

PRIMAR, Report 2008

The PRIMAR international co-ordinating centre for electronic navigational charts (ENCs), has been operated by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service (NHS) since 1 April 2002. Since last NSHC meeting Canada and Ukraine is added with agreements for distribution of ENCs. Including the agreement with IC-ENC, the PRIMAR ENC service now distributes ENCs from more than 35 nations. Of these the following countries are members of the Regional ENC Coordination Centre regime (RENC): Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia, Mozambique, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

The NHS and its cooperating HOs are continuously working to include new nations to the PRIMAR quality service.

PRIMAR today provides the world's widest official ENC coverage with 5 200 ENCs from PRIMAR cooperating nations (RENC members and non-members) and 2 200 ENCs from IC-ENC, a total of 7400 ENCs.

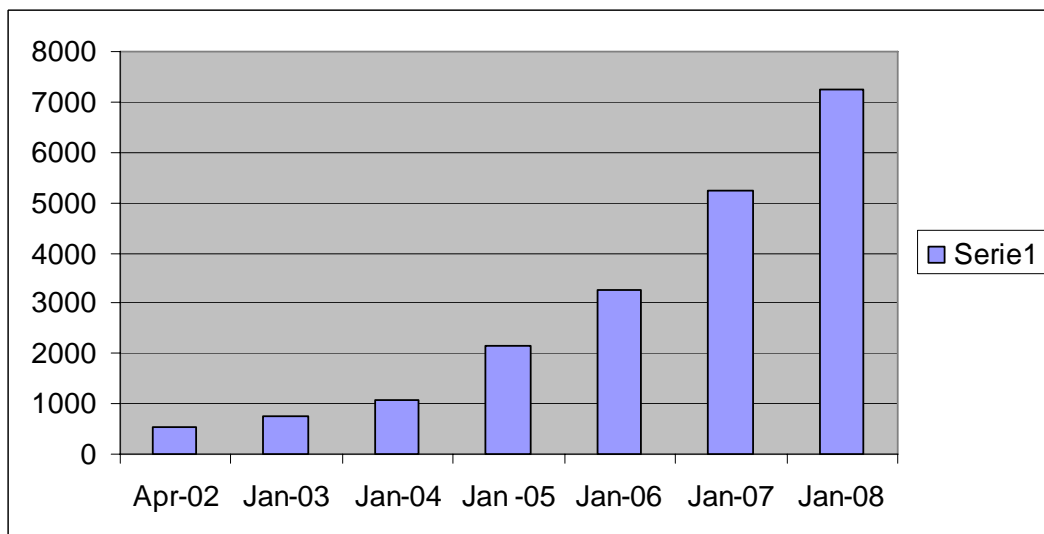


Figure 1 Development of PRIMAR database

PRIMAR is alone in offering a virtual solution (Virtual Primar Network) which gives all member countries full access to and control over their own data within a secure network. Automatic integrated operations check data quality, particularly in overlap zones. This provides additional security, allowing charts from different nations to work together

without problems. Maintaining good control of data is also important in ensuring that none of the available navigation systems have problems reading the formats.

Customer folio planning and ordering is automatic via the Primar Chart Catalogue enabling distributors to perform orders 24/7. Version 3.9 of the catalogue with many new functions will be launched in April.

PRIMAR Coverage March 2008

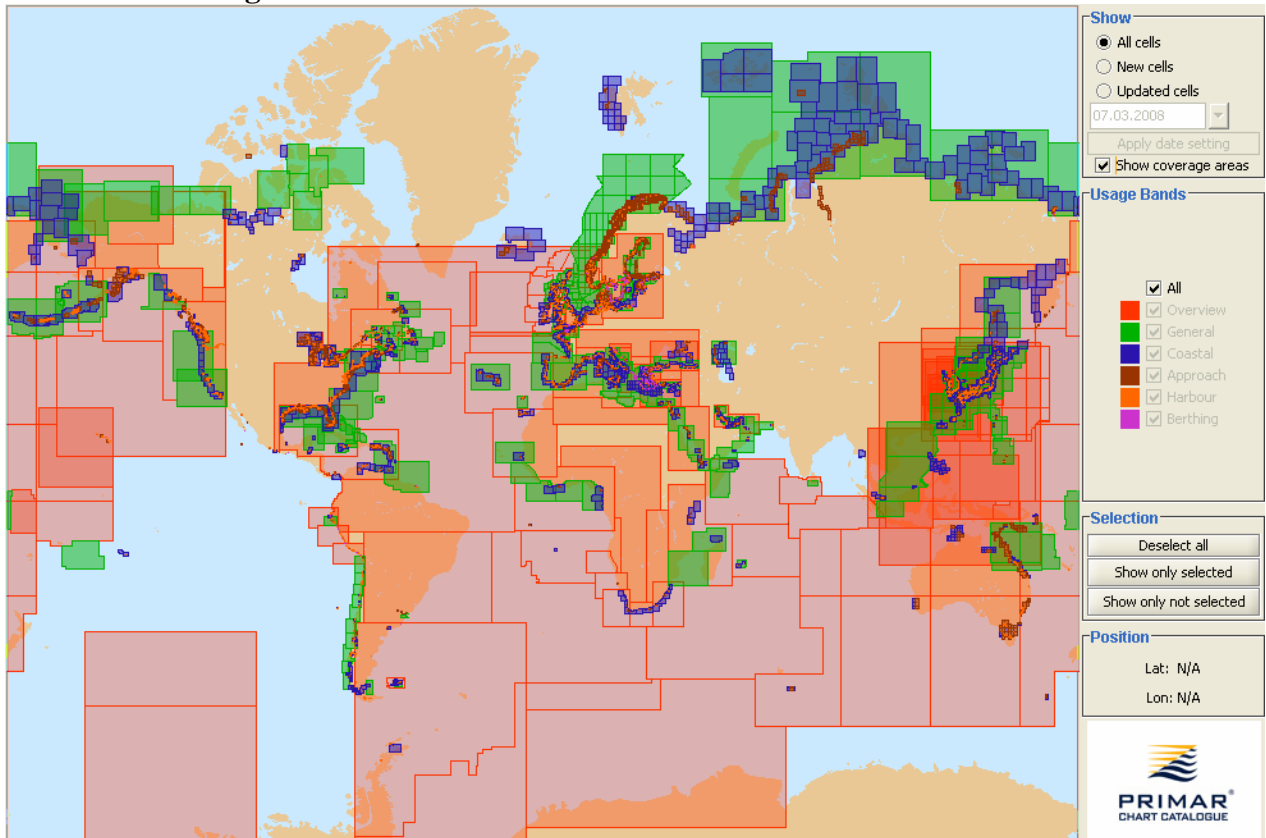


Figure 2 Coverage in PRIMAR database March 2008

Increasing demand for ENCs

The PRIMAR service has so far been a success with an increasing number of ENCs in use by vessels. There was an increase of 55 % in the number of vessel from the end of 2006 to the end of 2007.

PRIMAR has 52 distributors in 21 countries serving all the major markets. In 2008 two new Russian distributors has been added to the distributor network.

A business to business (B2B) interface was successfully launched in 2007 allowing distributors to integrate directly with their own business-systems.

The last year PRIMAR has also focused on developing standardised efficient services for use within navies and governmental organisations (pilots, VTS, maritime authorities).

This also includes a Web Map Service (WMS) project based on ENC-data currently being developed as well as a project together with the Norwegian Maritime Directorate where PRIMAR infrastructure will be used to provide port state control inspectors with information regarding use of ENCs on vessels.

For more information visit www.primar.org