

# IFREMER Approves Simrad ME70 Multibeam Echo Sounder

Following a series of extensive tests IFREMER (French Marine Institute) has accepted and approved the Simrad ME70 scientific multibeam echo sounder onboard the research ship *Thalassa*. The information from the ME70 will be used to increase the accuracy of biomass assessments, therefore providing a better understanding of marine life. Functionality, accuracy, and stability were tested onboard *Thalassa* under sometimes severe weather conditions off the coast of France. The ME70 passed the final tests and IFREMER has formally accepted delivery of this revolutionary multibeam echo sounder. Data from the ME70 collected during the sea acceptance tests has already provided new information to IFREMER about the structure of fish schools and fish avoidance caused by the presence of the survey vessel.

In 2003, [Simrad](#) was awarded a contract by IFREMER to develop the ME70. At the same time, Simrad was awarded a contract with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) in Norway to develop a new scientific multibeam sonar - the MS70 - based on the same technology. Simrad began installation of the ME70 onboard *Thalassa* in September 2005.

Several international research communities have already shown great interest in the new Simrad multibeam products. The NOAA research organization (USA), has already ordered two ME70s for two new vessels, and have expressed an interest in additional multibeam systems for other vessels.

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