**NEPTUNE Canada**
Transforming Ocean Science

June 28, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to inform you that NEPTUNE Canada, the world's first regional cabled ocean observatory network, will be embarking on two maintenance/installation cruises this summer to maintain equipment at all five locations and install some new instruments mainly at Endeavour. The area concerned is off the West Coast of Vancouver Island in the rectangular area bounded by 48 deg 40' N, 129 deg 10' W; 47 deg 40'N, 125 deg 16'W. The work will be performed during July 4-27, 2011, and September 9-September 30, 2011 using the R/V Thompson and ROV ROPOS.

We would like to reiterate that although we have made substantial efforts to bury the majority of the backbone cable and two 10km heavy extension cables from the node at Barkley Canyon, there remains some cable exposure at Barkley Upper Slope (Figure 1). In addition, the instruments are primarily located on the surface of the seafloor and are at high risk from trawling. On February 18, 2011, at 1:32am PST, instruments at one of our sites at Barkley Upper Slope were badly damaged by what appears to be from fishing activity, based on instrument data. The cost to repair this site could exceed $1.5M. We ask that you kindly avoid fishing in these areas and refer to the CD previously distributed with coordinates, navigation files, and charts. If you have not received a CD in the past, please contact us at neptune@uvic.ca and we will gladly provide you with one. Alternatively, navigation files may be obtained through our website listed below.

NEPTUNE Canada provides real-time data to people all over the world who influence public policy decisions, science, and public outreach. Benefits such as an advanced tsunami warning system, better understanding and recording of earthquakes, understanding ocean changes including spring phytoplankton blooms, oxygen levels, and trends in hypoxia highlight just a few of the potentials of this array. Real time data and more information, including notices to mariners, can be obtained on our website at www.neptunecanada.ca. We appreciate your support and cooperation in making this platform a success through its 25 year design life.

Regards,

S. Martin Taylor, PhD
Acting Director, NEPTUNE Canada
President and CEO, Ocean Networks Canada

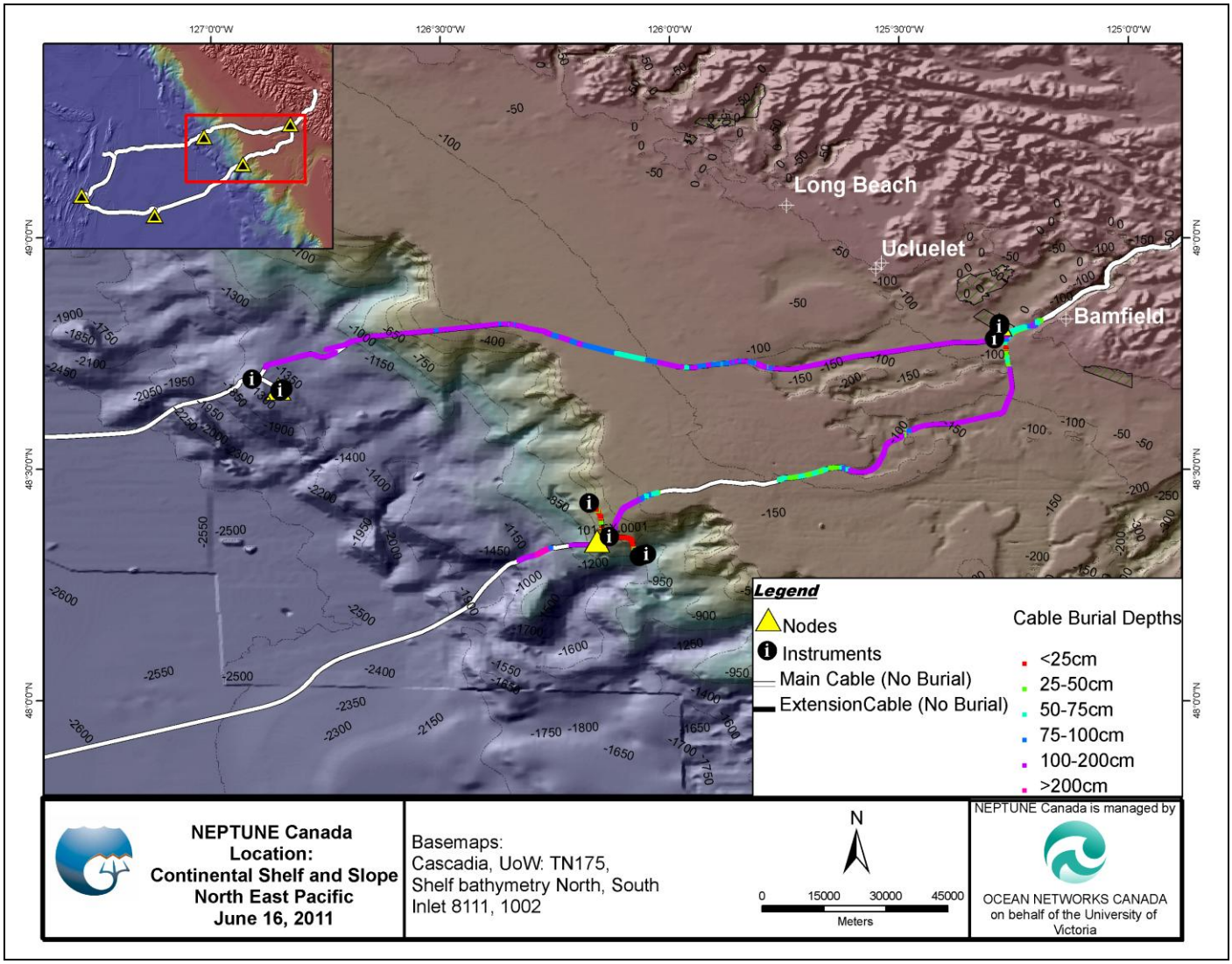


Figure 1. NEPTUNE Canada cables and instruments along continental shelf, slope, and rise. Colours show depth of burial of cable in centimeters as per the legend.