



MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM RESEARCH INSTITUTE

7700 Sandholdt Road; Moss Landing, CA; 95039-9644; tel: 831-775-1700; fax: 831-775-1620

April 30, 2008

Deirdre Hall
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street Monterey, CA 93940

Alison Dettmer
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000 San Francisco, CA 94105

Dave Plummer
California State Lands Commission 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

RE: Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) MARS Cable Monitoring

Dear Deirdre, Alison, and Dave,

The first MARS cable route survey was to have taken place within 18 months of our completion of a Post-Lay Burial Survey (PLIB; March 16, 2007 through June 7, 2007). Within 10 months we completed this re-survey of the entire cable route using MBARI's R/V *Point Lobos* and remotely operated vehicle (ROV) *Ventana*. Observations were conducted between November 30, 2007 and April 1, 2008.

During these surveys, we verified that the cable is still buried to the extent indicated during the PLIB survey (Figure 1). Preliminary observations are that the location of the cable remains the same, with no evidence of strumming or other movement. No evidence of trawling impact to the cable was seen. The cable is still buried with no trace of habitat disturbance in shallow sandy areas (roughly 50 % of the route, Figure 1, 2). In most other areas, habitat disturbance is less evident compared with the previous survey and sediment is settling into the trench (Figure 3).

We are analyzing video and sample data for our Impacts Assessment (Figure 4) and the fully detailed report discussing the biological, geological, and ecological impacts will be submitted within six months of current survey completion date. Copies of ROV video footage of the entire route will be provided at that time.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions or need additional information prior to our next report.

James P. Barry
Linda Kuhnz
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
7700 Sandholdt Road
Moss Landing, CA 95039
Phone: (831) 775-1726 barry@mbari.org lkuhnz@mbari.org

April 30, 2008

MBARI MARS Cable Impact Survey

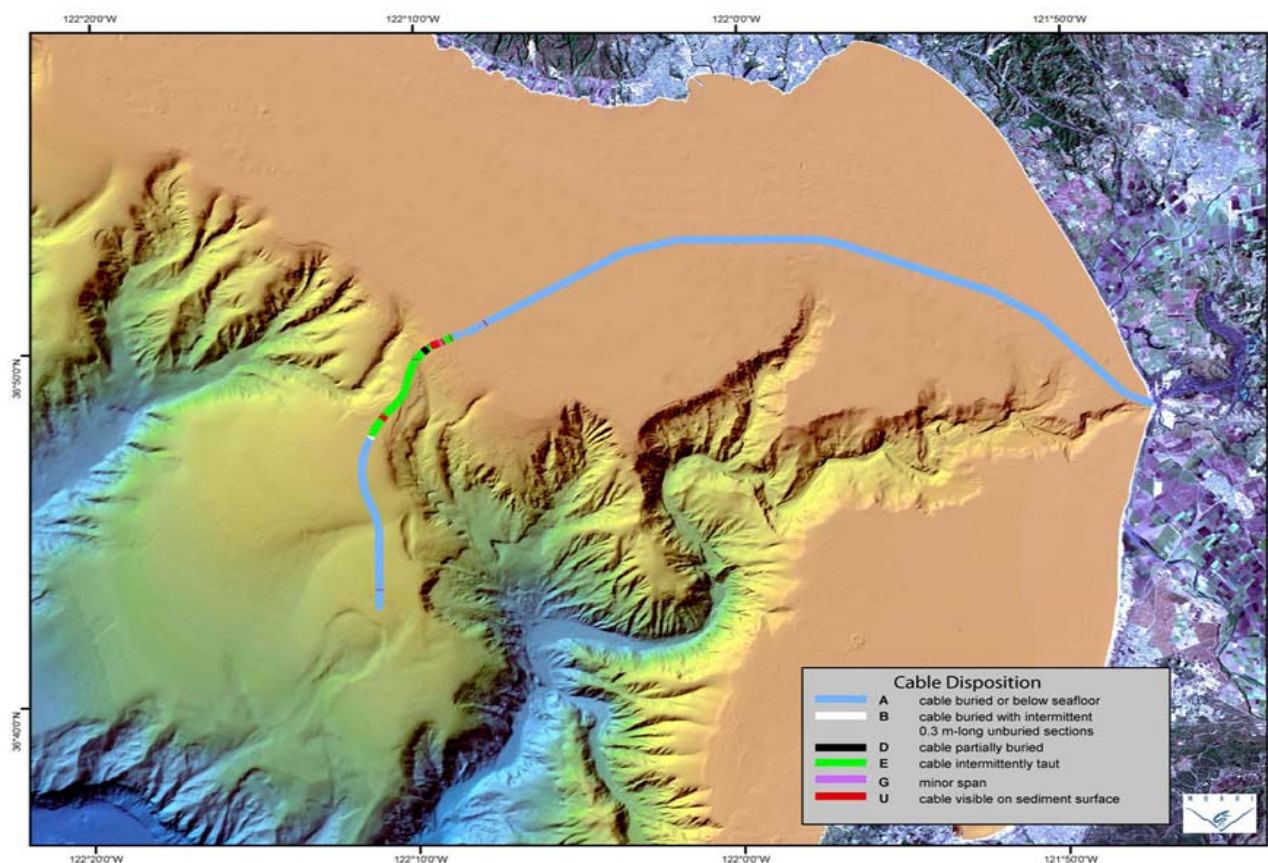


Figure 1. Map of the MARS cable route showing position and burial status.



Figure 2. The MARS cable remains buried to the extent seen during our Post-Lay Burial Survey in early 2007. No habitat disturbance is evident in shallow water.

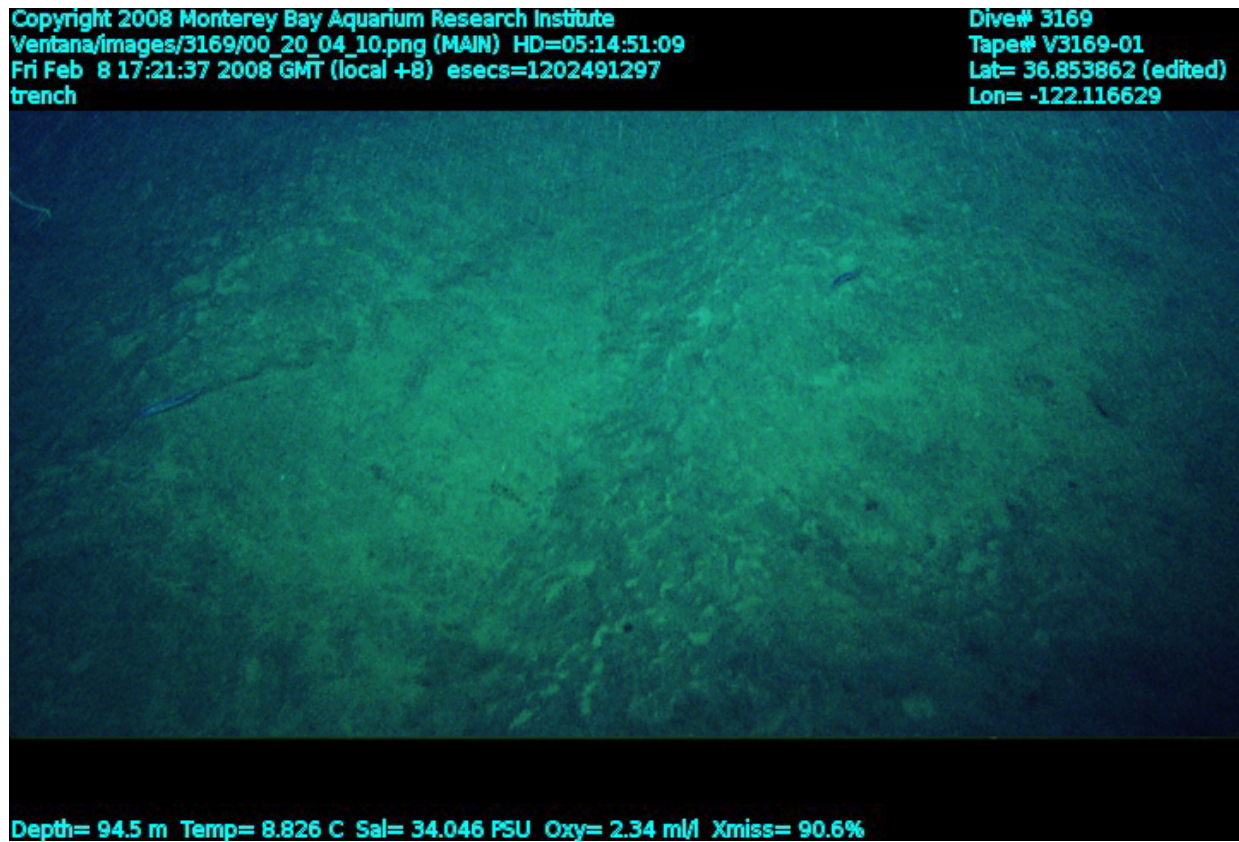


Figure 3. Trenches created during cable burial are filling and the effects of sediment disturbance appear less evident in many areas along the route.

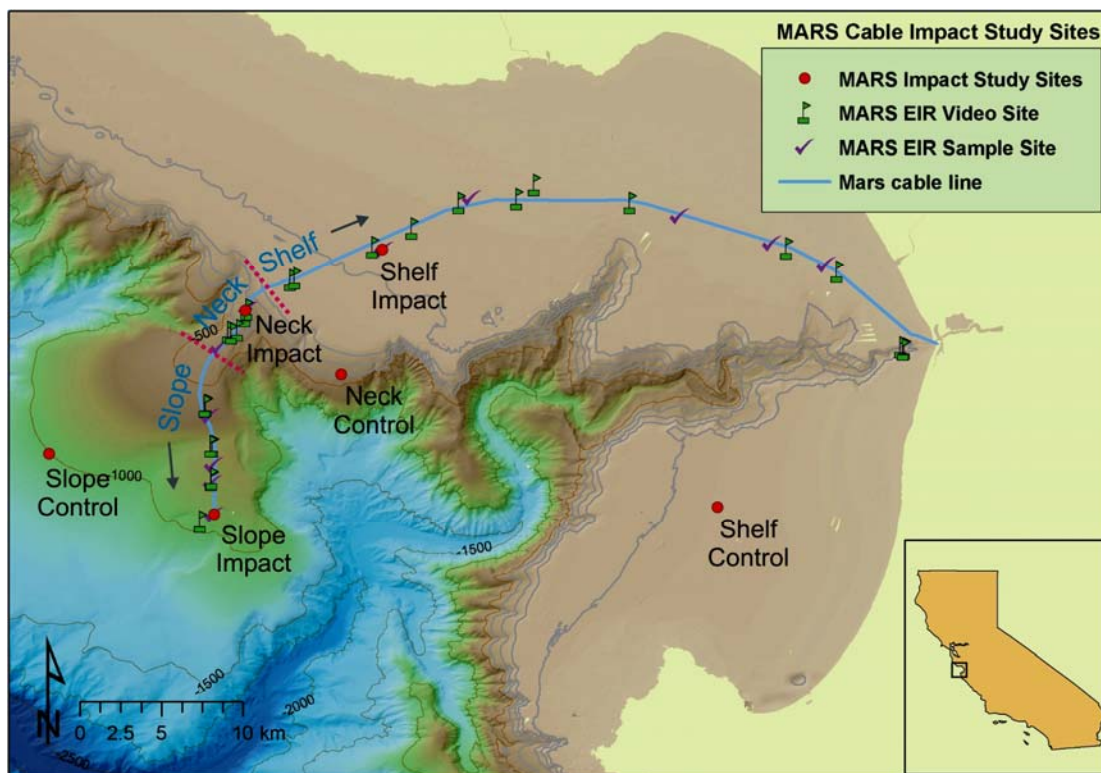


Figure 4. Map of MARS cable route showing locations of EIR Cable route samples & video, and study sites for MARS biological and geological studies.