

The MAREANO Programme:

MAREANO is a multidisciplinary marine mapping and documentation programme aiming at providing the foundation for ecosystem based sustainable management of the Norwegian coastal and sea areas. A major focus is bridging the knowledge gap in a poorly mapped but very sensitive area. Especially the ocean areas have received little attention and coverage from modern surveys. High quality multibeam bathymetry is regarded as a premise for further geological and biological investigations. The Norwegian Hydrographic Service (NHS) is responsible for bathymetry data acquisition, and effective data management and distribution of survey data and derived products and services. An important facet of the programme will be web-based geodata distribution, and distributed data management as part of a National Spatial Geodata Infrastructure.

The NHS is a programme partner with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR, programme management) and the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU). The phase 1 of the MAREANO programme, runs from 2006-2010, and covers 142 000 km² from Lofoten to South Barents Sea with a typical depth around 250-300m. The plans include a total budget exceeding 250 mill. NOK in which an excess of 100 mill NOK is estimated to cover the NHS' responsibility for bathymetry surveying and data management.

In 2007 the Mareano programme received NOK 32.6 mill in total through earmarked funding to Mareano through the National budget with a focus in the South Barents Sea. The NHS part was to survey 13600 km² in the area of Nordland VI and Troms II, outside of Andøya. By the end of the year 5000 km² was finished, but the operation continues in 2008. Difficult weather-conditions is a major challenge. The results, however, show detailed and high quality EM710 data, providing the ample resolution for the follow up studies by the biologists and geologists.

All the multibeam data in the NHS north of Lofoton has been modelled in grids of various resolutions, and visualized through shaded relief maps. A Web Map Service has been developed, and is included in the map services on the Mareano webpage.

Further information and results will be available on www.mareno.no. This website will be a portal for knowledge dissemination mainly through effective map services and documentation aimed at both government decision-makers and the general public. This will be a joint effort among the programme partners, but the project management is led by the Institute of Marine Research. A new web portal was published early 2007.

MAREANO will be a major undertaking for the NHS in the years to come, and is mainly aimed at non-navigational purposes.

