

Marine forecasting in rapid development

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Since the early days of Wilhelm and Jack (son) Bjerknes' work in the Bergen school of meteorology, weather forecasting has been a priority in Bergen, Norway. Our neighboring sea areas, the North Sea and the Norwegian Sea, have always been exploited and have for centuries been the most common travel route along the long Norwegian coast. Nevertheless, this rough sea way has always been a threat to human life in bad weather. When Norwegian Meteorological was established in Bergen, marine weather had to be the main focus. Since then traditional weather forecasting for fisheries have been made regularly. In the early 1970's oil exploration and production became an important industry in Norway, and site specific marine forecasting and 1st generation contingency services were borne.

In the early 1990's, the need for further specialising into marine forecasting was evident, and in 1996 the Marine Forecasting Centre at met.no (MFC) was established. Our main aims are to use the best available numerical model output and marine observations, do maximum value adding and present the results in an user friendly and innovative way through use of new technology. To fulfill these aims MFC modernised production, focused on product development for end users and encouraged scientific development within marine weather such as contingency models, extreme waves, current measurements etc.