

The OSP logo features the letters 'OSP' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The 'O' is a solid circle, while the 'S' and 'P' have a stylized, rounded appearance. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the upper right of the 'P'.

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EDUCATING THE
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A photograph of a male technician wearing a white hard hat with a 'Grea BT' logo, safety glasses, and a high-visibility yellow safety vest over a dark blue shirt. He is kneeling in a concrete trench, handling a large coil of black fiber optic cables. The background shows a white van, a metal fence, and a sign that reads 'PROPERTY OF BT if found please call FREEPHONE 0800 731 6171'.

British Telecom Goes G.Fast

**BT Trials Demonstrate
"Real World" Potential
of G.Fast**

ALSO INSIDE

2015 Predictions

Verizon Bends Over Backwards and Sideways
in Fiber Delivery

Virtualization Gets Real

Fiber Optic Technology Comes to the Aleut Island

2015 OSP Buyer's Guide

Fiber Optic Technology Comes to the Aleut Island

Where History, Ecotourism, and Technology Meet

By Ted Clemens

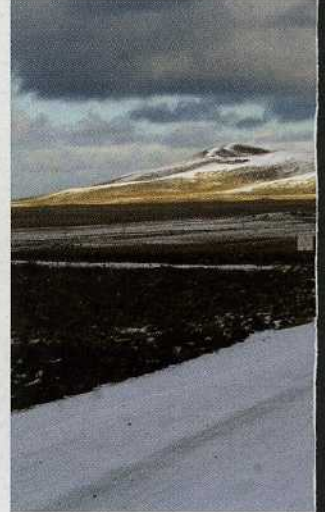
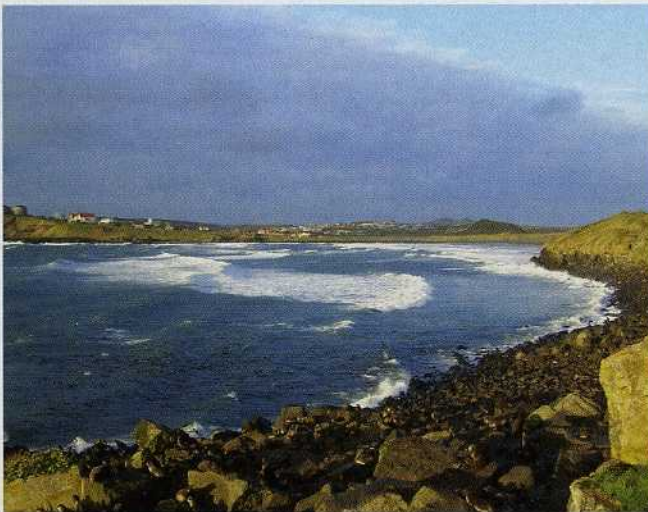
240 miles north of the Aleutian Islands, 300 miles west of the Alaska mainland, and a million miles from the ordinary lies Saint Paul Island. The largest of the Pribilof Islands, St. Paul is a tiny volcanic island located in the Bering Sea -- in the middle of the Northern Pacific Ocean -- home to two-thirds of the world's northern fur seal population, and the largest Aleut Native American community in the world.

You won't find white sand beaches on St. Paul Island, or anyone wearing a bathing suit on the beach. You won't find palm trees here either, or any trees for that matter. The yearly average temperature of +40° Fahrenheit (4.44° Celsius), and the yearly average snowfall of 56 inches (1.42 m), necessitates a warmer and more weather-resistant wardrobe. St. Paul is 40 square miles (64.3 k) of volcanic, sometimes hostile, sub-arctic ocean environment.

When describing St. Paul Island, the term *sub-arctic* is a relative term. Actually, St. Paul Island is a very hot place. Not "hot" in terms associated with volcanic activity. The last volcanic eruption here was in 1280 BCE. No, St. Paul Island is hot for different reasons.

St. Paul Island: An Economic Hotbed

St. Paul Island is home to the Central Bering Sea fishing fleet -- the fishermen who troll the ferocious and dangerous Bering Sea for Alaska



King and Snow Crabs. Immortalized by the popular reality television series, *Deadliest Catch* (see Sidebar on p. 43) chronicles the inherent high risk of injury or death associated with the work aboard fishing vessels during the Alaskan crab fishing season.

St. Paul Island is also the major hub of seafood processing for the Bering Sea's "deadliest catch". Trident Seafood's ultra-modern processing center -- the largest crab production facility in the world -- employs many of the 480 island inhabitants.

There is a viable Halibut fleet and commercial fishery on St. Paul Island as well. Halibut fishermen release mile-long, 1,000-hook, Long-Line fishing lines to catch fish. "Halibut fishing now provides annual employment to a significant number of local residents and has become a major contributor to the Saint Paul economy," explains Heather McCarty of Seafood.com. "Each year, 80 to 100 people of the community participate in the Halibut fishery, from the skippers to the boat crews to the young onshore hook baiters," she added.



A Hotbed of History and Ecotourism

Russian fur traders were the first non-natives to discover St. Paul Island in 1788. In the 18th Century, Russians forced the Aleuts from the nearby Aleutian Islands chain to hunt their seals. A few decades later, permanent communities were established in both St. Paul and nearby St. George Island, where the Aleut community lives to this day.

During Russian rule, and later under American rule (with the purchase of Alaska in 1867), the Aleut people were forced to live in servitude with no rights, like many other native American people at the time. They were cruelly exploited for their service in the fur seal industry. In June of 1942, the Japanese invaded the Aleutian Islands, landing on Attu Island and bombing Amaknak Island's Dutch Harbor. As a result, the U.S. Government evacuated the Aleut people from St. Paul Island to southeast Alaska, where they were forced to live in internment camps under extreme and unbearable conditions.

Also called the "Galapagos of the North", St. Paul Island is the primary breeding ground for the northern fur seal, where about two-thirds of the world's population (1.3 to 1.4 million) migrates annually. More than a quarter of a

