



June 26, 2007

RE: Completed Installation of the MBARI Cabled Observatory (MARS) in Monterey Bay, CA

Dear Commercial Fisherman:

This letter is to inform of the completion of the installation of a submarine cable in Monterey Bay. Previously a packet was sent out with pre-installation information. The current packet includes:

- Details of where the cable is located, as well as burial information, so that you can avoid the cable;
- Who to contact, and what to do, if you suspect that you have snagged the cable;
- How to make a claim for lost fishing gear and catch if you have to abandon snagged fishing gear.

Project Summary and Description:

The Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) has installed a scientific submarine cable in Monterey Bay offshore the MBARI facilities at Moss Landing, Monterey County, California. It consists of approximately 32 miles of submarine cable that is buried along the majority of the route, and will have a science node (metal frame) and instruments at the end of the cable in a depth of approximately 2920 feet on the ocean floor on a formation known as Smooth Ridge. The location of the entire project is shown on the chart included in this packet.

The science node will enable scientists to make many different measurements including those associated with global warming, the detection of earthquakes off the coast, and to gain data on individual whale migrations.

Cable location:

The coordinates of the installed route for the cable are included in the packet along with an enlarged section of NOAA chart 18680, with the cable route superimposed on the chart.

The image also shows areas where the cable is

- partially buried (orange)
- unburied (red)
- fully buried (blue)

(If you would like a full-size version of this chart, please contact Mandy Allen, MBARI Operations Administrator, at (831) 775-1885 or mandy@mbari.org.) This documentation will also be filed with the Office of the Moss Landing Harbor Master, with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary office in Monterey, California, and with the California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Region Headquarters in Monterey, California. This documentation will also be made available from MBARI on request. Additionally, this information will be supplied to NOAA to update navigational charts and to the U.S. Coast Guard for inclusion in a Notice to Mariners.

Provisions for potential entanglements, loss of gear, and claims:

MBARI maintains a fully-staffed, 24-hour telephone hotline. The telephone number is 1-866-830-0169. If you believe that you have snagged or damaged the Cable, you should immediately notify MBARI, through MBARI's 24-hour hotline, of the location of your vessel by GPS coordinates at the time of the actual or suspected snag or damage. If, due to serious adverse weather conditions or other emergency conditions, you are unable to immediately contact MBARI, you should note the date, time, and location of the actual or suspected snag, and then as soon as possible provide notice to MBARI of the actual or suspected cable snag or injury as soon as the emergency conditions have passed. MBARI will immediately investigate the report and provide its findings on damage to the cable. Such documentation shall also be made available from MBARI on request.

If you are legally authorized to trawl in the cable corridor and you use the MBARI's hotline to report a suspected snag of the cable, and if, at MBARI's direction, you immediately sacrifice your trawling gear which snags the cable, MBARI will pay one hundred percent (100%) of the actual reasonable retail replacement cost of gear comparable to the sacrificed gear, or the reasonable cost to repair any damaged gear, and some level of compensation for loss of catch.

MBARI will consult with the designated representative(s) of the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (ACSF), may consult with other licensed fishermen and investigate the trawling gear snag with its underwater vehicles regarding any submitted claim. MBARI is not required to pay claims unless you notify MBARI on our hotline number within 24 hours of any actual or suspected cable snag or damage.

To support payment for damaged or sacrificed gear and lost catch you will need to provide written documentation, including invoices or bids for the replacement cost of the gear or the reasonable cost to repair the gear, and the wholesale market value of the lost catch with certification of a claim form that the claim for payment is being made by yourself. Payments for verified claims will be made as soon as possible, but no later than ten days, after MBARI has received all required written documentation. Please contact Steve Etchemendy, MBARI Director of Marine Operations, to receive a copy of the claim form. His contact information is listed below.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions or need to speak with someone regarding this project, please contact:

Steve Etchemendy, Director of Marine Operations
7700 Sandholdt Road
Moss Landing, California, 95039
Phone (831-775-1900) or (866-830-0169)
Fax (831-775-1645)