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Rapport till Samtykke til marine vitenskapelige undersøkelser i perioden 03.09.2024-14.09.2024

The MAPS (Marine Protected Area Monitoring and Assessment Program) is a survey providing information on abundance and extent of benthic organisms and habitats in marine protected areas. In the Kosterhavet national park we survey the extent of cold-water coral reef using hanging camera systems. The reef is situated very close to the Norwegian border and our research vessel RV Svea need space to turn across the borderline in this narrow sound (Säcken) between Sweden and Norway.

The research cruise was completed according to plan and the area Säcken was surveyed on the 7th and 9th of September. RV Svea made several turns across the border and we thank the Norwegian authorities for the permit as maneuvering the research vessel in this narrow area is a challenge. Data collection by videofilming with hanging camera of the seafloor was only done on the Swedish side of the border.

The coral reef in the Säcken extent indicated depletion in relation to the extent 20 years ago, and verified surveys done in 2018 and 2021. The survey is part of a long-term monitoring program and will continue and reported likely in early 2026.

Best regards

Mattias Sköld, Scientist in charge