

Survey Programme for Ireland.

Hydrographic Services

The Geological Survey Office of Ireland (GSI) in association with the Marine Institute has been engaged in gathering data, including hydrographic data, and publishing the findings as part of the Irish Government-funded INFOMAR survey programme and its predecessor project the Irish National Seabed Survey (INSS). Other hydrographic data, navigational warnings and port information is collated by the Commissioners of Irish Lights, local Lighthouse Authorities (County Councils etc), and the Naval Service, Port and harbour authorities, Waterways Ireland etc. Commercial companies and entities involved in marine works also gather regular updates to data as part of their activities e.g. offshore hydrocarbon exploration projects, harbour development works etc.

INFOMAR

The **IN**tegrated Mapping **FO**r the Sustainable Development of Ireland's **MA**rine **R**esource (INFOMAR) programme is a joint venture between the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Marine Institute. It is a successor to the Irish National Seabed Survey (INSS). Covering some 125,000 square kilometres of underwater territory, the INFOMAR project is producing integrated mapping products covering the physical, chemical and biological features of the seabed. The Irish Government, through [the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources](#) is funding the programme.

The INFOMAR programme is planned to run until 2025 when the complete coastal area is scheduled to be completed. As part of the programme, reviews are carried out on a regular basis and the latest review was completed during 2013 and resulted in a pledged Government commitment of €15m for the next 5 years.

The decision to continue the project was taken following a second full independent review of its operations by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The initial review, undertaken in 2008, concluded that the benefits to the state of completing the project are between 4 and 6 times the cost. The second review showed the project to be on track and recommended accelerated development of business and educational applications.

The INFOMAR programme commenced in mid-2006 and information on the progress of surveys, number of bay surveys completed and data collected etc is available on the website - www.INFOMAR.ie/surveying