

CASE STUDY

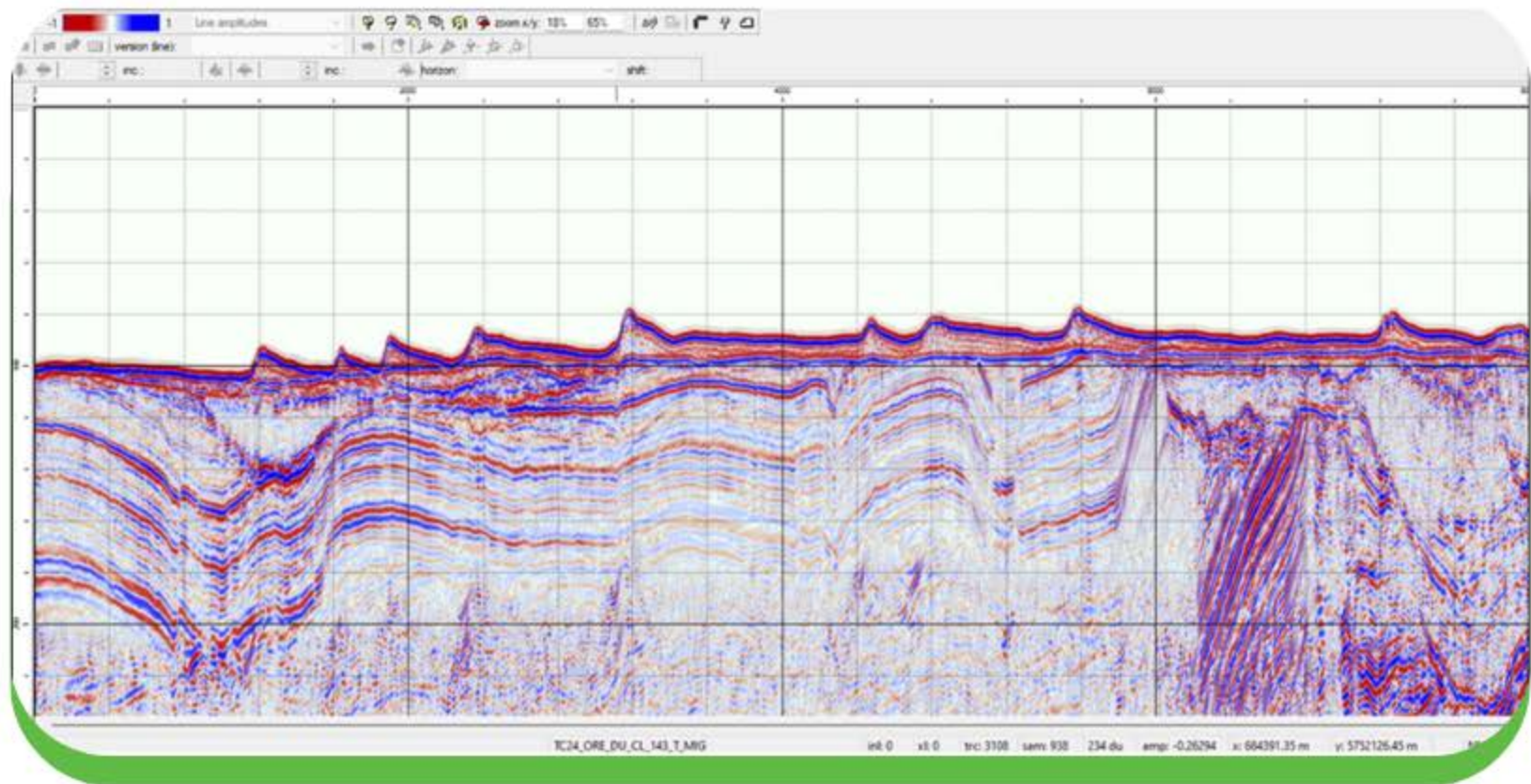
Seabed mapping of Irish waters: increasing our understanding of marine ecosystems and supporting sustainable marine resource management





The Marine Institute's Advanced Mapping Services is a multidisciplinary team with significant experience in marine exploration, seabed mapping, and research and innovation. The establishment of this team at the Institute in 2003, in support of the Irish National Seabed Survey and successor INFOMAR programme, was a critical step in paving Ireland's way to its status as a global exemplar in seabed mapping.





INFOMAR is a joint initiative between the Marine Institute and Geological Survey Ireland, funded by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment. Its primary aim is to deliver comprehensive baseline bathymetry data to underpin the future management of Ireland's marine resource.





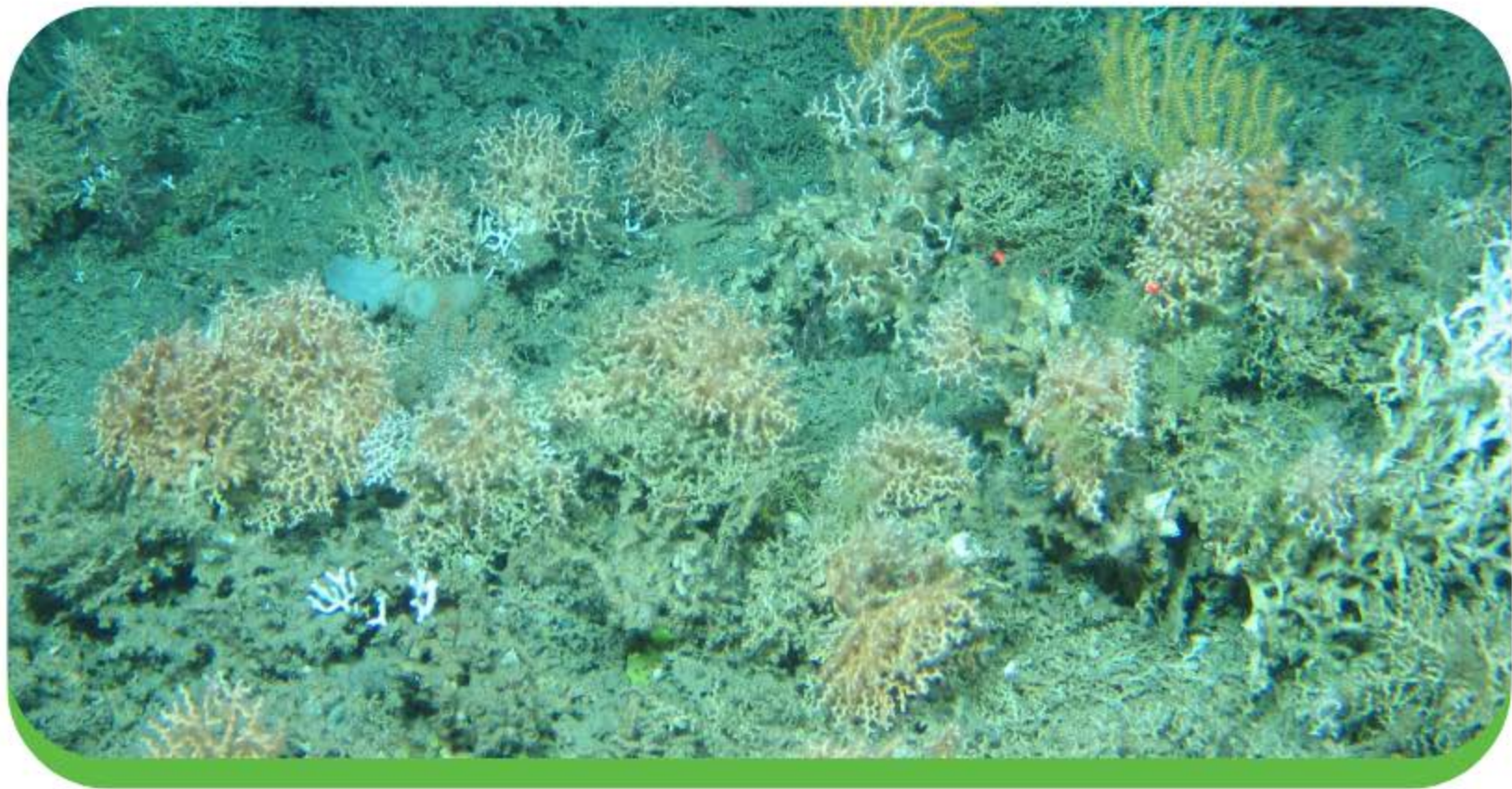
With technical expertise in marine spatial data, geoscience, hydrography, Marine Spatial Planning and heritage, environment and biodiversity mapping, the Advanced Mapping Services team engage in and deliver on the Institute's key strategic priorities, most notably Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services.





Several surveys each year on board the marine research vessels, *RV Tom Crean* and *RV Celtic Explorer*, are extending Ireland's seabed mapping coverage, with thousands of kilometres being mapped. During 2025, Advanced Mapping Services completed 8,821 km² of gross coverage.





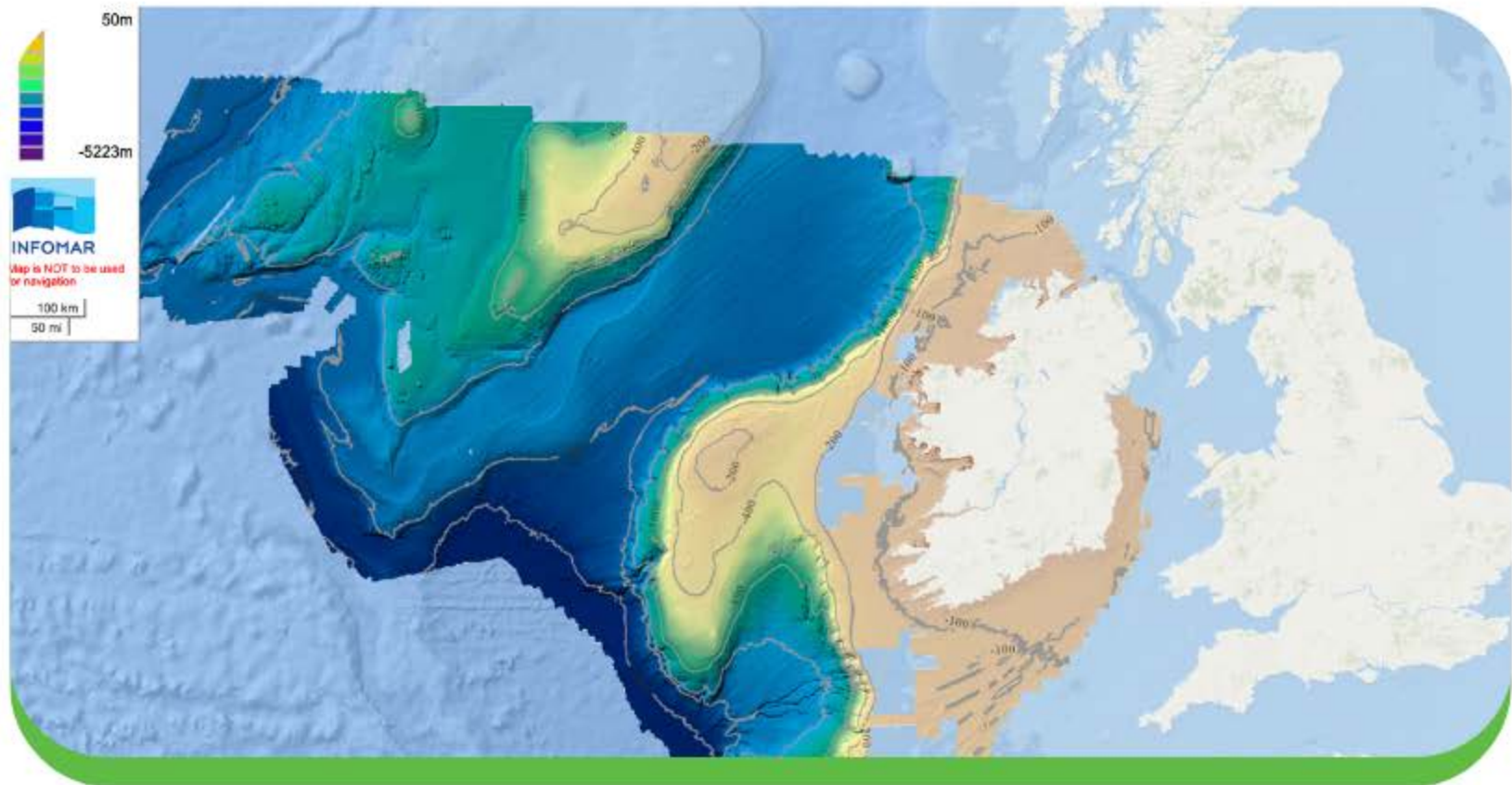
Mapping of our seabed, benthic habitats, maritime heritage, and engineering and energy potential informs marine planning, biodiversity protection, and sustainable fisheries.





Through participation in international partnerships such as the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance and Atlantic Seabed Mapping International Working Group, Ireland's seabed mapping results are also distributed to a broad international community of multidisciplinary data end users.





The data gained from Ireland's seabed mapping programme are critical for our understanding of marine ecosystems and for the protection of the marine environment.

These data also play a huge role in developing our marine knowledge economy and supporting marine spatial planning and decision-making for sustainable marine resource management.



Want to learn more about
the impact of this programme?



Read the Marine Institute's **Annual Impact Report** to see how Ireland's seabed mapping programme is helping to underpin the management of our marine resources.