

NSHC 30th Conference
Ålesund, Norway
18-21 June 2012

Explanatory Note
Item C10
Norway

The BLAST project

Bringing Land and Sea Together (BLAST) is the title of the transnational partnership between 16 organizations from 6 countries in the North Sea region. The Norwegian Hydrographic Service is Lead Partner. The overall aim of the project is to improve maritime safety and coastal zone planning and management. It sets out to harmonize and integrate terrestrial and marine geographical datasets to create a consistent database, and develop planning and visualizing tools for the new generation of marine information systems. The project started in October 2009.

BLAST is funded by the European Union as part of the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme, which aims to help organizations to co-ordinate regional projects. The project is now in the finishing phase with only 4 out of 36 months left to go.

Results

Several tangible results have been achieved, particularly on harmonization of topographic and marine data and harmonization of maritime information. The ENC checker and Marine Data Collection System (MDCS) prototype are good examples. The opening of the North Atlantic Information Management Centre in Haugesund also exposed a vital Blast contribution.

The other main topics that have been addressed are related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). A main contribution is the development of a web based computation tool for climate change indicators based on the harmonized land/sea datasets. The indicators will in turn be used by coastal zone planners as a basis for decision making.

See also the project website www.blast-project.eu.

Actions required from the NSHC 30th Conference:

The Conference is invited to take note of the information