

The MAREANO Program:

MAREANO is a multidisciplinary marine mapping and documentation program 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 poorly mapped but very sensitive areas. 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 Mapping Authority Hydrographic Service (NHS) is responsible for bathymetry data acquisition, data management and distribution of survey data and derived products and services. An important facet of the program is web-based geodata distribution, and distributed data management as part of a National Spatial Geodata Infrastructure. The NHS is a program partner with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR, program management) and the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU).

In 2010 the MAREANO program received NOK 50.1 mill in total through earmarked funding through the National budget with a focus in the South Barents Sea. The NHS part is to survey about 7000 km² in the area of Nordland VI, Troms III, and north of North Cape. The detailed and high quality EM710 depth data provides the ample resolution for the follow up studies by the biologists and geologists. The depth data has been used to generate digital terrain models of various resolutions, which are visualized through shaded relief maps. The maps and further information and results is available on www.mareno.no. This website is a portal for knowledge dissemination mainly through effective map services and documentation aimed at both government decision-makers and the general public.

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