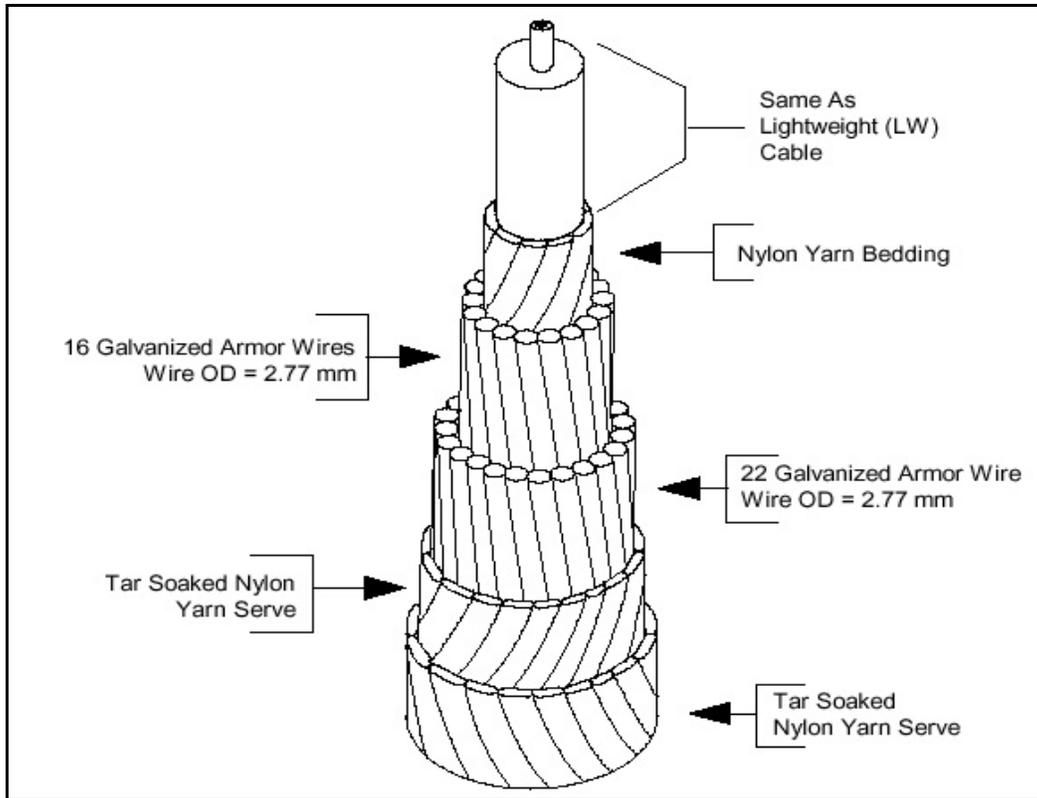


breaks in the cable that could occur. Figure 2-5 shows the more heavily armored cable that would be used if the Northern Alternative cable route were selected. The cable for the Northern Alternative contains extra layering or armoring to protect against possible damage along the segment that would not be buried.

Figure 2-5: Armored Cable Cross-Section (360networks, inc. 2000a)



Cable Installation

For the Northern Alternative, approximately 104.6 km of additional cable would be required, compared with the Preferred Alternative route (Seafloor Surveys International, Inc. 1999). Other than the greater length of cable to be installed (and therefore more sea bed area to be affected), the installation procedures would be identical to those described for the Preferred Alternative, except as noted below. Detailed marine surveys indicate that burial of the cable would not be possible along certain portions of the Northern Alternative route because it would be necessary to cross rock. It is anticipated that approximately 1.262 km of the cable would be unburied because of unfavorable sea bed conditions (360networks, inc. 2000c).

For installation of unburied cable, the cable ship would follow a charted course for the project, paying out cable as it proceeds. As the cable is paid out, sufficient slack is maintained to ensure that the cable is placed along the ocean floor with no tension and no suspensions. The armored cable is allowed to sink at a controlled rate into its desired position. Installation of unburied armored cable generally proceeds at a rate of 2 knots.