

OREGON FISHERMEN'S CABLE COMMITTEE, INC.®

February 2018
Volume 6, Issue 1



UNDERSEA CABLE UPDATE

2018 Port Meetings

OFCC Version 10.0 Thumb Drives are available with two new cable routes and will be distributed at the Port Meetings. They include plotter info for Maptech, Coastal Explorer, P-Sea WindPlot, ECC-Globe, OLEX, and Nobeltec.

**TRAWLER OWNERS, CAPTAINS AND CREW
(Draggers, Shrimpers & Whiting Fleet)**
You are invited to an **OFCC Luncheon Meeting**
at any of the following locations:

Warrenton	El Compadre Restaurant	Mon. Feb. 26
Brookings	Harbor Water District PUD 98069 West Benham Lane	Wed. Feb. 28
Charleston	Fisherman's Grotto 91149 Cape Arago Hwy	Thurs. March 1
Newport	Englund Marine Supply	Fri. March 2
Seattle	NWFSC Montlake Auditorium <i>(Before NOAA Pre-Season Hake Industry Meeting)</i>	Early May—Call for info

All meetings will start at noon -- *Lunch is provided.*

Take your crew to lunch—on us. Watch underwater video of the fishing grounds and get a quick update on Oregon submarine cables while you eat. Attendees can enter a drawing for **\$300, \$200, and \$100** gift cards from **Cabela's** and **Englund Marine Supply**. Information on two new cables coming offshore from Pacific City will be discussed at each meeting, which lasts about 45 min. A **GPS EPIRB Grand Prize** from **TE SubCom** will be given to an Oregon meeting attendee. **Cable route thumb drives with the two new routes will be distributed.** Please note the new locations for our meetings in Charleston and Brookings.

Our 2017 Port Meeting Prize Winners:

Jeromy Connor, F/V Granada, \$100 Cabela's card
Rick Palmby, F/V Island Enterprise, \$200 Englund Marine card
Bob Eder, F/V Timmy Boy, \$300 Cabela's card



Randy Layman with prize
GPS EPIRB from TE
SubCom



New Cross Pacific Cable

The NCP cable was installed off Pacific City in May, 2017. It will span more than 7,000 nm and extend from Pacific City to Japan, Korea, China, and Taiwan. We aren't aware of any cable exposures in the fishing grounds out to 880 fms. The F/V **Cap Elza** served as the patrol vessel for the NCP installation. Microsoft is the U.S. landing party and a partner in the NCP cable consortium. The rest of the consortium partners are Asian corporations. Microsoft joined the OFCC in March 2016. The NCP cable is not ready for service yet as there is still work to be done on the Asian end.

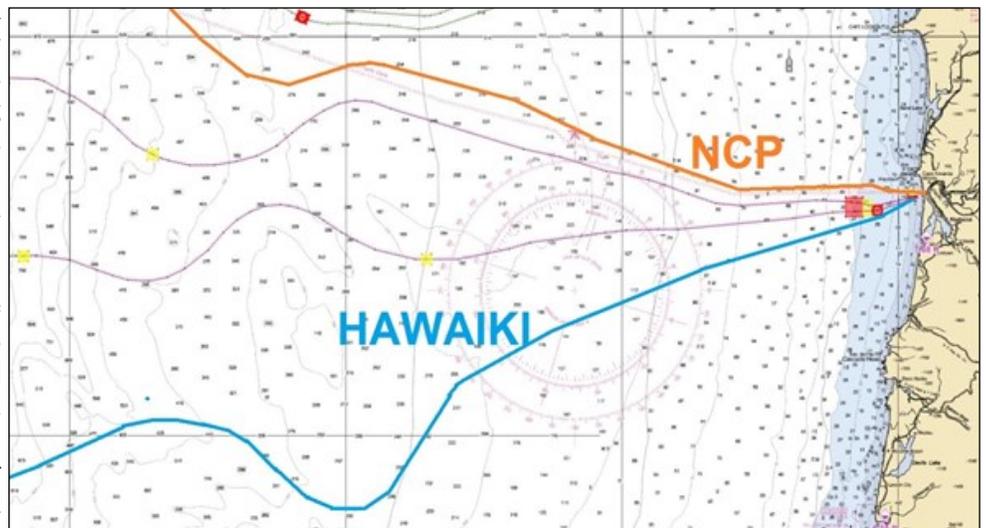
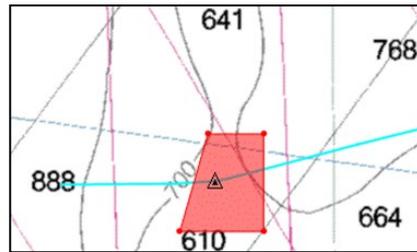
TE SubCom was the cable manufacturer and installer. During pre-installation route clearance for the NCP cable, their cable ship CS RESPONDER grappled up the old, abandoned, out-of-service (OOS) North Pacific Cable that was buried in the fishing grounds. The ship grappled up the cable, cut it, recovered a length of cable, and then laid each end back on the seabed. This leaves a gap in the OOS cable to allow the new cable to be buried without hindrance. *The fishing industry OFCC representatives on board asked for the de-trenched cable to be re-buried so that the now exposed OOS cable would not pose a risk to commercial fishermen who might snag the cable with their fishing gear.* We were told that it was not going to be done because it wasn't in the installation contract with the cable owner. Re-burying detrenched cable requires a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV submersible) using waterjets to jet the cable back into burial. Highly specialized ships like this one often cost over \$100,000 per day to operate. Additional burial of OOS cable, not in the scope of the contract, would be very expensive. The OFCC reps on the ship wrote a letter to the Director of TE SubCom explaining that the now exposed cable presented a hazard for the fishing industry perhaps the most deleterious impact of cables to the fishing industry since the OFCC's founding over 19 years ago. Within a day, TE SubCom agreed to send their ROV down, cut and recover the exposed OOS cable back to where the cable goes into burial. **This procedure removed the hazard from the fishing grounds and keeps the area safe for fishing.** TE SubCom provided a better solution than we asked

for. Rather than bury all that cable, they recovered it back to the point it was buried.

This is a sign of the respect and cooperation that TE SubCom has shown for the Oregon fishing industry. The result for us is that Oregon fishermen will not lose fishing grounds due to the installation of this cable and approximately 24 km of out of service cable was recovered and brought in to be disposed of properly on shore.

Hawaiki Submarine Cable

The Hawaiki Submarine Cable (HAW) was installed off Pacific City in October and November 2017. From Pacific City, it makes landfall in Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia. We believe that the HAW cable is buried off Oregon to a depth of 679 fathoms, where the cable is exposed on the seabed. A cable ship is on its way to the area to attempt further burial at this site. The OFCC sent out a mailing in November with this known cable exposure (KCE) at **44° 57.426'N 125° 07.388'W**, less than .2nm inshore of the EFH 700 fm boundary line. Hawaiki Submarine Cable USA LLC joined the OFCC on October 14, 2016, becoming the eighth submarine cable owner. They anticipate the cable will be ready for service as early as this summer. Patrol Vessels and Guard Boats on this project were **F/V Wrangler, F/V South Bay, and F/V Jaka-B.**



Patrol Boats

When cables are laid off the Oregon coast, the OFCC asks that the patrol or guard boats involved in the installation be selected from the OFCC member vessels. This insures that information about the cable is spread to our trawl fleet by the vessels that fish off the west coast. Patrol vessels run in front of the installation vessel, keeping a watch for any fixed gear and letting fishing vessels and other mariners know about the installation and safe passage. Guard vessels are hired to stand watch at an area where the cable was unburied until a cable ship can get back to the site to complete burial. Vessels usually serve up to 10 days of active duty. Names are drawn in a random drawing of OFCC member boats giving preference to boats that have not served before or that have new owners since last serving. In 2017 four vessels served on OFCC cable projects, collectively earning nearly \$154,000. **Call the OFCC at 503 325-**

2285 or email us at: staff@ofcc.com to make sure your vessel is signed up for future cable project drawings.



OFCC Reaches 20 Years

The Oregon Fishermen's Undersea Cable Committee was formed on July 9, 1998. The name was later changed, dropping "Undersea." Three trawlers, one from Newport, one from Garibaldi and one from the Columbia River that all fished off the North Oregon coast met with representatives of a company planning to install an undersea cable through the fishing grounds below Cape Falcon. Previous cables installed near Pacific City and in southern Oregon prohibited fishing over the cable and within 1 mile of it. After meeting with the cable people between trips over a few months, an agreement was reached between the fishermen and the company building the cable. The fishermen asked for, and got, several key elements, including: cable burial in the fishing grounds, a 24/7 hotline, a sacrificed gear fund, the right to fish over the cable as long as it is buried, a release of liability and periodic ROV inspections to confirm that the cable is still buried in the trawl grounds. The cable owner asked that the fishermen respect the procedures for fishing around cables, including not towing over an unburied cable, not using scallop dredges or other penetrating gear and taking measures to prevent damage to the cable if hung near it.

The OFCC is a self-regulated body not run by the government. It is a unique model not found in other states and countries. The fishermen and cable representatives work altruistically—looking out for the good of all, not just their own interests.

RSN Annual Maintenance and 5-Year Burial Verification Inspection

The RSN Cabled Array off Oregon is the only cabled part of the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI), a large global science project funded by the National Science Foundation. This science cable connects seven ocean research sites with shore, streaming data from still and video cameras, hydrophones, seismometers, current and temperature sensors and other devices. Each summer a research ship visits the sites to exchange instruments. This year, the annual Cabled Array maintenance expedition was conducted from July 25 to August 29 on the R/V Roger Revelle, using ROV Jason. Over 100 instruments were swapped out. OOI has multiple sites in various parts of the world. For more information see these websites: <http://oceanobservatories.org/> <http://www.interactiveoceans.washington.edu/>

OOI's special use lease and their agreement with the OFCC requires a marine Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) inspection not more than five years after cable installation to assess if the cable is still buried and if the burial depth has changed. Sixteen sites were selected for RSN's inspection, in coordination with the OFCC, with at least one on each of the seven cable segments. The inspection was conducted late September through early October. The inspection program indicated no significant change in burial depth from the initial installation.

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The Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee Inc. is an organization of trawl fishermen and representatives from companies that operate fiber optic cables off the Oregon coast. Membership is free of charge and open to all west coast trawl fishermen that have either a west coast federal groundfish permit or an Oregon, Washington or California Pink Shrimp permit. Members that follow operating protocols receive replacement gear and compensation for lost time and catch if asked to sacrifice fishing gear to protect an undersea cable. In addition, such members may receive a release of liability for accidental damage to an undersea cable. Members also are eligible to participate in drawings for patrol vessel charter opportunities during undersea cable installations. To join, contact the OFCC office.

The OFCC tries to monitor an email address and phone number for use in a submarine cable emergency:

OFCC: **911@ofcc.com**
Scott McMullen **(503) 440-3569**

Emergency Contacts for Possible Cable Hang-ups			
CABLE	EMERGENCY EMAIL	CABLE OWNER	EMERGENCY #
<i>When you can't call the Emergency #</i>			
AUFS-W	nocc2@gci.com	GCI	(888) 442-8662
TGN SEGMENTS 1, 5, 6	nmcwall@tatacommunications.com	TATA	(732) 282-4001
RSN SEG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	ooi-ofcc@uw.edu	OCEAN LEADERSHIP	(855) 665-1424
NORTHSTAR AKORN	acscsnocc@acsalaska.com	ACS	(888) 734-1888
TRANS-PACIFIC EXPRESS (TPE)	acscsnocc@acsalaska.com	VERIZON	(888) 734-1888
SOUTHERN CROSS	acscsnocc@acsalaska.com	VERIZON	(888) 734-1888
NEW CROSS PACIFIC (NCP)	NCPSubsea@Centurylink.com	MICROSOFT	(844) 278-6966
HAWAIIKI (HAW)	ofcc@hawaikicable.co.nz	HAWAIIKI	(877) 242-9245
China-US TPC-5		AT&T	(866) 466-2288, prompt 5
FASTER	FASTER-NOC@kddia.com	GOOGLE	(877) 520-0800