

1. Background and organization of Norway Argo activities

The Norwegian Argo programme is carried out by the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) (<http://www.imr.no/>) as part of their environmental monitoring activities. The Norwegian Argo programme focus on the Nordic Seas regarding climate monitoring and research and seek to include users with focus on the ecosystem monitoring and research. Float deployment are done with IMR's research ships and often in collaboration with the German Argo.

1.1 Deployed floats

Float deployment started in 2002 with three floats deployed in the Norwegian Sea. In 2006 IMR also started to deploy floats with additional sensors, such as fluorescence and oxygen sensors. In 2013 IMR deployed 2 floats and one float is deployed in 2013. Total 18 floats are deployed, all in the Norwegian Sea. Two European biogeochemical floats were additional deployed in 2014. The Norway Argo interest is the Nordic Seas, trying to maintain an optimally number of floats there.

1.2 Float Development

Two floats, deployed in 2006, were equipped with fluorometer and oxygen sensors for ecosystem monitoring and research. Four floats were deployed in 2010, one in 2013 and one in 2014 that all have Iridium telemetry, and fluorometer and oxygen sensors. IMR is also involved in the EU-project E-AIMS and leads the subtask regarding test of new biogeochemical floats.

1.3 Data management

In agreement with the French Argo Data Centre, Coriolis (www.coriolis.eu.org), all real time data processing and quality control are performed at the Coriolis.

1.4. Operational and scientific use of Argo data

A key aspect of the Norway Argo programme is to develop the capabilities to fully exploit all Argo data for operational use as well as research applications. The use of the data to more ecosystem applications will be explored.

2. Funding

2.1 Existing funding for Norway Argo

The Norway Argo Project has been mainly funded by the IMR. Floats purchase and personnel for data and floats management were provided by the budget of the IMR while scientific use are mainly provided by research projects financed by the Norwegian ministry of Education and Research and the EU. However, IMR has recently received funding from the Norwegian Research Council (Ministry of Education and Research) for funding of three Argo floats per year during 2013-2015.

2.2 On the future funding and organization for Norway Argo – links with Euro Argo PP

As part of the EURO-Argo preparatory phase Norway obtained funding from the national research council to join the Euro-Argo ERIC as an observer from 2014.