

Fisher/cable cooperative gets industry honor

*The Columbia Press
and news sources*

The Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee, an Astoria-based company, got some unprecedented national exposure this week.

OFCC Chairman Scott McMullen presented a paper, along with co-author Rob Munier, on sharing the seabed with fishermen at the SubOptic 2019 conference in New Orleans. SubOptic is the longest running, most comprehensive submarine cable industry conference in the world.

The Astoria company's founding two decades ago helped place Oregon in the forefront of fiber cable place-

ment across the ocean floor.

Today there are 18 cables off Oregon, which has helped the country to connect via internet with the world.

The four-day conference, which ended Thursday, April 11, had attendees from 75 nations. Being selected to submit and present a paper is a noteworthy achievement.

The OFCC—A Successful Model for Sharing the Seabed, discussed the experiment of self-regulation and cooperation between trawl fishermen and cable system owners that became the OFCC. The cooperation between the two industries is the exception to the norm in other parts of the

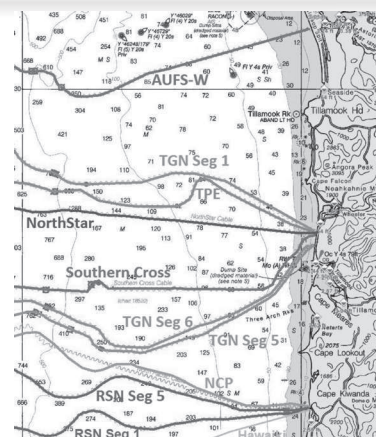
country and internationally.

The paper's analysis notes that OFCC results have been remarkable and commendable.

The cables have exceptionally good burial, with over 99.9 percent burial of nearly 750 miles of undersea cable in the trawl fishing grounds off the Oregon Coast, a key to minimizing risk to both cables and fishermen.

"The Oregon trawl fleet has been able to fish their grounds with few constraints and little uncertainty," said McMullen, who, in addition to being OFCC chairman, fished Oregon waters for more than 25 years.

The high quality of the ca-



A topographical map shows the location of undersea cables off the coast.

ble installations was achieved with the assistance, expertise and experience of local fishermen working with cable route planners in the design phase. The few cable exposures are well marked on navigation data provided to commercial fishermen, who also receive training in fishing safely around cables.

"In the OFCC's 20 years, there have been no ... cable breaks caused by fishermen, a phenomenal achievement by global standards," said Munier, a vice president at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and an OFCC director.

Because of the cooperation, Oregon is an attractive place to land cable systems and remains home to an important trawl fishery.

Oregon's economy has benefited. Today, half of the cable landings on the West Coast are in Oregon. Oregon also has the largest trawl fleet on the West Coast.

From the first relatively small capacity cable from Oregon to Alaska in 1998 to the ultra-high capacity cables used by Microsoft and Google today, the OFCC has evolved with the cable industry while maintaining its roots and support in the fishing industry.

Fire quickly extinguished in illegal camp off 101

The Columbia Press

A homeless camp in the woods behind the Goodwill store caught fire Saturday evening, police and fire officials reported.

Officer Christopher Beem was among the first responders on the scene. After checking to see if anyone was injured or staying in the camp, he helped slow the fire's spread with a fire extinguisher, Police Chief Matt Workman said.

Firefighters quickly got the blaze under control.

"Even though there were no structures directly adjacent to the fire, the heavily wooded area does extend to both homes and businesses, which created great concern," Workman wrote on the department's Facebook page.

It wasn't known whether the fire was intentional or accidental.

The area was cleared of homeless camps a few months ago, but some of the camps have been re-occupied.

"This fire is one of the reasons the WPD, WFD, and the



Courtesy Warrenton Police Department

Officer Christopher Beem uses a large fire extinguisher on flames that broke out in a transient camp behind Goodwill.

city have great concerns with people setting up camps in heavily wooded areas of the city," Workman wrote.

All of the property surrounding Goodwill, Costco, Walmart, Astoria Ford, the sheriff's office, animal control, Warrenton Kia, Fred Meyer, and the Shilo Inn is privately owned and none of the owners allow camping or trespassing.

Police will do another sweep of the area soon to move out the campers and camps, according to Workman.

Anyone spotting smoke

coming from wooded areas should call Astoria Dispatch's nonemergency number at 503-325-4411. Call 911 for flames.

INTERNATIONAL POLICE MUSEUM

Bringing Police History to Life



212 N. Hwy. 101 Rockaway Beach
internationalpoliceuseum.org

FREE ADMISSION

Oct.-Apr., M-F, 10-4; May-Sep., Daily, 10-4

Program hands out 1,000th book

Volunteers from SMART, Start Making A Reader Today, distributed the 1,000th book to a student in the program at Warrenton Grade School on Thursday.

The program pairs adult volunteers with children for weekly one-on-one reading sessions. Volunteers model the joy of reading, while supporting the child's efforts to read independently.

The intention of SMART is to improve literacy through early reading support, access to books and community participation.

Astoria Warrenton Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival

Presenting Sponsor

Fred Meyer

*Celebrate the delicious
bounty of the Oregon Coast*

April 26, 27 & 28

at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds!

Friday: 4 - 9pm • \$15/Adult

Saturday: 10am - 8pm • \$15/Adult

Sunday: 11am - 4pm • \$10/Adult



AstoriaCrabFest.com

Live music on two stages!

Entertainment Sponsor



Visit website for more pricing info,
shuttle routes, list of vendors,
volunteer sign-up and more.