

2 DATA MONITORING

Huge amounts of data are collected during the ecosystem surveys. Most data will add to those from earlier surveys to form time series, while some data belong to special investigations conducted once or to projects of short duration. Another way of classifying data is distinguishing between *joint data*, i.e. data collected jointly by IMR and PINRO, and data collected by visiting researchers from other institutions, using the survey vessels as a platform for data collection without being part of the overall aim with this survey.

Joint data are owned by IMR and PINRO and this joint ownership is realized through a full exchange of data during and after the survey. Since the data infrastructure is different at IMR and PINRO (see below), the data are converted to institute-specific formats before they are entered into databases on the institutes. However, some aggregated time series data are entered into a joint database called “Sjømil”, which is present both at IMR and PINRO. These data are also accessible outside of these two institutions, see below.

2.1 Data use

Joint data are contained in the databases of both PINRO and IMR and are freely accessible to all inside the institutions. At IMR, the management of the data is left to NMD, (Norsk Marint Datasenter = Norwegian marine data centre) which is a part of IMR. Norway and Russia have quite different data policy in general and this affects the accessibility to the data from outside of these institutions. In Norway, access is in principle granted to everyone for use in research while in Russia access to data collected by one institution for other persons or institutions is highly restricted. This also affects the management of data at IMR, since data collected by PINRO as part of a joint project with IMR can be used by researchers at IMR but cannot be distributed to third parties. In effect, the total amount of joint data cannot be distributed from IMR, and persons or institutions interested in using these data will have to contact IMR for access to Norwegian data and PINRO for access to Russian data.

2.2 Databases

IMR is now developing a new data-infrastructure through the project S2D. Old databases are replaced by a new family of databases administered by NMD. Although the data are split on several databases, for instance one for acoustic data, one for biological data, another for physical and yet another for chemical data, they are linked through a common reference database and all data can be seen through a common user interface. At PINRO they are also planning to move their data into a new set of databases but at present all data are placed in one database for all kinds of data. In addition to these institutional data repositories a joint database for some selected time series of aggregated data has been developed, called “Sjømil”. At present this database is present at IMR and PINRO, and the IMR database is accessible to the outside world through a web interface <http://www.imr.no/sjomil/index.html> . This database is general and has data from many other monitoring programs and from other areas than the Barents Sea.