

## SOURCES of OCEAN ENERGY

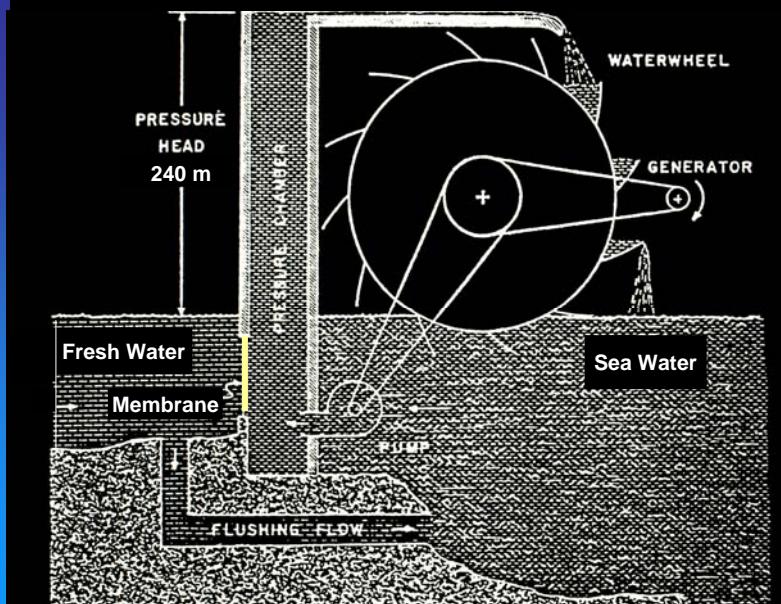
- SALINITY GRADIENTS
- THERMAL GRADIENTS
- TIDES
- WAVES
- OCEAN CURRENTS
- BIO-CONVERSION

240m head

0.2m head

-





## SALINITY GRADIENTS



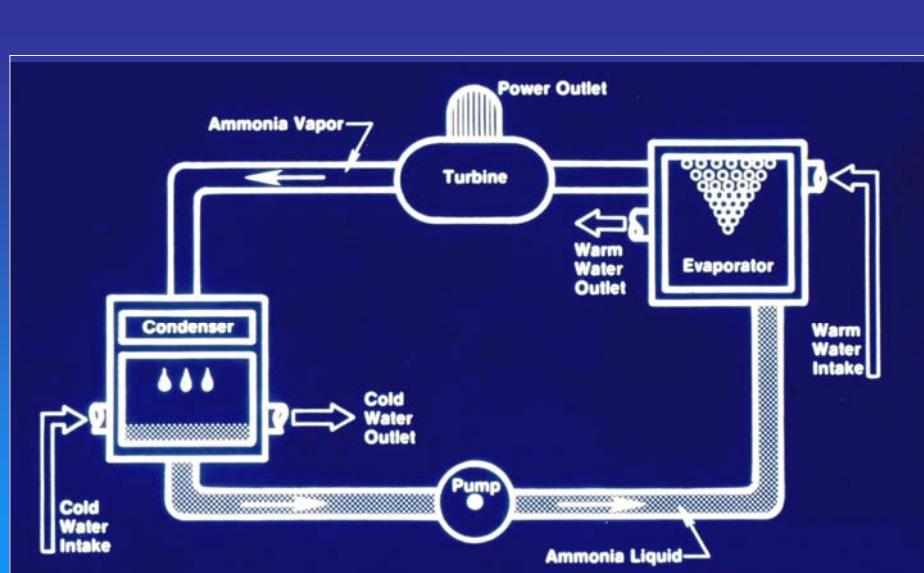
## SALINITY GRADIENTS

- Potential head of 240m at interface of fresh and sea water, particularly river mouths
- Processes include pressure retarded osmosis and reverse electro-dialysis or gas pressure differentials
- Problems with biological fouling of membranes, slow flow rates and brine disposal (can however, be re-used)
- Technology not yet sufficiently advanced



# OCEAN THERMAL ENERGY CONVERSION (OTEC)

- Utilises temperature gradient between surface and deep ocean waters(500m to 1000m)
- Based on Claude or Rankine cycles
- Minimum temperature gradient of  $20^{\circ} \text{ C}$ , (preferably  $24^{\circ} \text{ C}$ ) for economic viability.

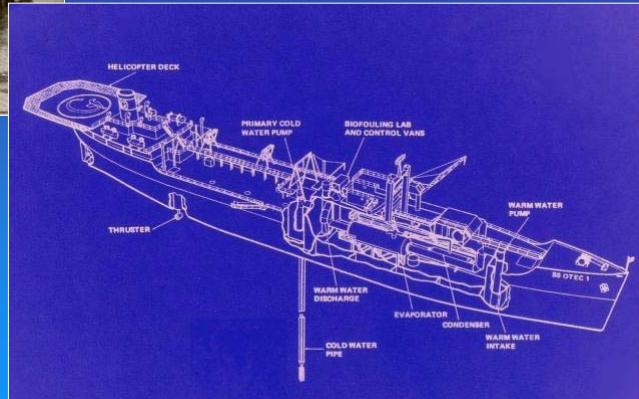


OTEC CYCLE



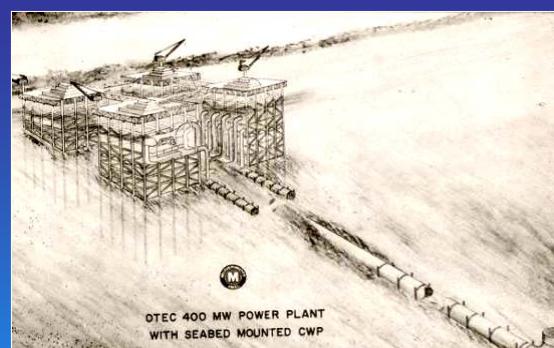
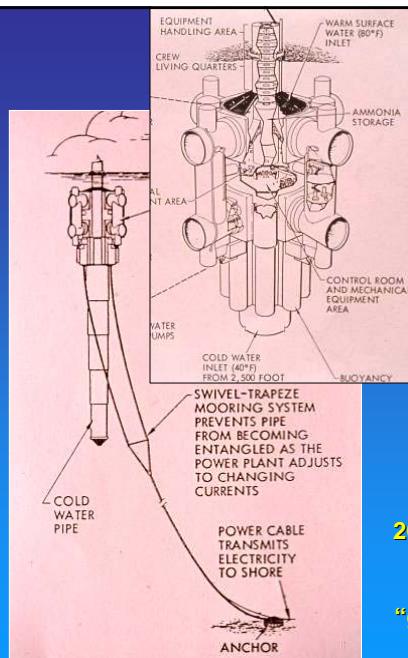


50 kW test platform  
off Hawaii  
(Mini OTEC)



OTEC 1

Advanced stage of viability testing  
previously achieved in USA

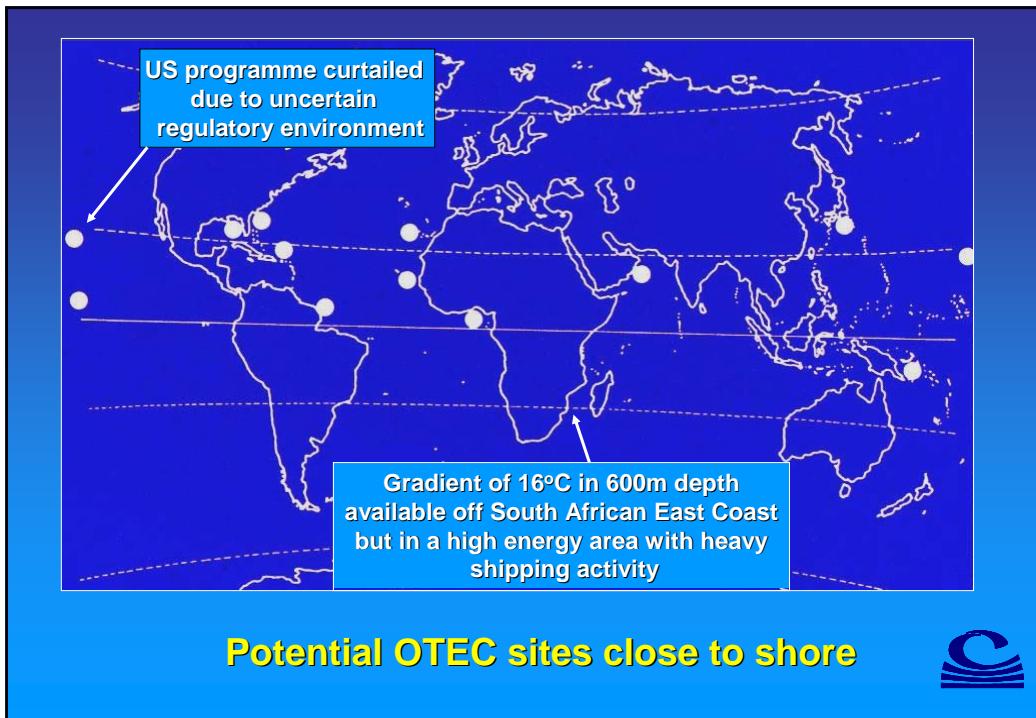
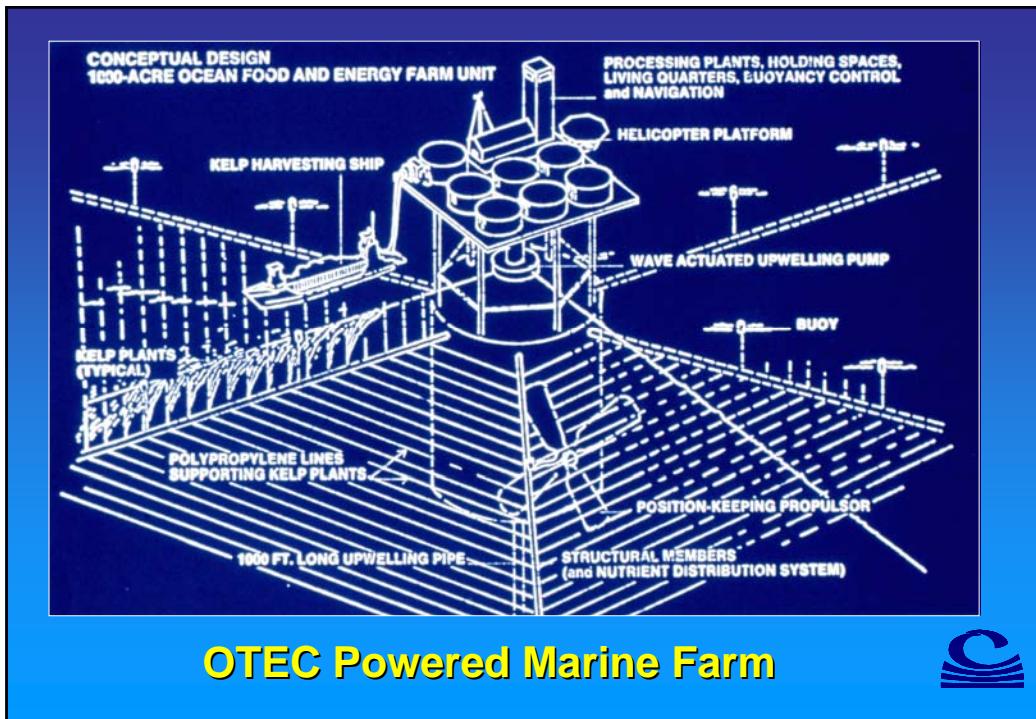


Proposed 400 MW land based converter  
(small demonstration plant presently operating  
in Hawaii)

265 MW floating  
converter in  
anchored or  
“grazing” mode

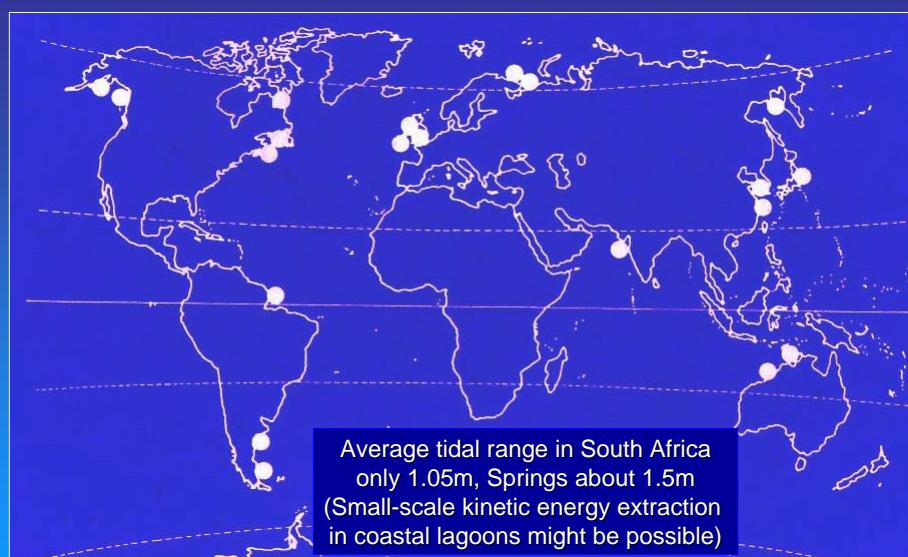
OTEC CONCEPTS





## TIDAL POWER

- Generally accepted that a minimum tidal range of 5m (preferably >10m) is required for economic viability in barrage schemes.
- Existing schemes at Rance Estuary (11m to 13.5m range, peak output of 240 MW), and Kislaya Inlet (400kW expanding to 320 MW)
- Many proposals for Severn estuary (UK), Bay of Fundy, South Korea, Japan etc

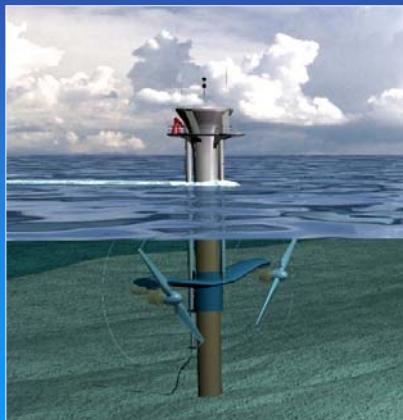


Sites of Possible Tidal Power Stations with 10m+ range



# Tidal Streams

Shallow water currents generated by tides, extracted by vertical or horizontal axis turbines, in currents of at least 2m/sec



An example is the SeaGen Tidal Stream Turbine, comprising two 15 m diam twin axial flow rotors rated at 1 MW.  
(Presently undergoing tests in the Strangford Narrows off Northern Ireland)



**MOST PROMISING TIDAL STREAM SITES**  
in South Africa with  
depth averaged currents of about 1m/sec  
and water depths of 6 to 7 m



Langebaan Lagoon

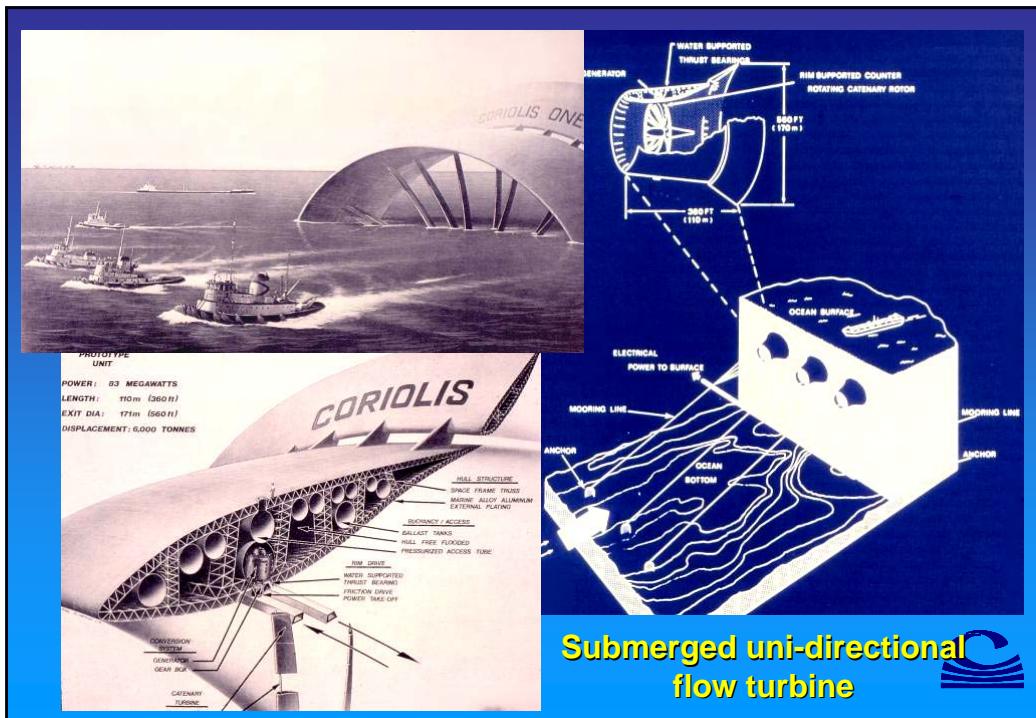


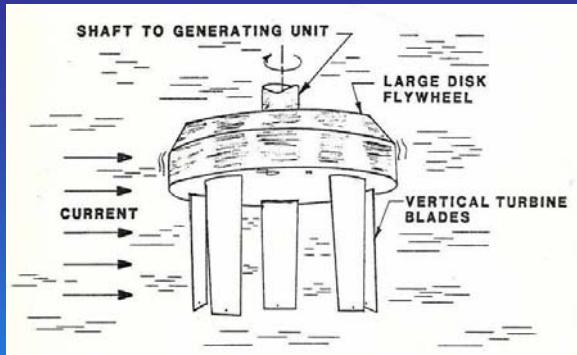
Knysna Heads



# OCEAN CURRENTS

- **Typified by low energy density and variable direction and velocity**
- **Extraction can be by vertical or horizontal axis turbine, savonius or hinged blade rotors with flow enhancement ducts, electromagnetic induction etc**

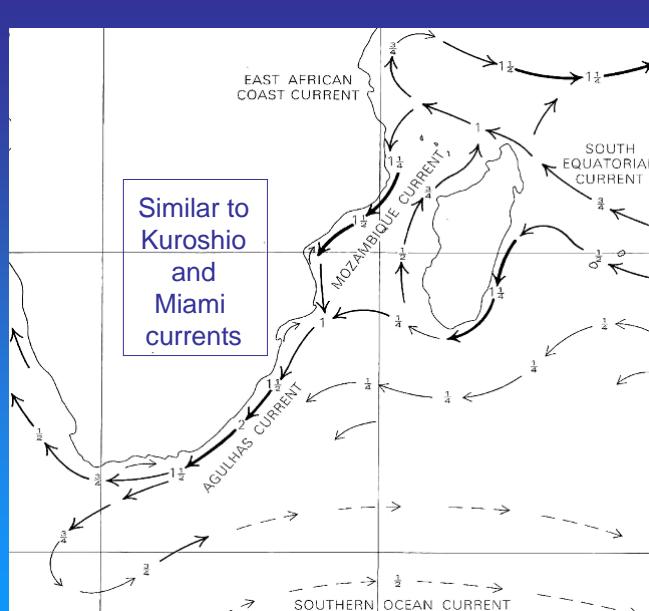
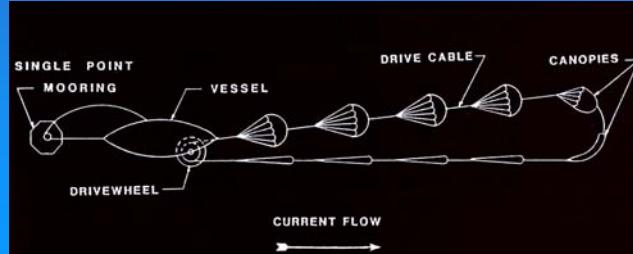




## Vertical axis multi directional

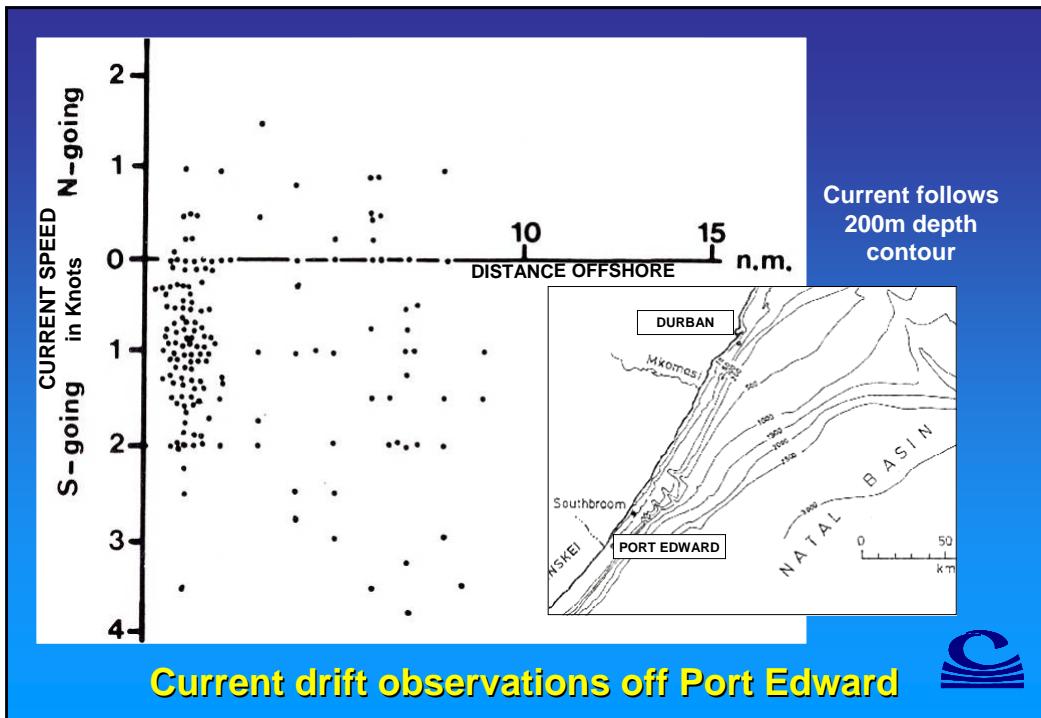
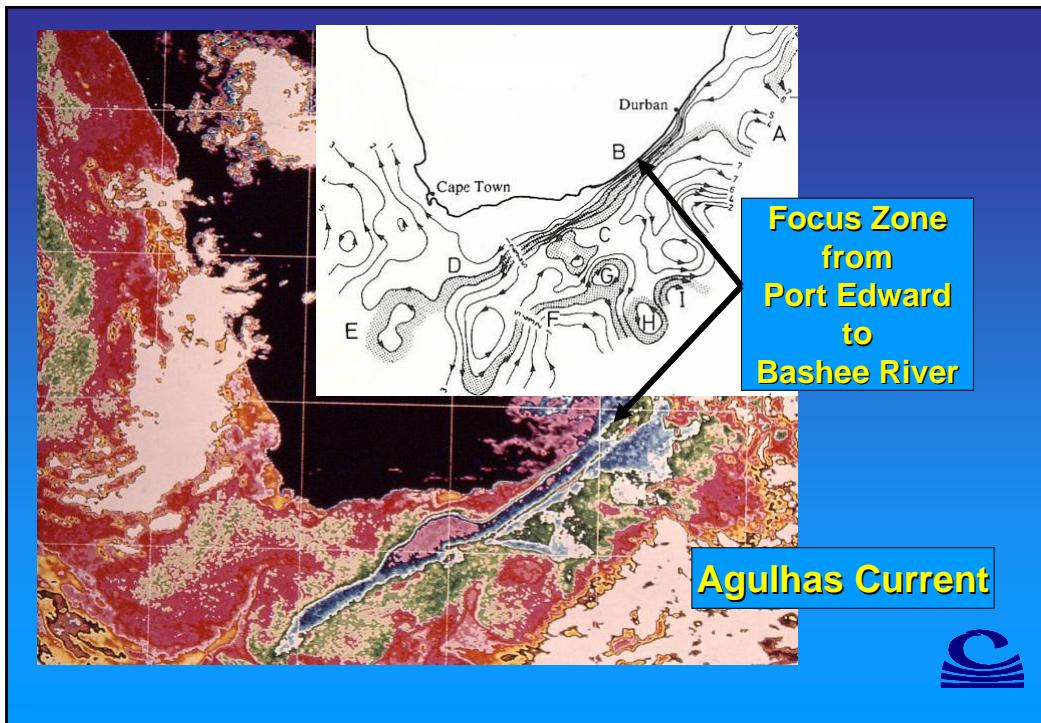
(Conversion efficiencies  
of about 50 to 60%)

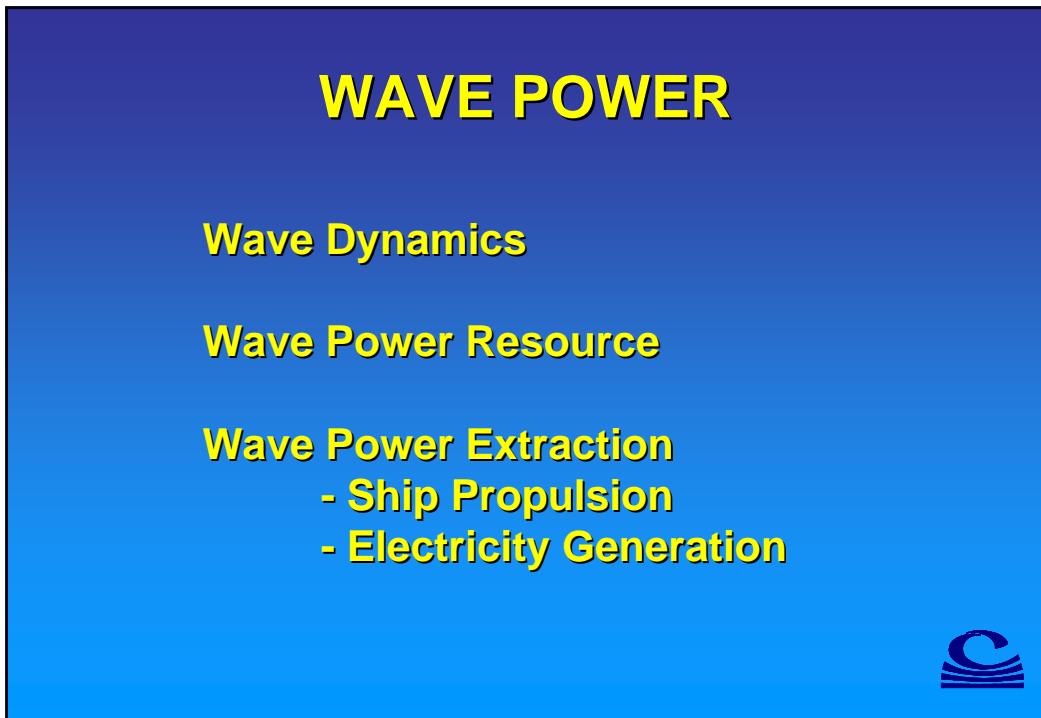
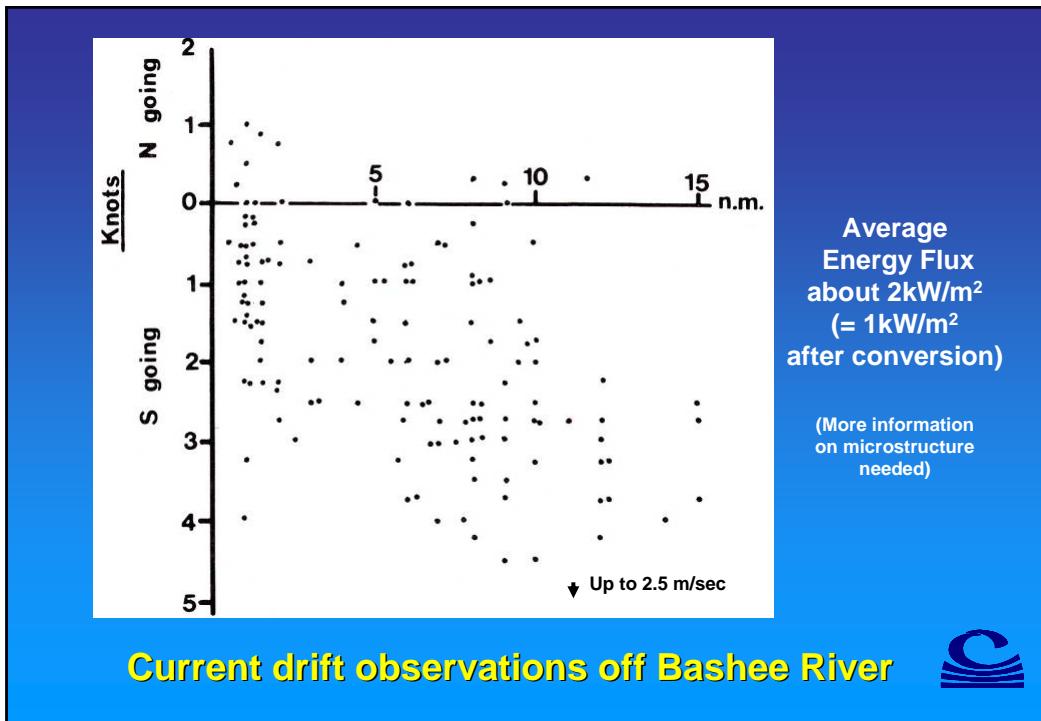
## Linear conversion system

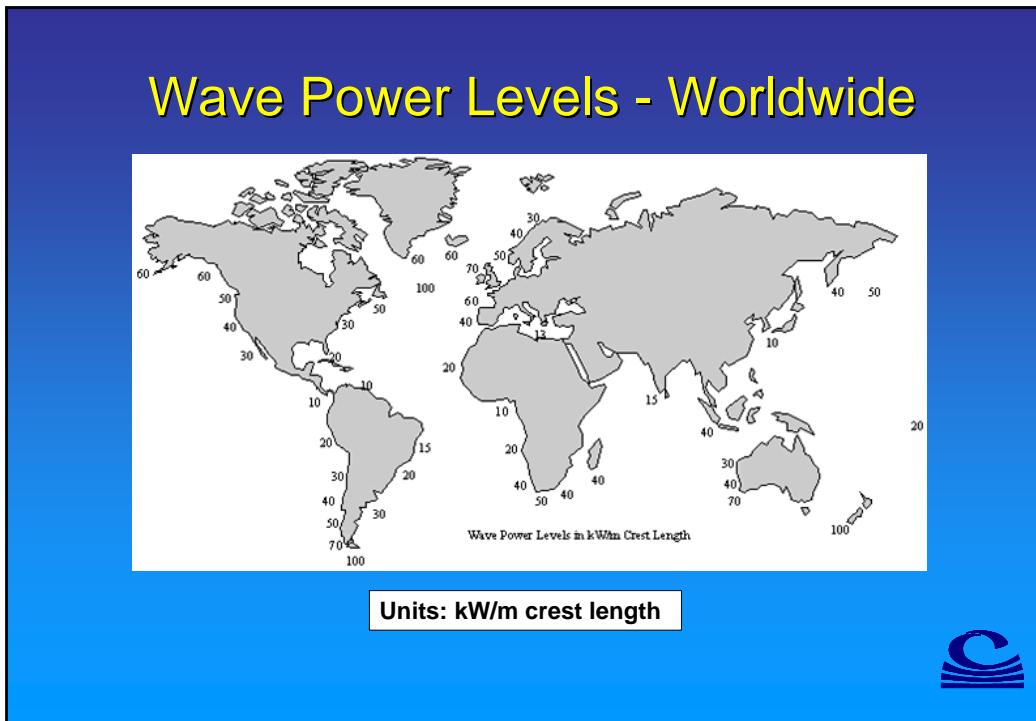
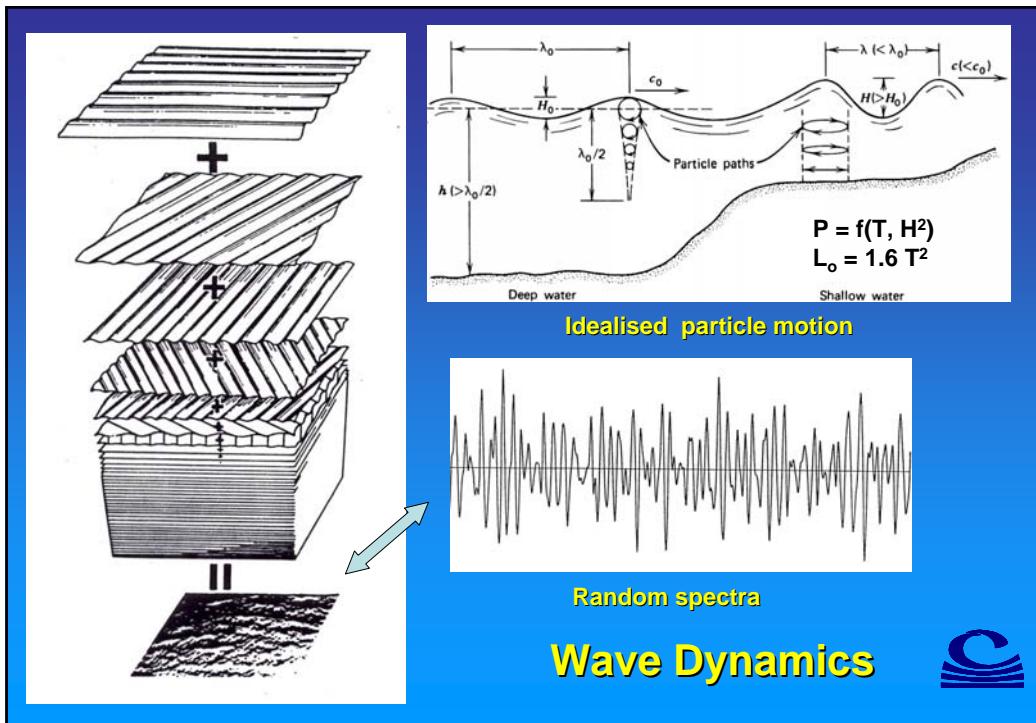


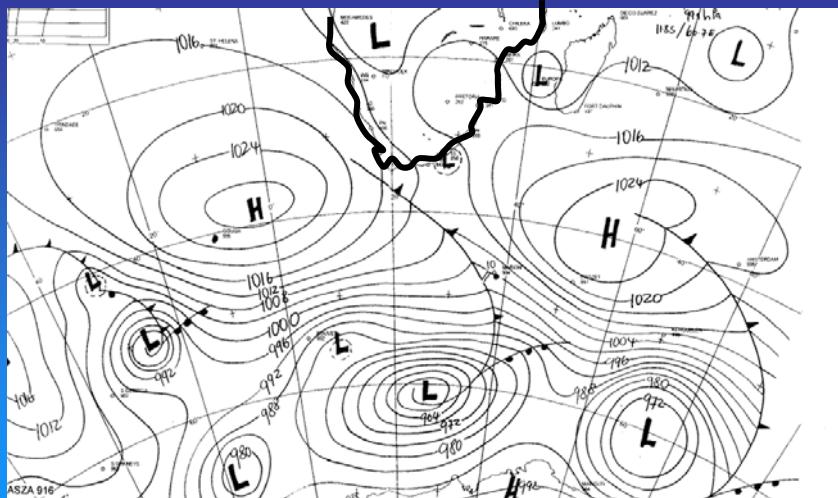
Agulhas Western Boundary Current System



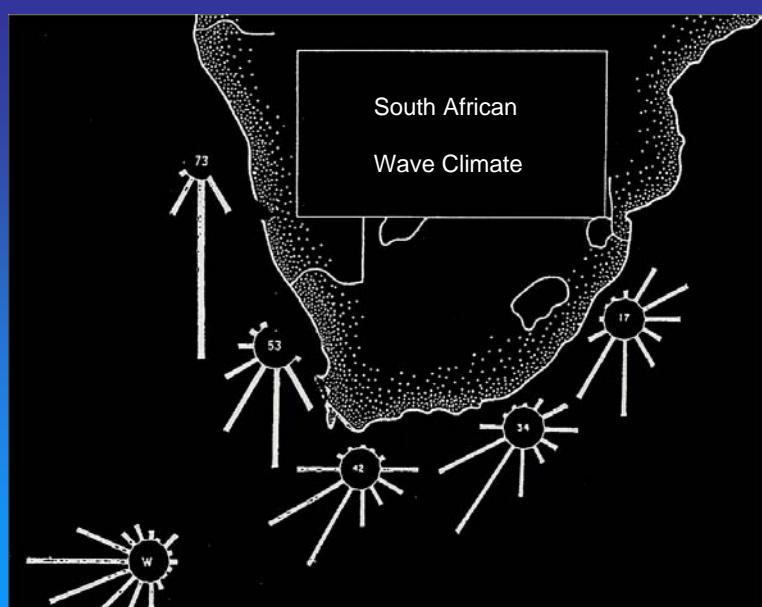








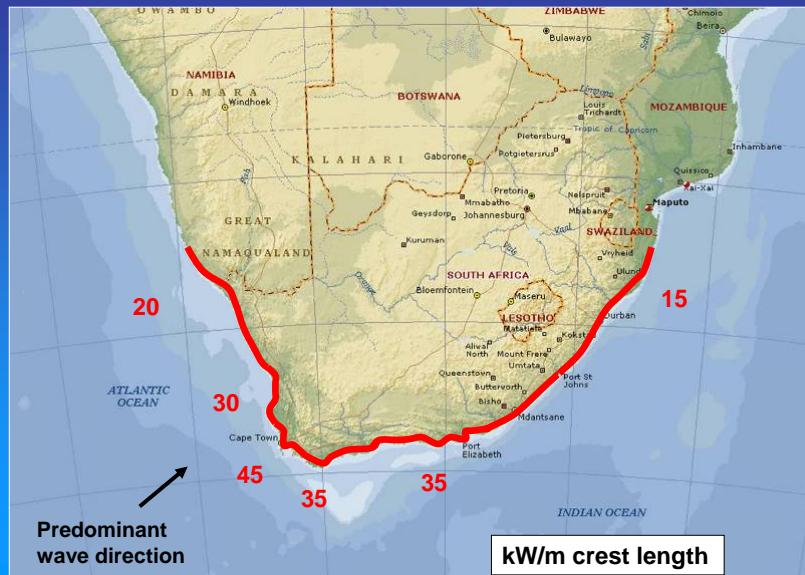
## Wave Generation Zone off Southern Africa



# Incident Wave Roses



## Offshore Wave Power Levels



## Inshore Winter Wave Power (along 20m contour)

Winter

Wave Power (kW/m)

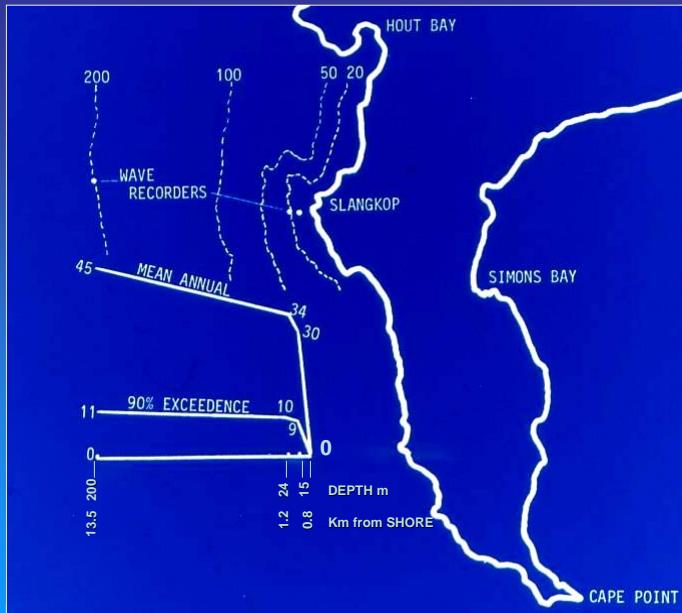
5 - 10
10 - 15
15 - 20
20 - 25
25 - 30
30 - 35
35 - 40

Sensitive Areas

(pink line)

(along 20m contour)

$T_{av} = 12 \text{ sec}$  (L = 230 m)

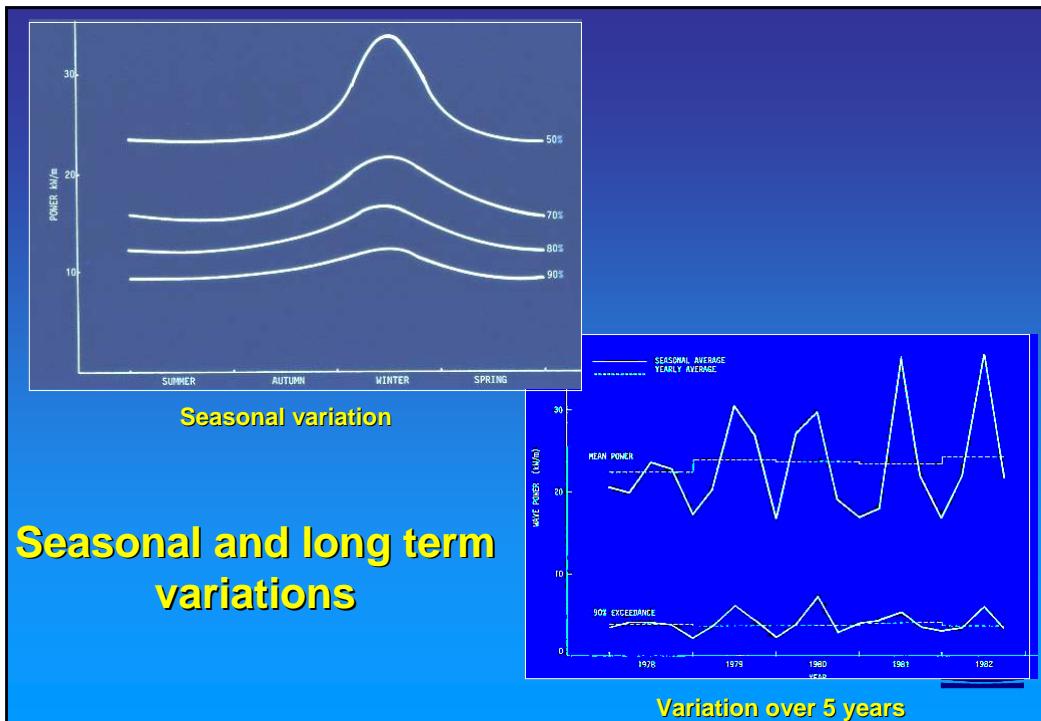
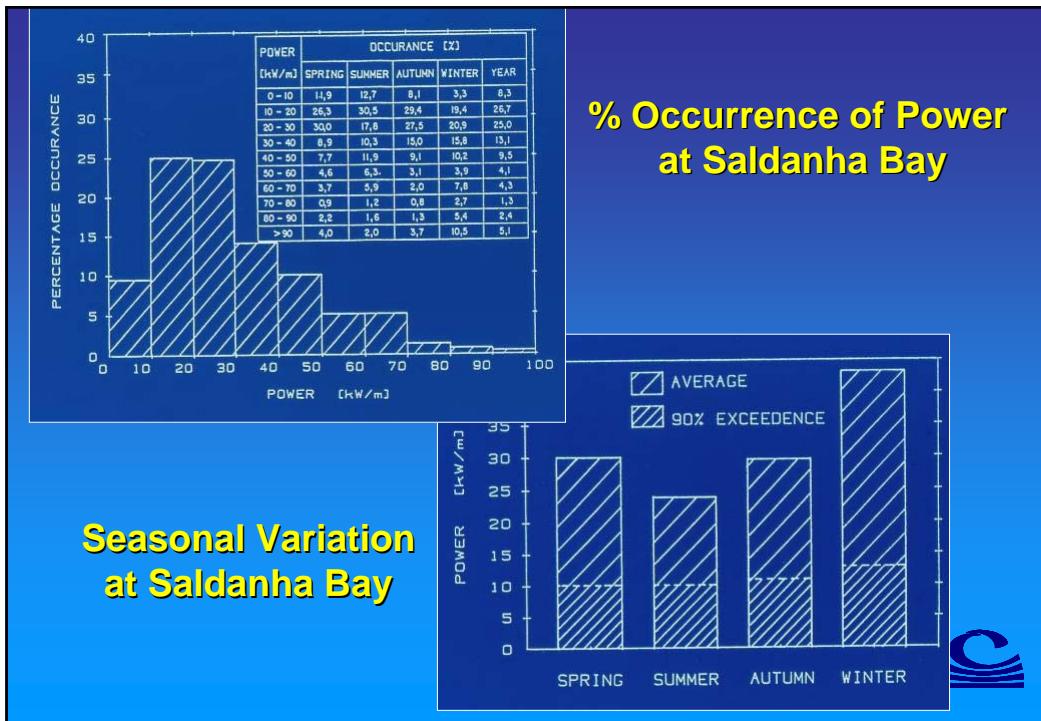


Inshore Power Levels off Slangkop



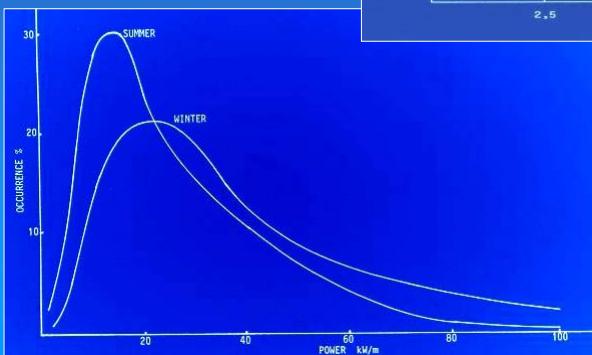
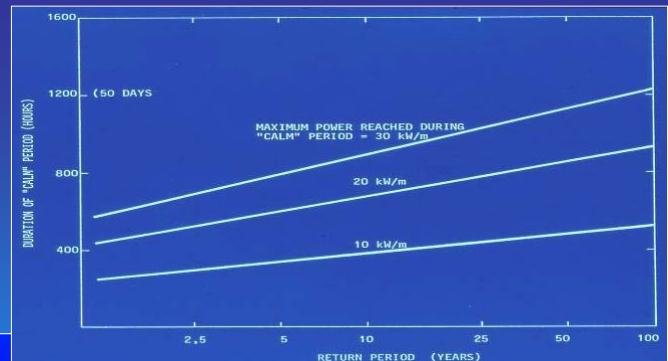
## Examples of resource analysis off SW Coast





## Duration of Calms vs Return Period

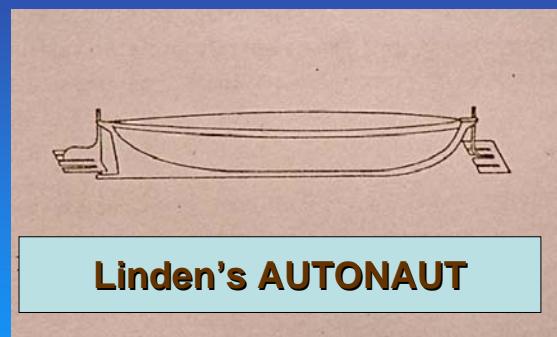
(indicates backup or  
storage requirements)

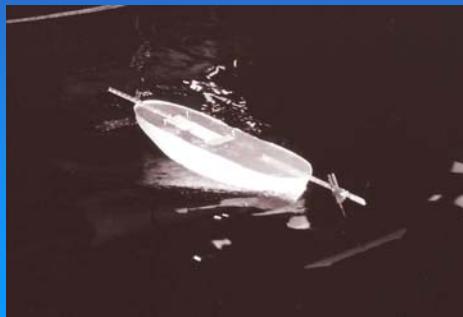


## Occurrence Distribution Winter and Summer



## Power Extraction - Vessel propulsion





**11 knots under  
moderate swell  
conditions**



**Prototype bow-mounted  
propulsion vanes**





**I & J Stern Trawler**

**(4.5 knots  
in a 1.5m swell)**

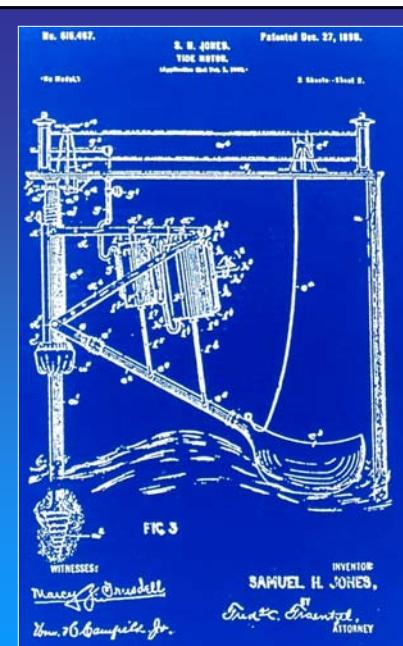


**Free drifting  
weather buoy**

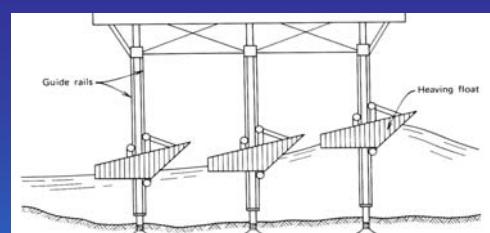
**-  
Wave propelled  
station keeping  
in South Atlantic**



# WAVE POWER CONVERSION



1898 Patent



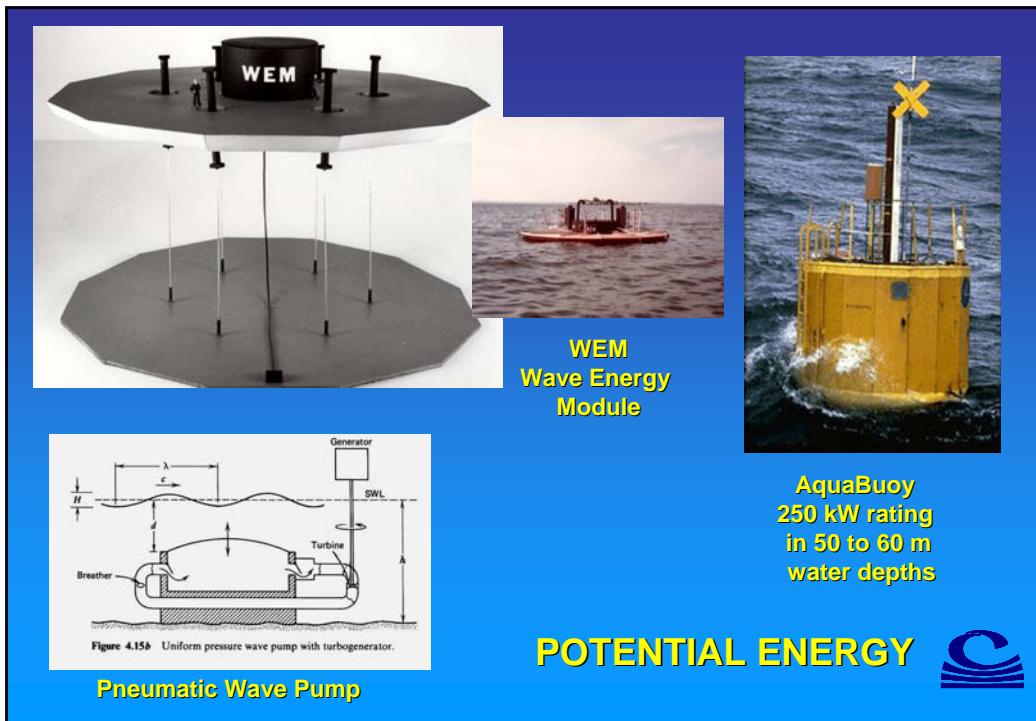
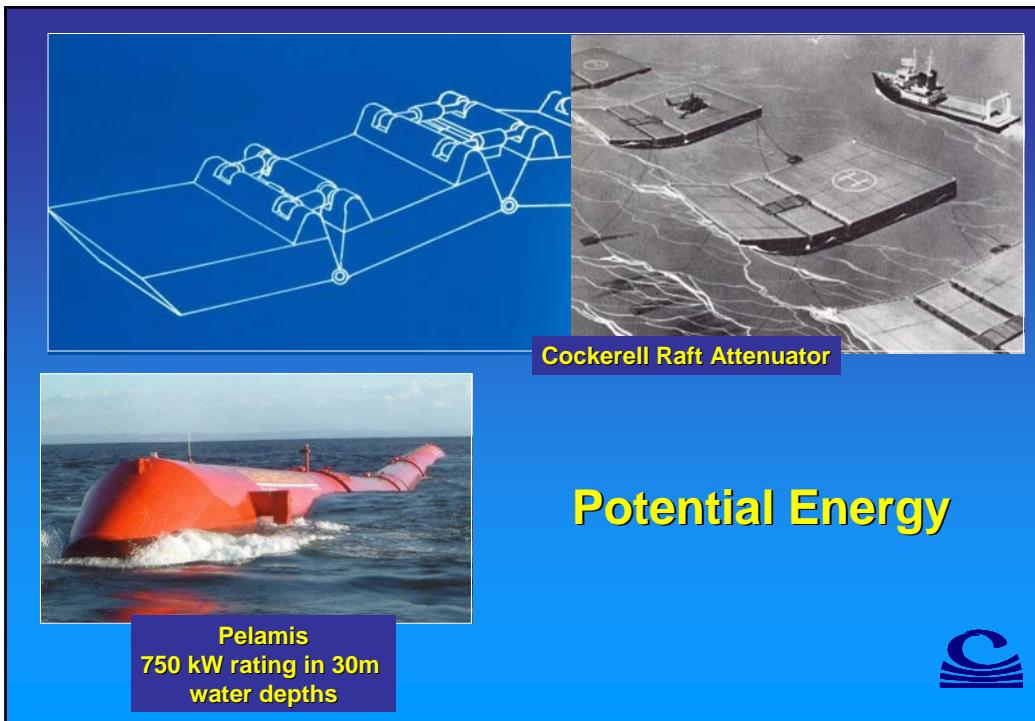
Early Proposal

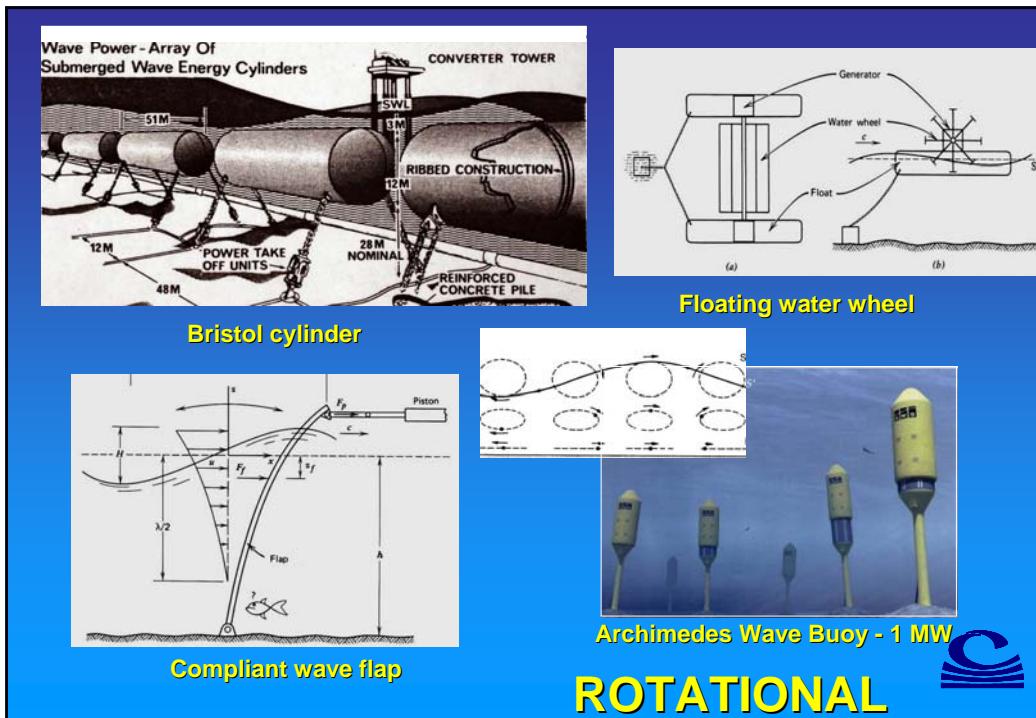
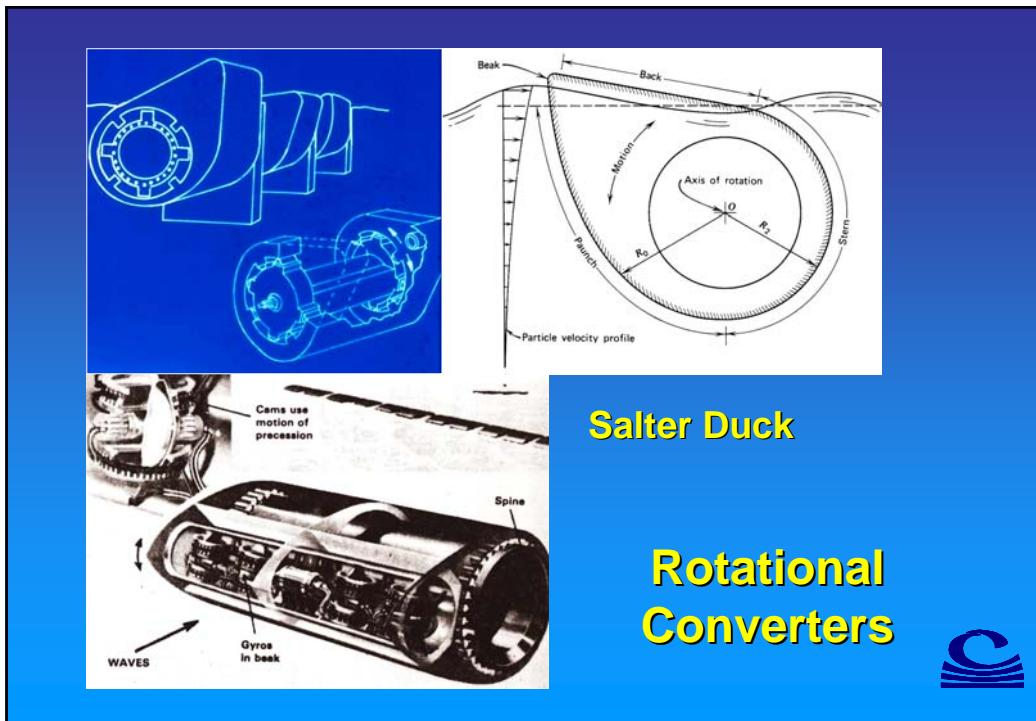


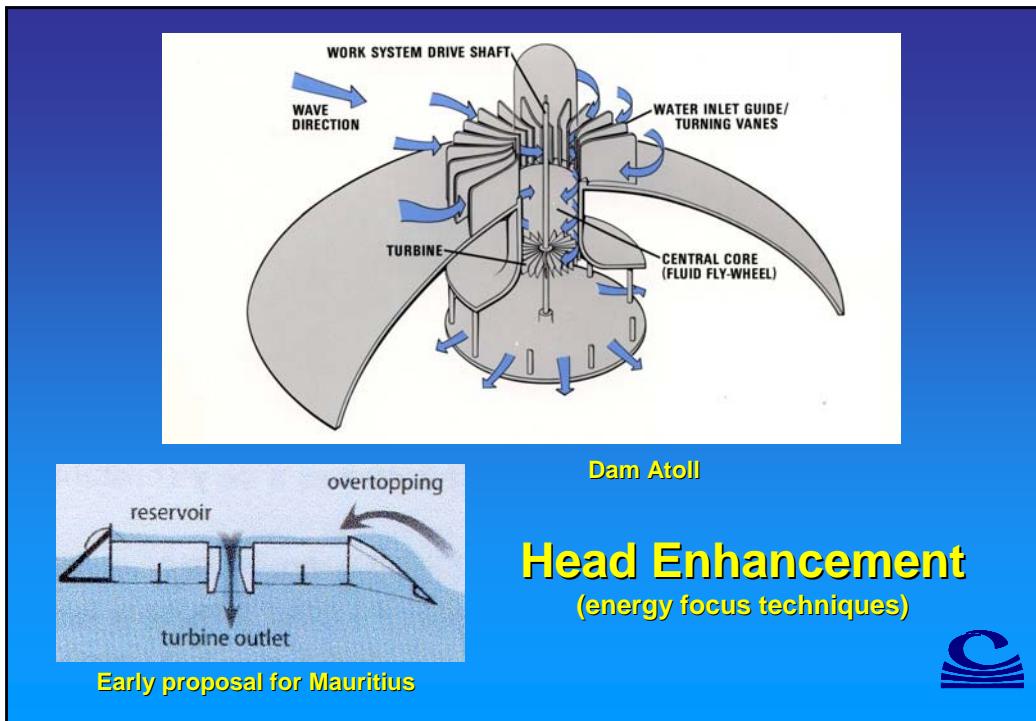
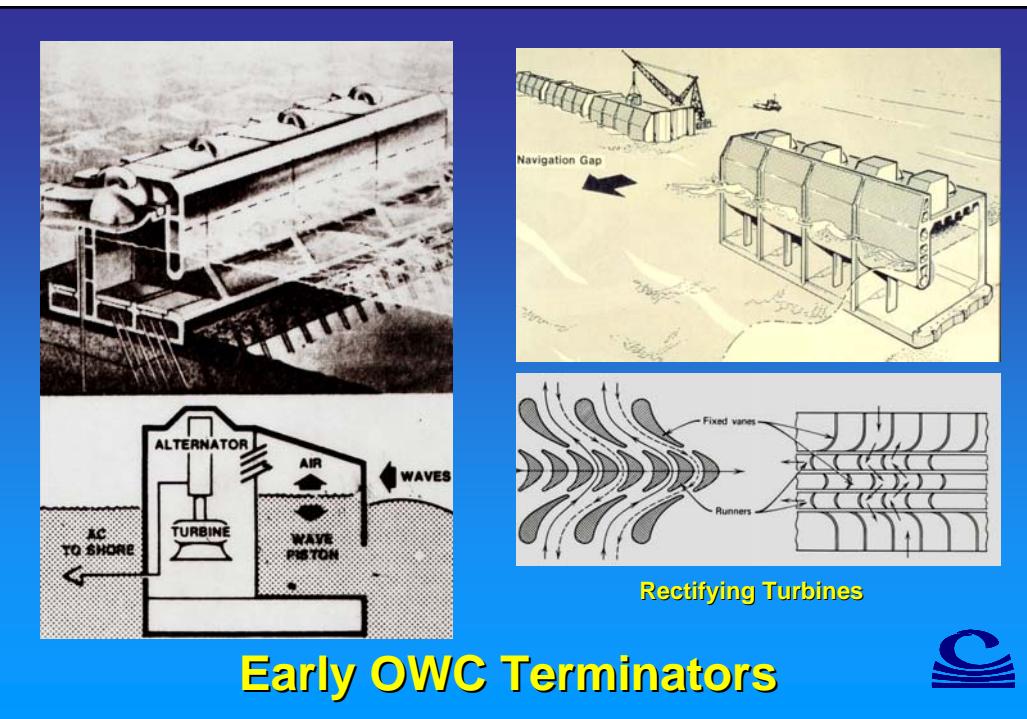
Modern Equivalent

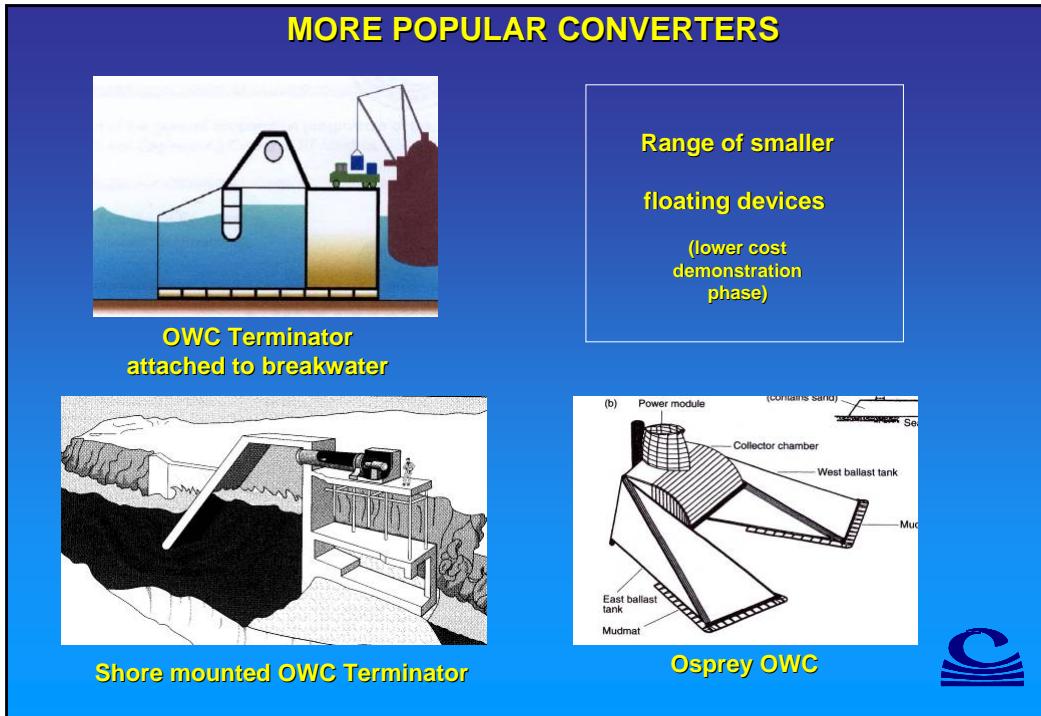
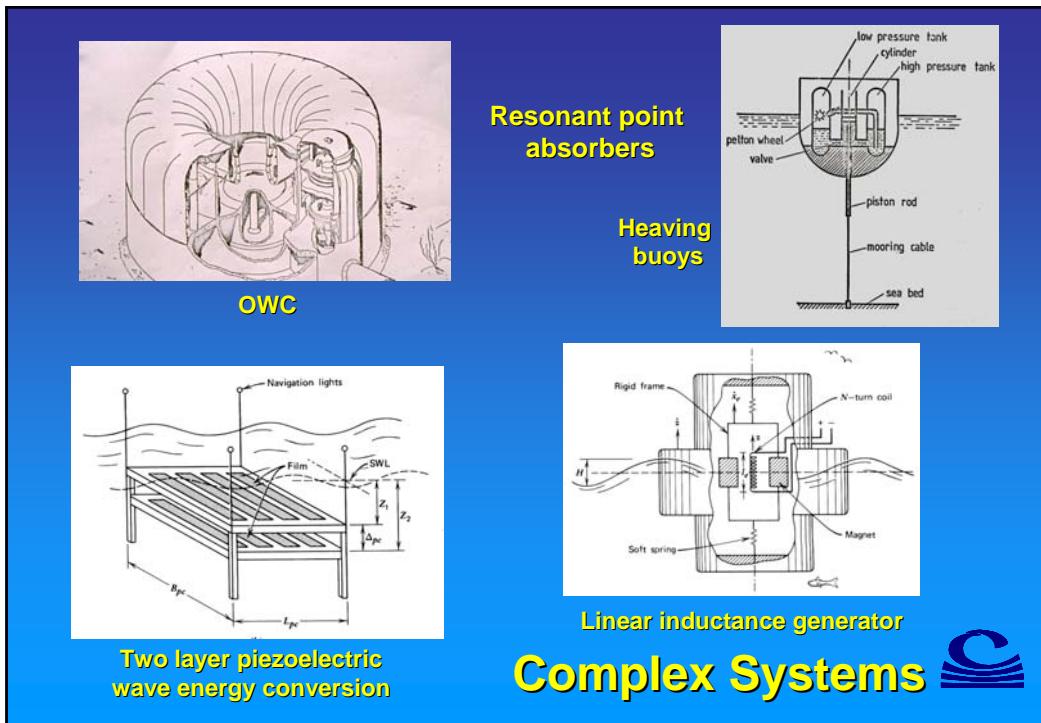
POTENTIAL ENERGY

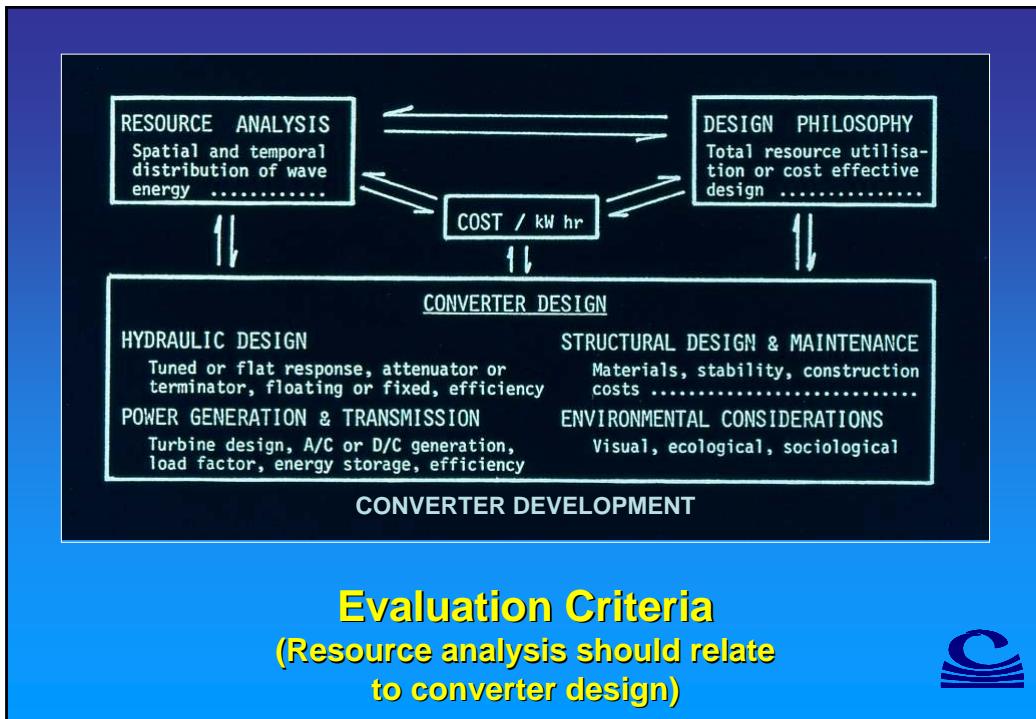










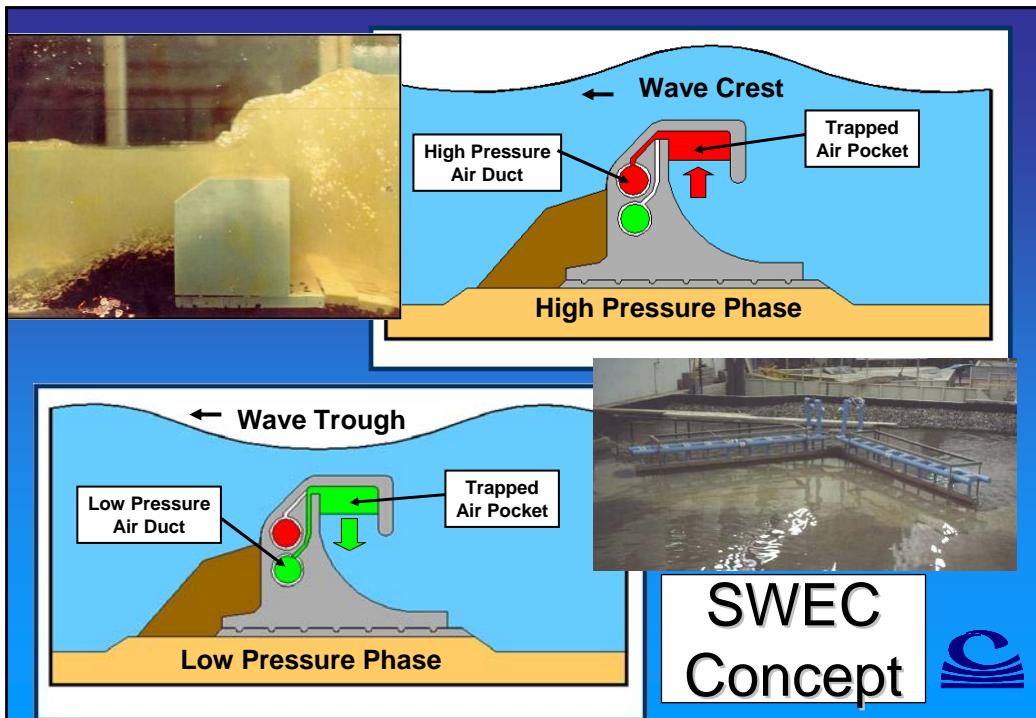
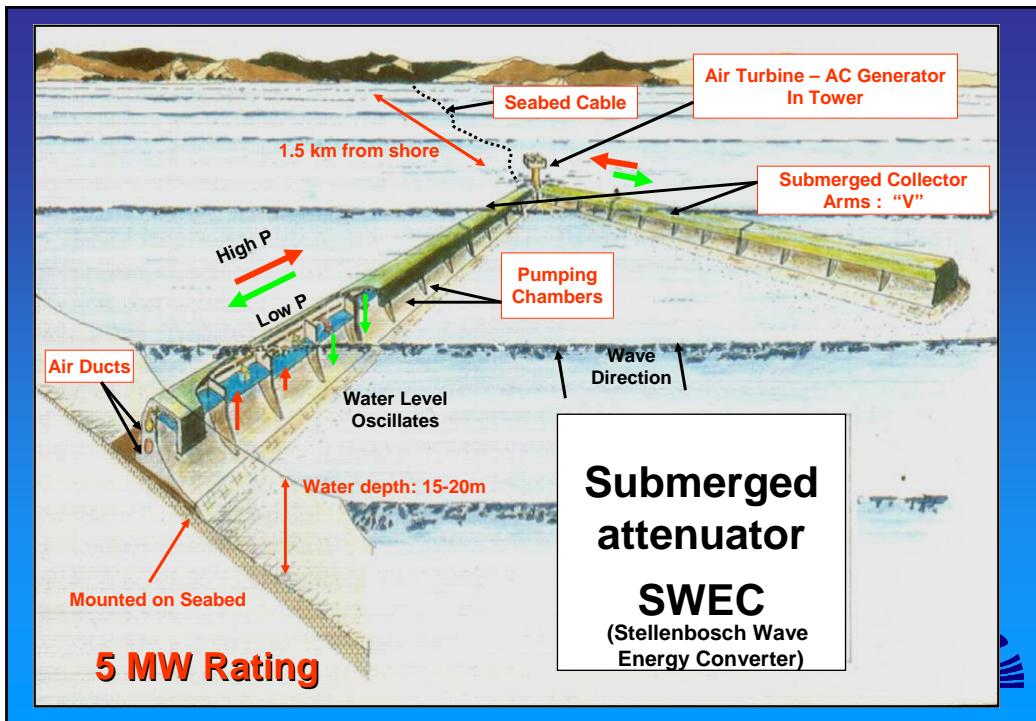


## DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

### for the Stellenbosch Wave Energy Converter (SWEC) (1985)

1. Cost efficiency of prime importance  
(conversion efficiency of secondary importance)
2. Avoid need for storm over-design
3. Aim for reliability in aggressive environment  
(design & construction technology to be within existing capability)
4. Minimise need for energy storage  
(optimise device at low power cut-off level to avoid extreme power fluctuations)
5. Minimise environmental impact and hazard to shipping
6. Utilise high levels of power inshore





## ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS

### 1. FIXED STRUCTURE

- Efficient reference frame
- Simple technology & maintenance  
(no moorings or flexible transmission lines, minimum moving parts below water)

### 2. SUBMERGED STRUCTURE

- Reduced storm impact/loading
- Limited visual impact

### 3. INSTALLATION CLOSE IN-SHORE

- Minimum transmission distance
- Depth limited design wave
- Narrow wave direction spectrum

### 4. NON-TUNED, INSENSITIVE DEVICE

- Robust simple control
- Not affected by marine growth
- Acceptably low capture efficiency



CSIR Laboratories



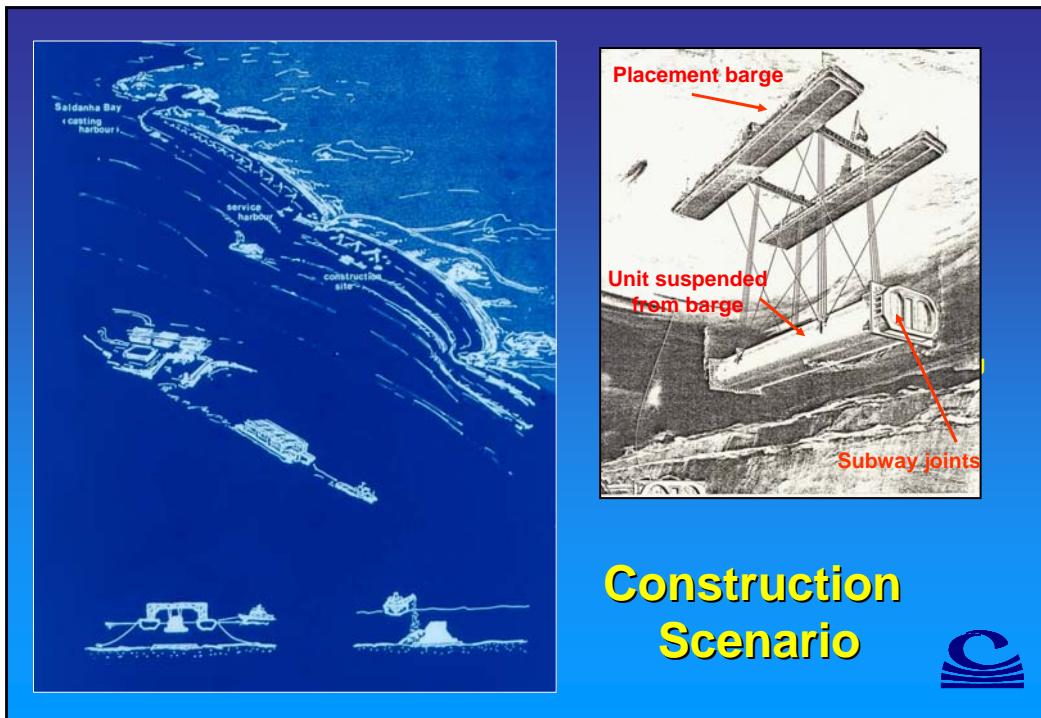
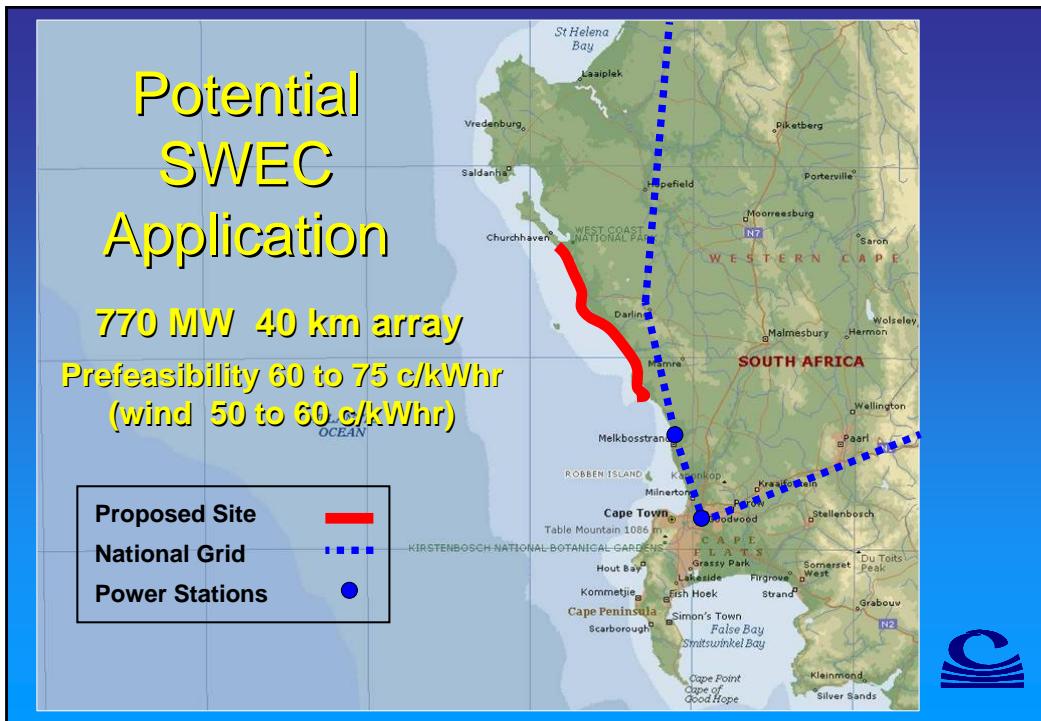
Flume Tests

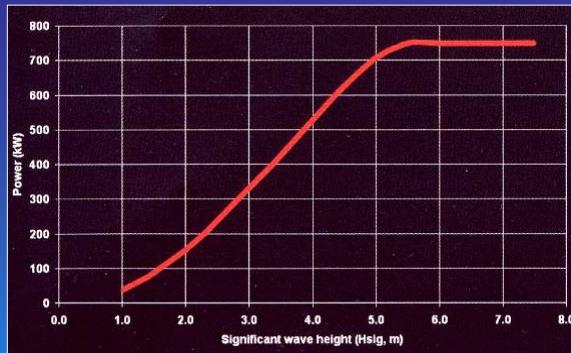


U.S. Civil Eng. Laboratories

Extensive model test programme



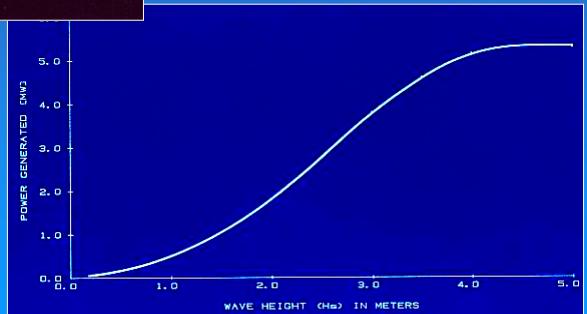




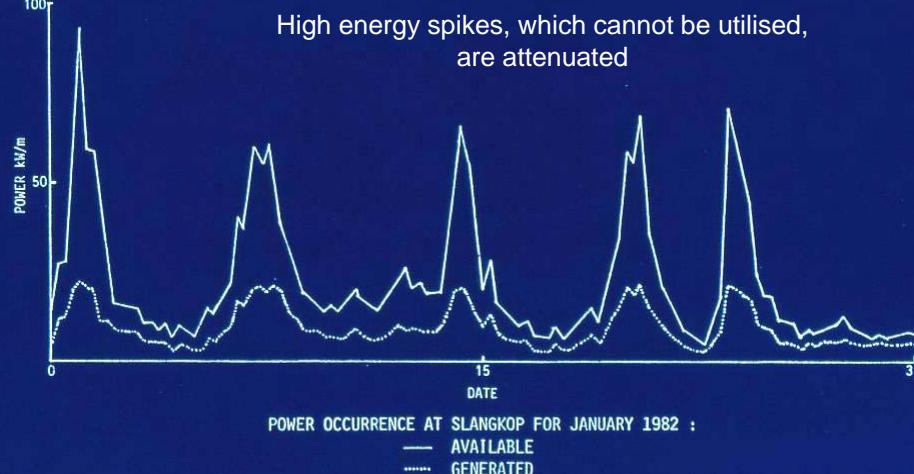
Pelamis

### Power conversion with varying wave ht.

(Power shedding above 5m)

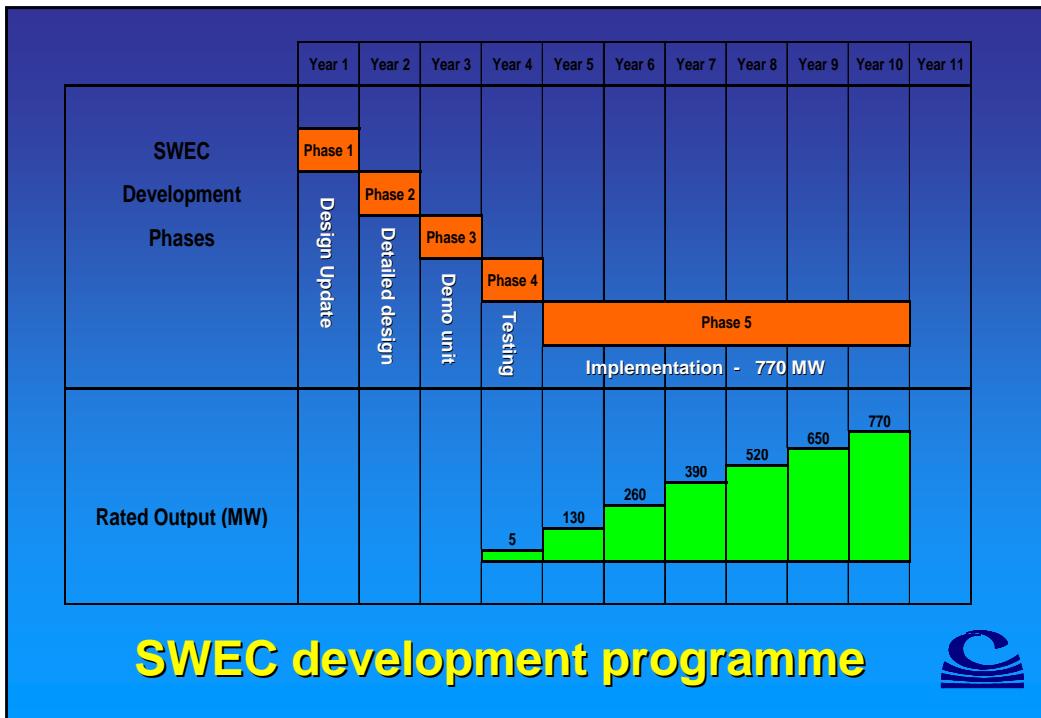
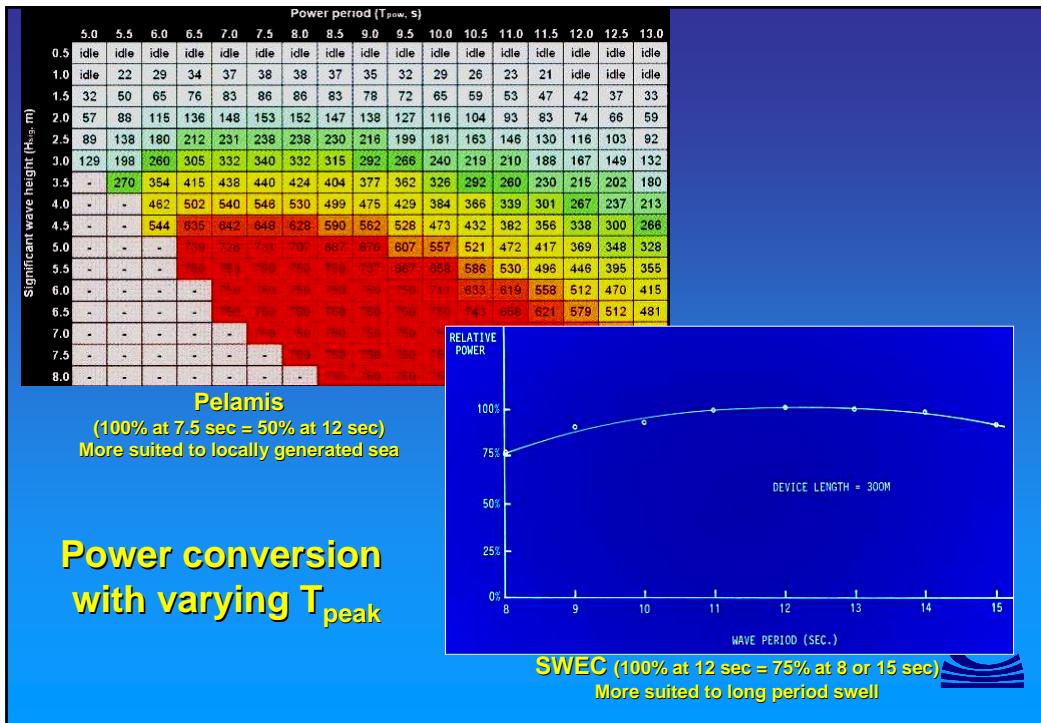


SWEC



SWEC Wave Extraction Characteristics  
Effect of Power Shedding & Variable Efficiency





# Constraints to Wave Power Development



## 1. Shipping:

South bound shipping on the East Coast, utilises the inshore current  
West Coast pelagic fishing fleet  
Demarcated shipping lanes approaching ports and Capes

## 2. Environmental Protection

Coastal Sensitivity Atlas, and GIS maps  
Protected Coastal Areas (marine reserves etc)  
Integrated Coastal Management Bill

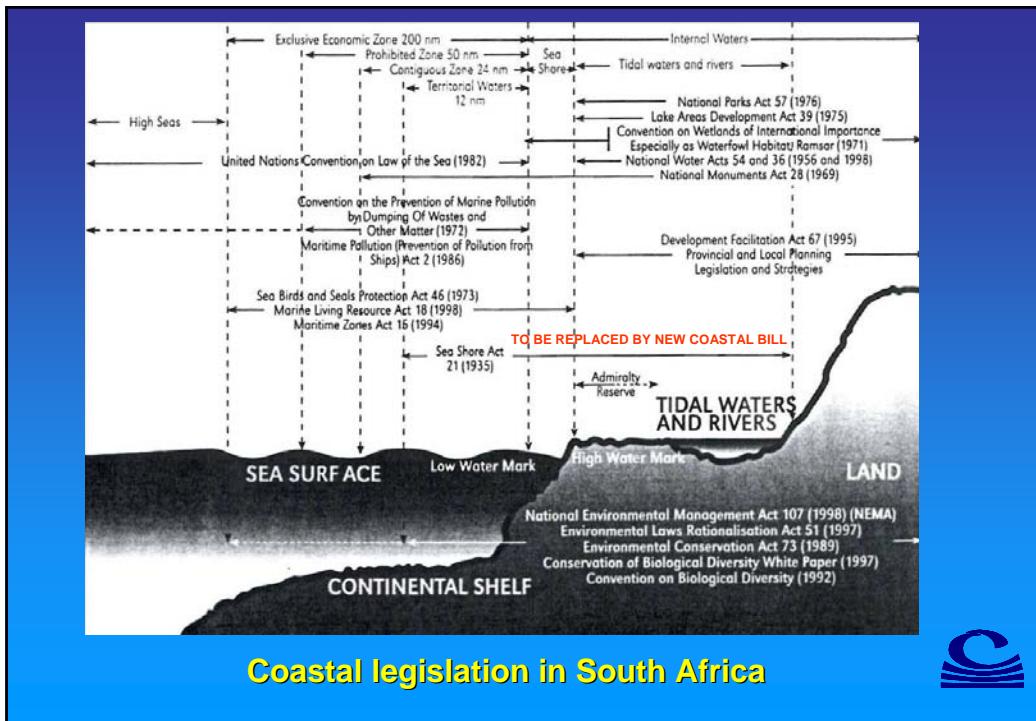
## 3. Legal Constraints

Offshore mining rights (gas, oil and diamonds)  
Risk of private investment in Public Domain

## 4. Unique Engineering Problems

Extremely high inshore storm wave conditions  
Freak waves off East Coast due to current/wave interaction  
East and West Coast sediment transport >600 000 m<sup>3</sup> pa





## CONCLUSIONS

1. Technology supporting utilisation of Salinity Gradients and Bi-conversion not yet sufficiently developed.
2. OTEC and Tidal energy extraction not viable as significant power sources, along the South African coast.
3. Current Power is available as a relatively stable resource, but at low density levels of about  $2 \text{ kW/m}^2$ , ie  $1 \text{ kW/m}^2$  after conversion.
4. Wave Power appears to be the more promising source of ocean energy at offshore levels of up to  $45 \text{ kW/m}$  annual average and inshore levels reaching  $30 \text{ kW/m}$  annual average, mainly along the SW coasts, and reducing to probably about  $10 \text{ kW/m}$  annual average, after conversion.
5. Potential converted wave power along the RSA coast, allowing for other constraints, probably totals 8 000 to 10 000 MW.

