



ICPC News Release

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The Royal Society of New Zealand awards Hutton Medal to ICPC's Marine Environmental Advisor

LYMINGTON, UK—Every year the Hutton Medal—an Earth, plant and animal sciences award—is granted by The Royal Society of New Zealand for outstanding work by a researcher and the [International Cable Protection Committee \(ICPC\)](#) is pleased to announce Prof. Lionel Carter has received this prestigious honour.

Based in New Zealand and Professor of Marine Geology at the Antarctic Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington, Prof. Carter is also the Marine Environmental Advisor (MEA) to the ICPC and has been informing this international organisation for over ten years. Trained in geology and oceanography, Prof. Carter has undertaken research in the North Pacific, North Atlantic and Southern ocean, leading to the publication of 150 peer-reviewed papers in collaboration with co-authors worldwide. Through his profession, Prof. Carter has applied his findings to evaluate environmental change, natural hazards and resources all within the world's oceans. In the ICPC his expertise is greatly valued in regards to promoting an understanding of climate change and the harsh natural marine environment in which cables have to operate. This educational work enhances the protection of submarine telecommunication and power cables from natural and man-made marine hazards.

Due to his research, the panel granting the Hutton Medal conveyed that Prof. Carter's findings have revealed the roles of ocean currents, sea level, plate tectonics, and climate change in forming New Zealand's submarine continental islands and its surrounding abyssal waters. Specifically, Prof. Carter discovered the means whereby debris from New Zealand's main rivers pass hundreds of kilometers along submarine channels and release into the deep ocean current. In addition, key examination included the use of environmental markers preserved in sediment cores to determine how the interactions between the ocean and the climate have changed over 1,000 years.

About ICPC: The [International Cable Protection Committee](#) was formed in 1958 and its primary goal is to promote the safeguarding of international submarine cables against man-made and natural hazards. The organisation provides a forum for the exchange of technical, legal and environmental information about submarine cables and, with 160 members from over 60 nations, including cable operators, owners, manufacturers, industry service providers, as well as governments, it is the World's premier submarine cable organisation. For further information about ICPC, visit: <https://iscpc.org/>.

Contact:

Keith Schofield

+44 7836 249376

general.manager@iscpc.org