

Coastal and open sea surveying activity

Introduction

In general the coastal surveying is done by the internal resources of the Norwegian Hydrographic Service (NHS). The resources have up to recently been composed of a survey vessel and two belonging launches. A third launch was available from May 2014. The complex coast with partly exposed and shallow areas implies that a greater part of the surveying is done by the launches. The launches are equipped with a dual head multibeam system. The survey vessel is equipped with a multibeam with a maximum depth range of appr. 1500 meter.

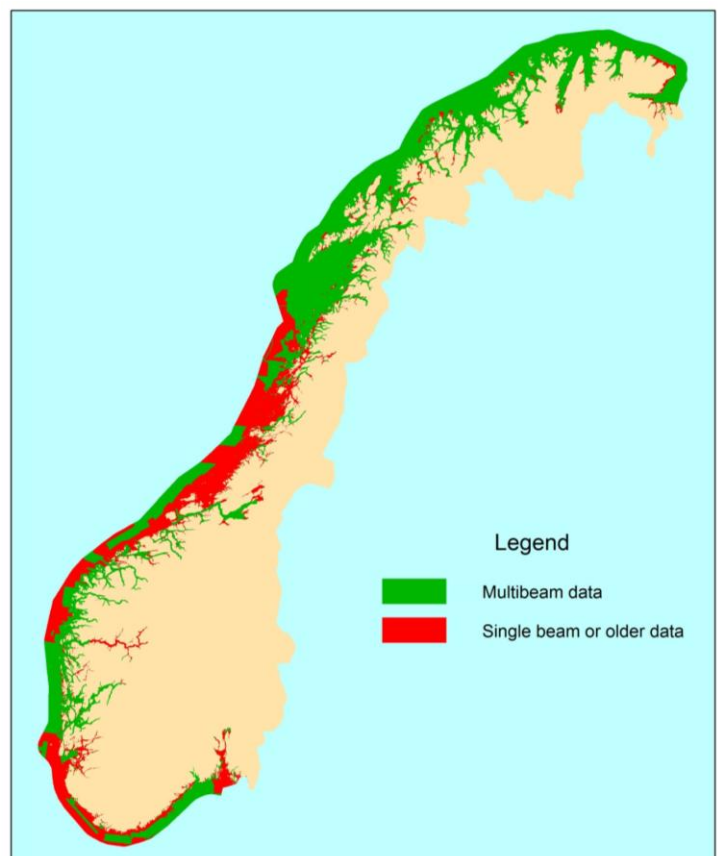
The open sea surveying is mainly done by contracted companies. Nearly all surveying is related to the Mareano programme. For the last few years the surveying has been done by Marin Mätteknik or Fugro OSAE.

Coastal surveying

Roughly 50% of the coastal waters have been surveyed by means of multibeam equipment, see figure to the right. The long term plan is to cover the whole coast by modern survey techniques. The major part will be covered by multibeam but we are investigating airborne techniques for surveying of the littoral zone. A Coastal Mareano programme is in preparation and, if implemented, this will speed up the near shore surveying and also include seamless sea-land coverage.

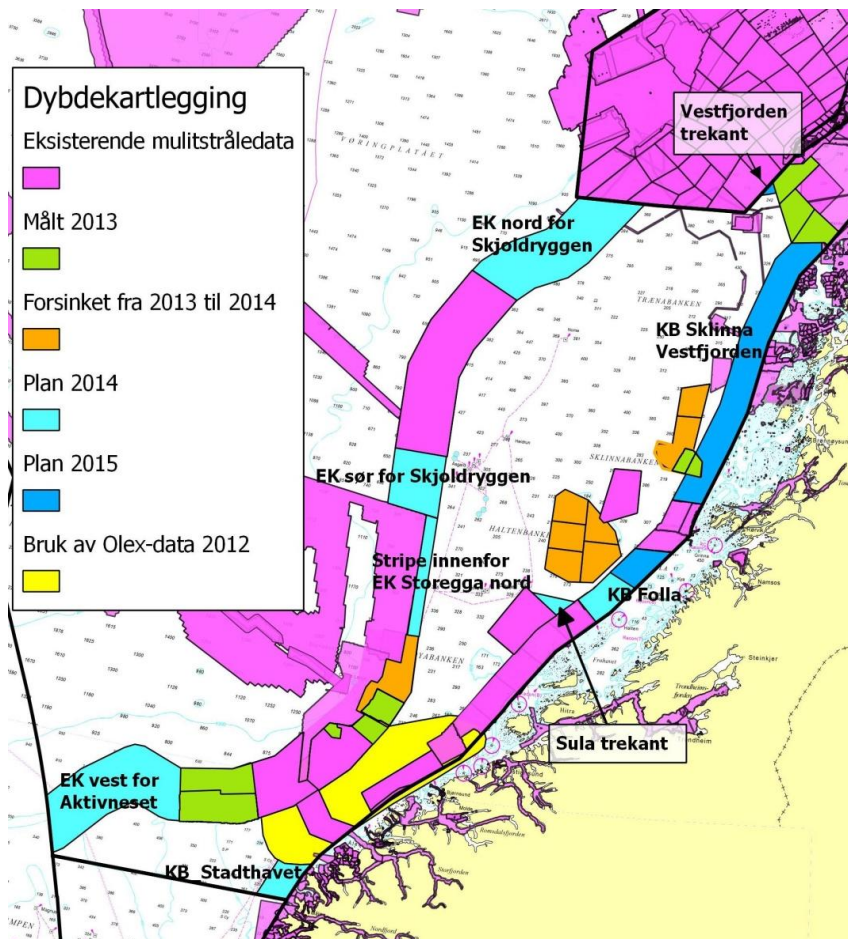
The NHS has signed an agreement with the Norwegian Coastal Administration to survey harbors and channels immediately after changes have taken place.

NHS is in the process of preparing procedures for certifying smaller private companies that undertake surveying for other agencies and private customers.

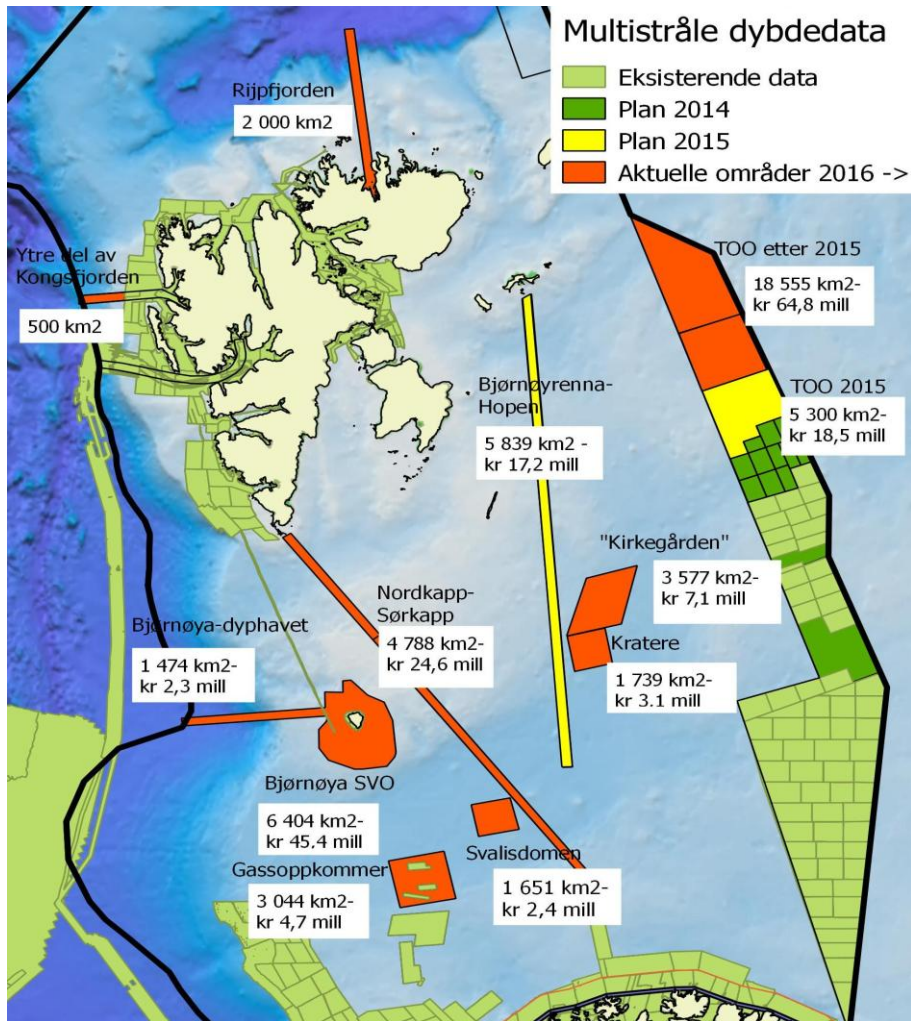


Open sea surveying

The Mareano programme started in 2005 with a rather small budget. In later years increased budget has resulted in much higher activity both in bathymetric surveying and in geological and habitat mapping. The geological and biological samplings always take place after the results from the bathymetric surveying is available. The areas surveyed in later years vary between 20000-40000km²/year, depending of the depth of the area and the annual budget. We have reason to believe that the Mareano programme will continue for some more years.



The Mareano surveying (completed and planned) outside central Norway



The Mareano surveying (completed and planned) in the Barents Sea