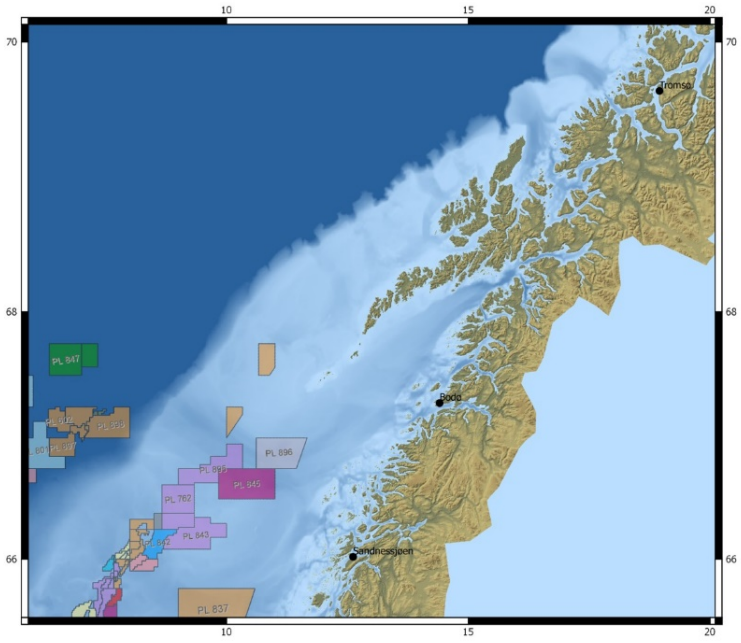
Read in Norwegian

Unmanned ocean vehicles: tools for development of ocean industries

Three unmanned ocean vehicles (gliders) will be deployed outside Bodø during week 10 (5 – 11 March). The vehicles will be operating on the Norwegian shelf, in Vestfjorden and outside the Lofoten and Vesterålen Islands until mid-September. In 2017 the vehicles were tested in the same area, being deployed in Sandnessjøen, and retrieved in Bodø. During a 5-week period, each glider covered a distance of ca 1200 km.

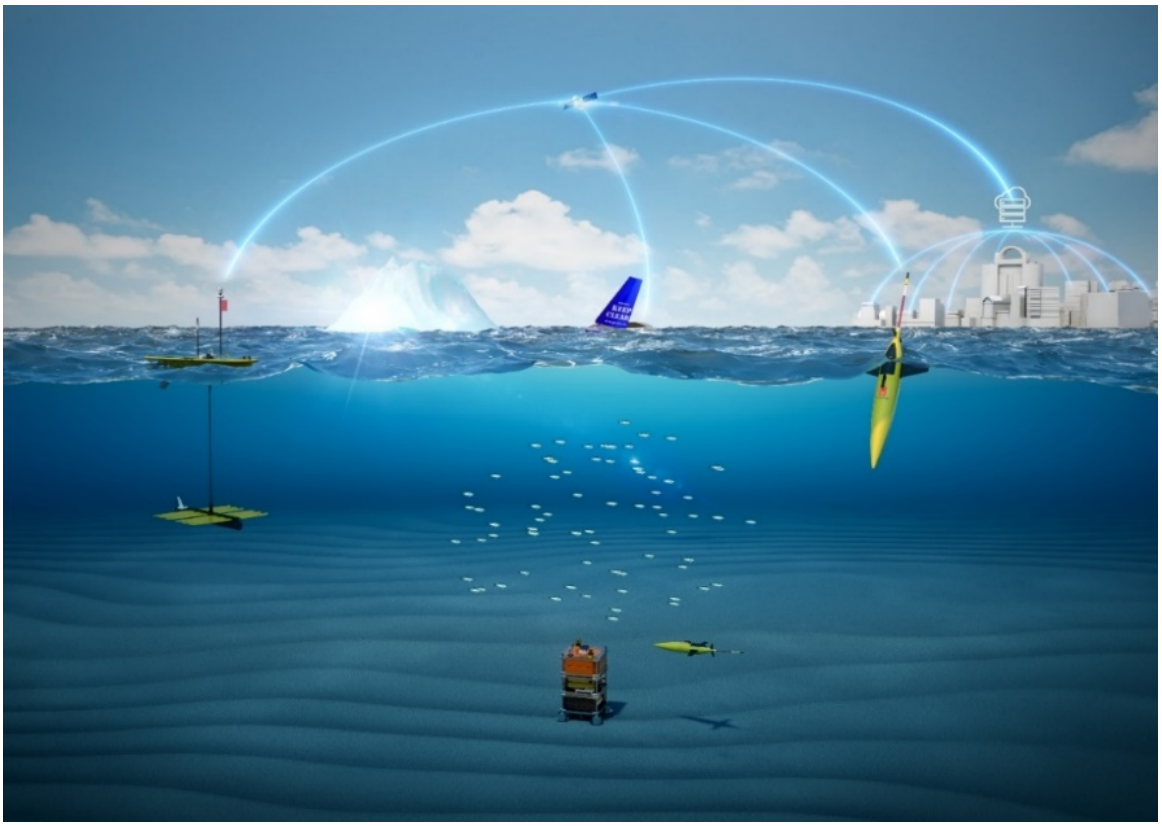


Map: Field test 2017

From left to right: Sailbuoy, Wave Glider and Seaglider™.

The vehicles are a diving Seaglider™ (Kongsberg Maritime AS), a Sailbuoy (Offshore Sensing AS) and a Wave Glider (Maritime Robotics AS). These are energy efficient platforms taking advantage of energy from waves, wind and solar power. The vehicles are equipped with a GPS, and programmed and navigated from shore. Each vehicle carries a variety of sensors for the collection of chemical, physical and biological information from the ocean, and atmospheric data. The sensors provide continuous measurements of weather, waves, currents, temperature, salinity, O_2, CO_2, marine algae, animal plankton, fish fry, fish and marine mammals. The Glider project will collect a vast amount of met-ocean and environmental data in time and space at lower cost than traditional sampling. The collected data will partly be transmitted via satellite to shore for analysis in near real-time, and in part be stored on board the vehicles and downloaded with intervals.

The project "GLIDER - Unmanned Ocean Exploration" is financed by the Research Council of Norway DEMO 2000 program and ConocoPhillips Norway. The research and consultancy company Akvaplan-niva (Tromsø, Norway) is leading the project. The research and innovation partners in the project are the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, the Norwegian Institute for Water Research, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Nord University, Kongsberg Maritime AS, SIMRAD, Maritime Robotics AS, Offshore Sensing AS, Christian Michelsen Research AS, and Aanderaa Data Instruments AS.



Unmanned ocean vehicles collect field data and transfer these via satellite to shore (3D visualization by Kongsberg Maritime).

For more information contact:

Salve Dahle, Director Akvaplan-niva AS, Phone: +47 90649490. E-mail: sda@akvaplan.niva.no