

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, we have an agreement with IFREMER where they will do the quality check for us. IFREMER will then, afterwards, make the high-quality data and the meta-data available on the internet.

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.

3. Summary of deployment plans

At present we have no plans for further deployment of Argo floats due to lack of financial support.

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.

5. Issues that your country wishes to be considered and resolved by the Argo Steering Team regarding the international operation of Argo.

We have fluorometer/turbidity sensor (WETLABS) on two Argo floats (Webb-floats). However this parameter is not included in the netcdf-file on the FTP-catalogue at IFREMER/Coriolis (<ftp.ifremer.fr/ifremer/argo/dac/coriolis>). We wish that all parameters are available on the ftp-catalogue.