

Marine Base Maps in Coastal Norway: A case for developing sustainable blue growth in coastal communities

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Introduction

Today, there is no coordinated collection and publishing of marine base maps. The presentation demonstrates the stakeholder needs for marine base maps (the data products), the organisation of a pilot project and the potential socio economic benefits to be achieved as a basis for better coastal zone planning and management and sustainable blue growth in Norway.



Figure 1: Illustration of terrain modell of Søre Sunnmøre, Norway

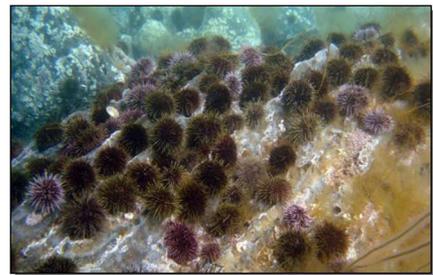


Figure 2: Marine Base Maps examples

Marine Base Map Project

With today's survey processes, the ambition for complete coverage with modern data along the Norwegian coastline will take many years to achieve, hence the Marine Basemaps pilot project. The primary goals of the project are to collect knowledge of the seabed along the coast, produce standardized products and services and improve the infrastructure for free access to all stakeholders via the national geodata portal. The project will map the physical, geological, biological and chemical properties of the seabed and subsea environment starting from the coastline and up to one nautical mile beyond the baseline.

Pilot Project

3 pilot areas in different geographical areas are selected each with unique challenges and multiple stakeholder needs. New technology and methods for collecting data such as unmanned underwater vehicles will be tested to assess its potential capacity, profitability and suitability for use on a larger scale in a nationwide programme. It is intended that the Marine Base Maps project will become a national programme after the pilot phase. The presentation will highlight the current challenges in the pilot areas and the potential benefits to be obtained from the project.

Inter-Governmental

The pilot project will build better synergy between the 3 governmental project cooperation partners to create a seamless process from start to finish, the effect of which will be effectiveness and cost savings in each organisation. The presentation will highlight the plans for building synergy.



Figure 3: Testing new technology at Runde Environmental centre, Norway (June 2017)

Socio Economic Analysis of Marine Base Maps

A simplified socio-economic analysis of the proposed pilot areas concludes that marine base maps can lead to a productivity and revenue growth along these coastal communities and can potentially give a net present value of NOK 156million. The presentation will compare this against reports from other blue growth investments projects in Norway.