



August 11, 2006

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

Dear Commercial Fisherman:

This letter is to inform you of details of a scientific cable that will be installed in Monterey Bay later this year. In particular it includes:

- Details of the scientific cable installation plans;
- Details of where the cable will be located 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) will be installing a scientific submarine cable in Monterey Bay offshore the MBARI facilities at Moss Landing, Monterey County, California. It will consist of approximately 32 miles of submarine cable that will be buried most of its length, 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 individual whale migrations.



MARS science node (yellow) being placed in trawl resistant frame (orange).

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

Installation details:

MBARI has contracted with Alcatel to lay the submarine cable. The Alcatel cable vessel *Maersk Defender* will be used for the cable-laying operation. The *Maersk Defender* is a 315-foot (96-m), dynamically positioned ocean-going cable lay and repair vessel. A hydraulically operated plow will be towed behind the *Maersk Defender*, which will cut a narrow trench to bury the cable. In areas where the cable cannot be buried with this method, the cable will be laid on the sea bottom and will be post-lay buried by jetting, where feasible. While the cable will be buried to the maximum extent possible, some portions of the cable will remain unburied due to hard seafloor substrate and exposed rocks along the neck of Smooth Ridge.



C/S Maersk Defender

The *Maersk Defender* is currently scheduled to arrive in the Monterey area on October 21, 2006 (see table below). With the exception of any potential delays due to unforeseen circumstances (weather, mechanical difficulties, etc.), the schedule should proceed as described here.

On October 22, Alcatel will conduct a pre-lay grapnel run (PLGR) from the shore landing out to the location where the science node will be deployed on Smooth Ridge. The science node will be deployed on October 23. The cable will then be installed along the route over the following few days, followed by a post lay burial inspection.

Task Name	Duration	Start
<i>Maersk Defender</i> arrives in Monterey Bay		10/21/06
Grapnel run along cable route	1.5 days	10/22/06
Place science node on Smooth Ridge in 2900ft water	2 days	10/23/06
Lay and bury cable	3 days	10/25/06
Pull cable ashore	1 day	10/28/06
Complete work	2 days	10/29/06

Cable location:

The coordinates of the planned route for the cable are included in the packet along with a copy of NOAA chart 18680, with the planned cable route superimposed on the chart. (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.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, the cable laying vessel is considered a “vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver” because due to the nature of its work, the vessel is unable to keep out of the way of other vessels. Therefore, cable laying vessels are granted special considerations and other vessels must maintain a 1.15 mile (1nm) separation from the cable laying vessel during cable installation. So during the cable laying, please stay clear of the vessel.

In addition to the Notice to Mariners, to keep other vessels informed of the cable vessel operations during installation, information about the planned activities will be broadcast on maritime radio channel(s) beginning 24 hours prior to the commencement of activities. These announcements will include the current cable installation location and the toll-free number that can be called for additional information. Guard vessels will also be utilized to keep watch for any approaching marine traffic and will send alerts to those vessels as necessary.

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

MBARI will maintain 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 the wholesale market value, at your port of destination, of any catch lost with the gear, and will release you from all claims.

MBARI will consult with the designated representative(s) of the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries (ACSF) and may consult with other licensed fishermen 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)