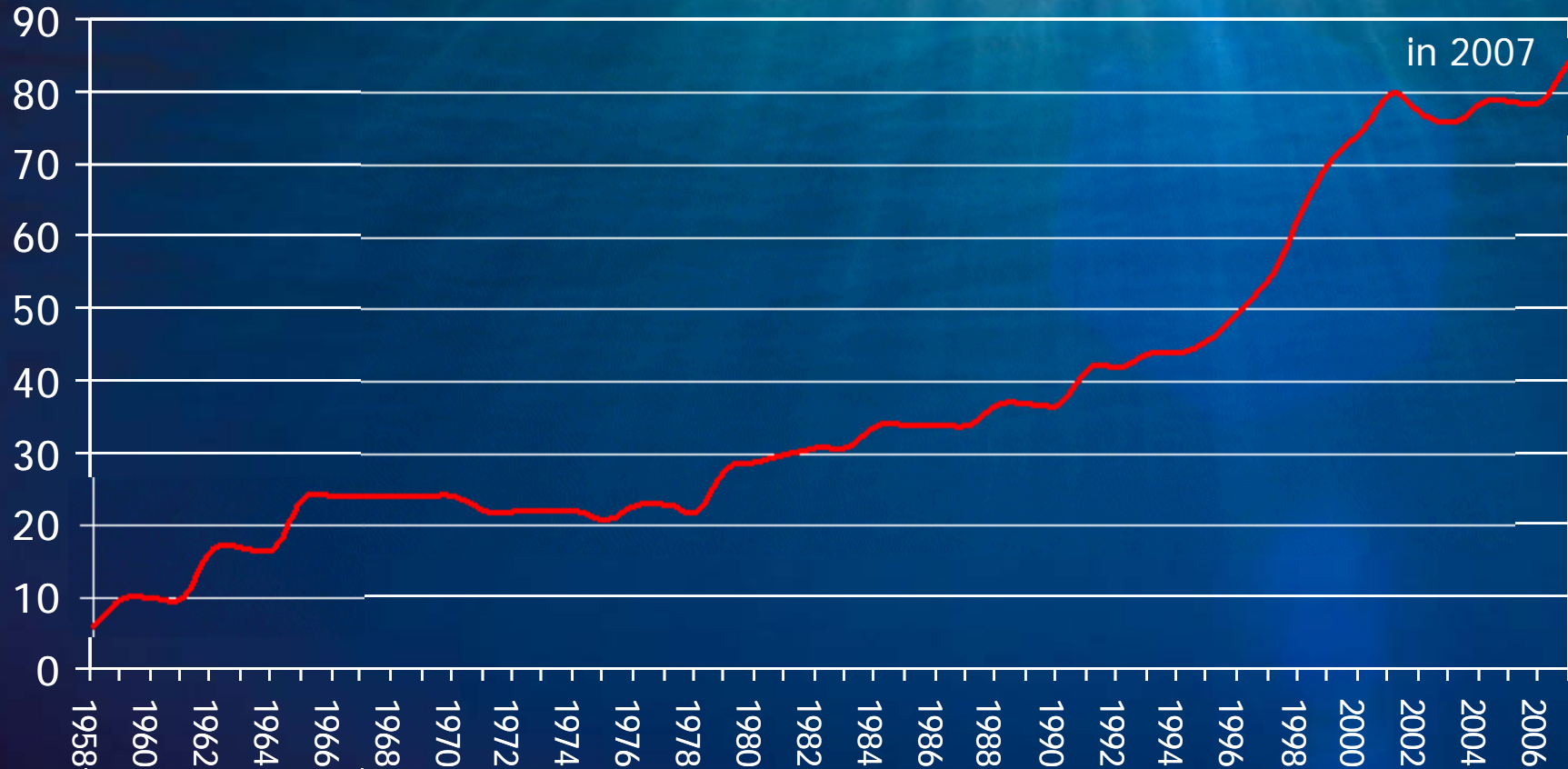
- Formed in November 1958 as The Cable Damage Committee.
- Six initial members all major cable owners.
- Renamed International Cable protection Committee in 1967.
  - 22 members from 16 countries
- Opened Membership to Power Cables Owners in 2005
- Currently 85 members from 46 countries
  - Membership stayed constant through the downturn in the industry.

# Growth of Membership

Members

85 Members

in 2007



ICPC Ltd. Established in 2005

Renamed International Cable Protection Committee in 1967

Formed as Cable Damage Committee in 1958

# ICPC Vision

To be the premier international  
Submarine Cable Owners' Association  
providing professional recommendations  
on issues related to  
submarine cable planning, installation,  
operation, maintenance and protection

# ICPC Website

- [www.iscpc.org](http://www.iscpc.org)
  - Public side
    - News, Information, Cable Data, Publications
    - Recommendation available on request
    - “About Submarine Cables” PowerPoint
  - Secure members area
    - Cable, Environmental, Legal and Fault Databases
    - Handbook, Meeting Information and Administration
    - Planning notices

# ICPC Administration

- Day to day operations administered by the Secretariat and Executive Committee (EC).
- Secretariat Provided by Qualtrack Ltd
- EC currently 16 members.
- Chairman Mick Green (BT)
- Vice Chairman Bob Wargo (AT&T)
- International Cable Law Advisor
- Marine Environmental Advisor



# Traditional Cable Protection

- Thirteen Recommendations
  - Routing
  - Working near cables
  - Cable Charts
  - Out of Service cable recovery
  - Pipeline or Cable Crossings
  - Cable Protection methods
  - Wind Farms
  - Mechanical Testing of Cables
  - Several others

# Traditional Cable Protection

- Fisheries Liaison Publications
  - “Fishing and Submarine Cables” - Most requested item by the public
- Fault Database
  - Members input fault data for their cables
  - Data available to all members
- Website Question and Answer Facility
  - Member experts answer the public’s questions

# Legal & Regulatory

- International Cable Law Advisor (ICLA)
  - Doug Burnett, Holland and Knight
  - World recognized expert in International Law as it relates to Submarine Cables
    - Guest Lecturer at the Rhodes Academy
  - Drafts comment to various governments related to proposed laws effects on submarine cables on the Exclusive Economic Zones and High Seas

# Legal & Regulatory

- Comments to
  - Australian Communications and Media Authority
  - Government of Canada
  - United Nations Environment Programme
  - US Federal Communications Commission
  - UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
  - NJ Department of Environmental Protection
  - US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - New Zealand Advisory Committee on Oceans Policy

# Legal & Regulatory

- Comments drafted by the ICLA
- Vetted and agreed by the EC
- Coordinated responses with Regional Cable Protection Committees (CPC).
  - Regional CPC's comments tend to be local
  - ICPC's comments focus on international aspects of proposal.

# Environmental

- Marine Environmental Advisor:  
Professor Lionel Carter  
(Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand)
- Selected in 2003 from a field of 13 candidates.

# Environmental

- “Environment Update”
  - Monthly newsletter emailed to all members
  - Topical subjects related to cables and the environment
  - Currently 56 Updates have been emailed to members.



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

# Environmental

- Whales
  - Heezen noted that Sperm Whales got entangled in telegraph cables
  - Local governments have latched onto this and added additional requirements to on cable installations
  - Matthew Wood (Lionel's student) reviewed numerous available fault databases.
  - Writing a peer reviewed scientific paper to refute/update the Heezen paper



# Environmental

- Environmental Effect Database
  - Critical review and categorization of numerous Submarine Cable Environmental Impact Statement.
  - Impacts categorized by
    - Magnitude
    - Duration
    - Longevity

# Environmental

- “About Submarine Cables”
  - Layman’s guide to everything related to submarine cables
  - PowerPoint Presentation on the ICPC Website
- ICPC/ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) collaboration.
  - Cold water corals
  - ICPC/UNEP joint report
    - “Submarine Cables and the Ocean”

# What's Next?

- Incorporation
  - ICPC recently incorporated, now ICPC Ltd.
  - Both organizations operating concurrently
  - Members of the EC have become Directors in ICPC Ltd.
  - Once a majority of the EC become Directors the membership will be asked to join ICPC Ltd.

# What's Next

- Environmental
  - Review Plow burial re-inspections.
  - Define the “effect” of the cable on the sea bed
- Legal
  - Options for reducing or eliminating permitting delays for emergency repairs.
- Traditional Cable Protection
  - Consistently update recommendations
  - Update “Fishing and Submarine Cables”

# Questions?

