

OCFF: Company facilitates cooperation between fishermen and cable companies

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Scott McMullen was an active fisherman and he and others received a certified letter from the cable company that threatened lawsuits if they didn't stay away from a two-mile-wide strip above the cable. It encompassed 80 square miles of prime fishing area.

"We felt this was a situation that could get out of hand if we had any more cables," said McMullen, founder and chairman of OFCC.

The very next cable application drove fishermen to band together in hopes of saving their industry.

"Fortunately, we had a very creatively thinking project manager for the cable company," McMullen said. "We developed a pact, or agreement."

The basic principle allows fishermen to fish over buried cables and requires them to stay away from areas with unburied cable.

That company, MCI Worldcom, built a landing station that allowed other companies to hook into their system and

the OFCC was born.

Prior to the OFCC's formation, and continuing in most parts of the world, cable companies ask fishermen to stop trawling over their cables. Many fishermen ignore the requests and some cause damage.

In response, cable owners sometimes file lawsuits to recover damages, and to make an example of the "offenders."

"In 20 years, we haven't had a single cable break," McMullen said. "No fisherman has hit a cable. In most of the world, that's just unheard of."

Today there are 17 cables off Oregon, some connect to Alaska, others to California, Hawaii, and Australia.

A cable for science study goes to the Axial Seamount volcano 300 miles off Seaside.

"When we meet, we listen to each other and, in 20 years, we have never had a split vote on an issue because of the respect we have for one another," McMullen said of the OFCC board. "If one person disagrees with a



McMullen



Above: FV South Bay, based out of Warrenton Marina, serves as patrol boat for the cable ship Global Sentinel during cable installation off Pacific City last fall.



Left: The forward bridge of a cable company's vessel.

Courtesy OFCC

proposal, we modify it until all can support it or we drop it."

Tech companies such as Google and Microsoft, as well as telecom giants like Verizon and Tata Telecommunica-

tions have joined the alliance to protect fishing grounds and subsea cable infrastructure, which is the backbone of the internet.

The OFCC's stated goals:

- To continue communica-

Pets: OSU study found interesting food choices

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high-fat, high-carbohydrate, high-protein and balanced foods. Each day, dogs had an hour to eat all they wanted up to a predetermined caloric intake – that is, they could get all the calories they needed for metabolic requirements and to maintain weight, but no more.

The cats in the study were likewise not allowed to overeat, though even when given unlimited access, cats tend to eat in a weight-maintenance way by adjusting their intake



based on the food's energy density. In the study, cats had 24-hour food access.

Food container placement for both dogs and cats was changed daily to guard against "bowl position bias."

tion, coordination and cooperation between members of the Oregon commercial fishing and fiber-optic cable industries,

- To minimize interference with commercial fishing activities,

- To have a 24-hour hotline for fishermen to call if they find their gear is stuck near a submarine cable,

- To release fishermen from liability for accidental damage to a cable provided they follow a set of simple protocols established by the fishermen's cable committee

Because the OFCC works so well and closely with trawlers, cable companies, and state government agencies, it has made Oregon a desirable place to land undersea cables and has an excellent record of keeping cable safe from damage by fishing gear, McMullen said.

Companies looking to lay a cable off Oregon receive assistance from OFCC fishermen in finding routes that will provide good burial.

The cooperation between industries helps speed the state permit process as well. Oregon has one of the shortest permit processes in the nation.

The researchers found the cats on average chose to get 43 percent of their calories from carbs and 30 percent from protein.

Dogs went for 41 percent fat and 36 percent carbs.

Not a single dog or cat chose to get the highest percentage of its calories from protein.

"Because the choice of macronutrients was influenced in both dogs and cats by age and either lean body mass or fat body mass, that suggests a physiological basis for what they chose to eat," Hall said.

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