SUBMARINE CABLES: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
Cable Owner’s Perspective  
It ain’t about the Satellites!  

May 20-21
Submarine Cable Organizations

North American Submarine Cable Association (NASCA)

16 North American based companies; owners, operators, suppliers, maintenance providers.

401 (c) Company.

Advocates on behalf of the Undersea Cable Industry in North America

International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)

Over 100 companies from over 50 countries, mostly owners, larger suppliers and maintenance providers.

Non-profit based in UK.

Provides advice, recommendations and advocacy.
Undersea Cables are Critical to the World Economy

Undersea cables carry >95% of the world's telecommunications.

The connected world as we know it today is in great part due to the undersea cable network.

Yet this critical infrastructure is protected by laws from the 1880’s.
Perspective
State of the Art in the 1880’s

[Image of an advertisement for Rudge & Co., the oldest and largest cycle manufactory in the world, and an illustration of a steamship and a coastal town.]
International Submarine Cable Network - 1865
International Submarine Cable Network
Network Monitoring
UNCLOS increases protection for undersea cables

- Article 113, breaking or injury to a submarine cable is a punishable offence
- So is “conduct calculated or likely to result in such breaking or injury”
- But not if in the act of saving lives or vessels.
UNCLOS

Foresaw conflicts and suggested resolution

- Indemnification for sacrificed fishing gear of anchors (115)
- Break or injury to other undersea infrastructure (cables and pipelines – 114)
- Due regard for cables and pipelines already installed (79)
AT&T Support

AT&T supported US Delegation negotiating the Geneva Convention of the High Seas (1958)

- Urged Senator Jesse Helms (Chair Foreign Affairs) to promptly ratify UNCLOS (1990’s)

- Testified before the Foreign Affairs Committee (1998).

- September 2007 letter to Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

- NOW!
NASCA Support

The North American Submarine Cable Association has supported UNCLOS

- In testimony before the US Oceans Commission.
- 2007 testimony (D. Burnett) before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
The Take-Home Message

The Undersea Cable Industry in general, and AT&T specifically, supports US assent to UNCLOS and has done so for many years because it increases protections for our cables.