



The spin-off of marine data acquired for establishing the outer limits of the continental shelf of Norway.

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In 2006 and 2009, respectively, Norway made two partial submissions regarding the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. The first submission was made in respect of the northern areas, i.e. the continental shelf in the Arctic Ocean, the Barents Sea and the Norwegian Sea. The second submission was made in respect of the southern areas, the continental shelf in the Southern Atlantic Ocean and the Southern Ocean. For the specific purpose of preparing these submissions, Norway carried out a ten-year program for acquiring bathymetric, geophysical and geological data. In the northern areas, this program amounted to 10 500 km of multi-channel seismic, 270 000 km² of multi-beam bathymetry and 1000 km of icebreaker seismic data in addition to supporting scientific programs in the relevant areas. In the southern areas, the program amounted to about 8000 km of multi-channel seismic and more than 11 000 line km of multi-beam bathymetry data, as well as seabed rock samples. These data, which would not otherwise have been acquired at this stage, have proven very useful multiple purposes in addition to the mapping of the outer limits of the continental shelf. The overall effect has been to increase the geological knowledge of the continental margins in all of the ocean areas involved. To a large degree, this is because the data have been released for scientific studies and publication. In particular, the data have been the basis for a number of Master and PhD thesis at the universities. The data from the Southern Ocean has been submitted to the SDLS. A major part of the results in this regard has scientific value in the areas outside of the Southern Oceans, the data have been submitted to the database of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). In the areas outside of the Southern Ocean, the data has also been essential in initiating further research and in the exploration for deep sea resources. Examples of these spin-off uses of the data will be presented.