

Status of Argo Norway, Feb-2008

The Institute of Marine Research (IMR) is involved in the international Argo programme with contribution of Argo floats, ship time for deployment and user of the data. At present, IMR is the only institution in the Argo Norway.

1. The status of implementation

At present we have in total deployed eleven Argo floats where seven floats are still active. Three floats were deployed in 2002, while six were deployed in 2003. Two more floats that include oxygen and fluorescence sensors were deployed in April 2006. These additional sensors have so far performed well.

Regarding the “Delayed mode” we have in the past not done anything special with that. However, the Argo German will do delayed mode quality control for all floats in the Nordic Seas including our floats.

2. Present level of and future prospects for national funding for Argo

The funding has so far been self-financed (i.e. funded by our institute). The total float purchase has cost about 160kEURO. There are not devoted any funding for scientific analysis, but a person is partly working with the Argo floats regarding collecting data. The scientific analysis is instead done in other financed projects.

IMR has running contact with the Norwegian Research Council that supports the EU-funded ESFRI-project “Euro Argo”, which IMR is a partner in, and will in collaboration with IMR work to get a long-term commitment from the Ministry of Education and Research. The Ministry has started a new programme for research infrastructure and during the autumn this year it will be decided if we will get any long-term commitment from the Ministry. In addition we will within few days make an internal proposal to our institute for purchasing 4 floats per year.

3. Summary of deployment plans

At present we have no plans for further deployment of Argo floats due to lack of financial support. However we will deploy some (4?) floats for Argo Germany in the Nordic Seas this summer.

4. Summary of national research and operational uses of Argo data

ARGO Norway focuses on both research topics and marine climate monitoring of the Nordic Seas. Approximately 3 scientists in 3 projects are directly involved in Argo Norway but several other people contribute regarding technical expertise, data management, ship time for deployments, and processing and analysing the data. There is also an increased interest in the Argo data at other Norwegian institutes.

The present scientific topics are mainly within the Nordic Seas (Norwegian, Iceland and Greenland Seas) and include:

- Studies of the deep ocean circulation in the Nordic Seas. These studies have so far brought new insights in the circulation of the Nordic Seas.
- Water mass changes and also in relation with biological activities. This topic is also one of the reasons that we have included both oxygen and fluorescence sensors on two Argo floats.