

Norway pauses deep-sea mining plans

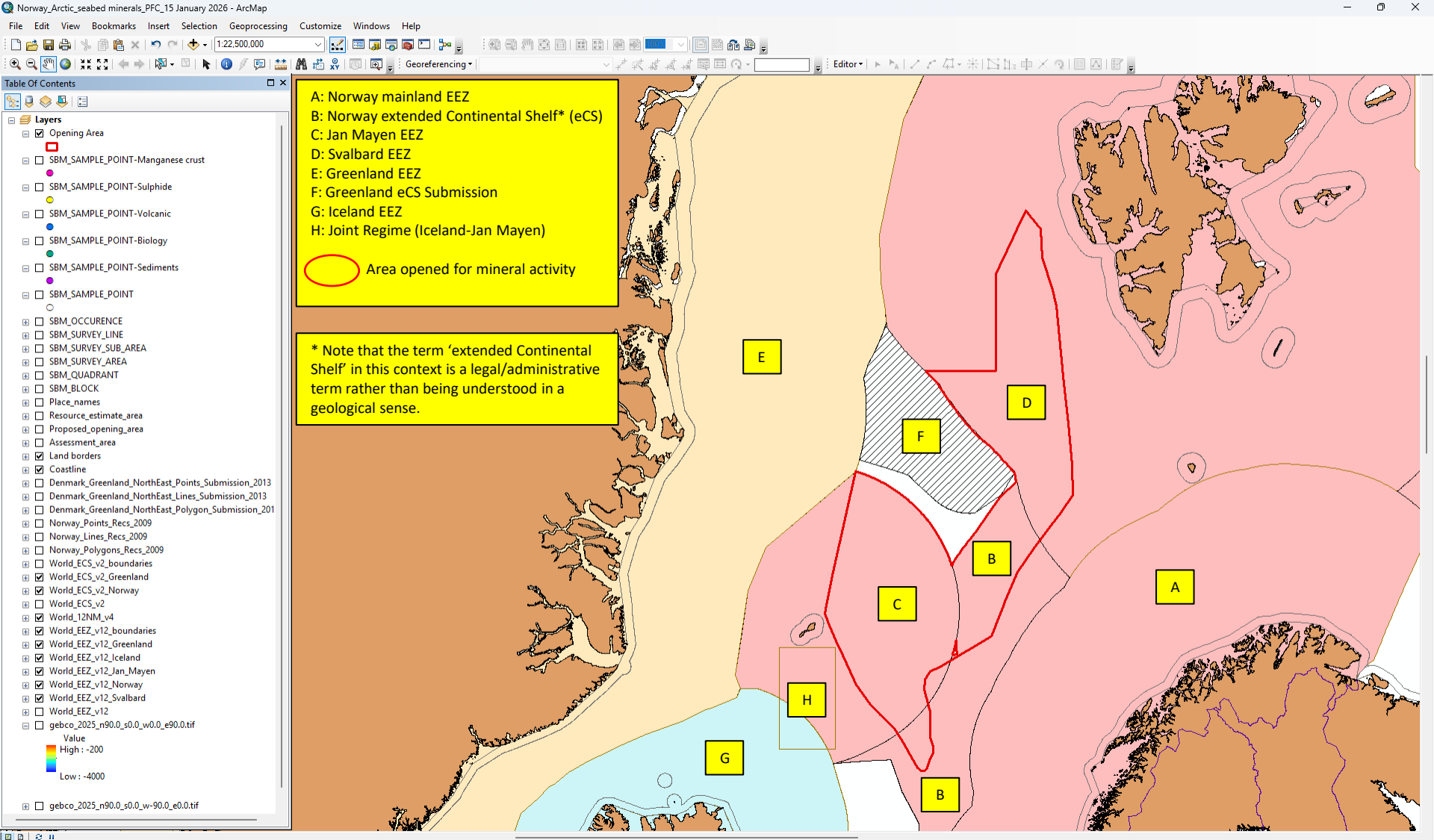
Peter Croker, The M Horizon (UK) Limited, January 2026

Sources and references

Deep-sea mineral sample and survey GIS data courtesy of Norwegian Offshore Directorate (NOD)

NOD Resource Assessment Summary (2023) <https://www.sodir.no/490543/globalassets/1-sodir/fakta/havbunnsmineraler/publikasjoner/2023/resource-assessment-summary.pdf>

Stubseid et al. (2025) Construction of Ultraslow-Spreading Oceanic Crust: New Insights on Volcanic Processes and Deposits From High-Resolution Mapping at the Mohns Ridge. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 26



Layers

- ☒ Opening Area
 - ☐ SBM_SAMPLE_POINT-Manganese crust
 - ☐ SBM_SAMPLE_POINT-Sulphide
 - ☐ SBM_SAMPLE_POINT-Volcanic
 - ☐ SBM_SAMPLE_POINT-Biology
 - ☐ SBM_SAMPLE_POINT-Sediments
 - ☐ SBM_SAMPLE_POINT
 - ☐ SBM_OCCURENCE
 - ☐ SBM_SURVEY_LINE
 - ☐ SBM_SURVEY_SUB_AREA
 - ☐ SBM_SURVEY_AREA
 - ☐ SBM_QUADRANT
 - ☐ SBM_BLOCK
 - ☒ Place_names
 - ☐ Resource_estimate_area
 - ☐ Proposed_opening_area
 - ☐ Assessment_area
 - ☒ Land borders
 - ☒ Coastline
 - ☐ Denmark_Greenland_NorthEast_Points_Submission_2013
 - ☐ Denmark_Greenland_NorthEast_Lines_Submission_2013
 - ☐ Denmark_Greenland_NorthEast_Polygon_Submission_201
 - ☐ Norway_Points_Recs_2009
 - ☐ Norway_Lines_Recs_2009
 - ☐ Norway_Polygons_Recs_2009
 - ☐ World_ECS_v2_boundaries
 - ☐ World_ECS_v2_Greenland
 - ☐ World_ECS_v2_Norway
 - ☐ World_ECS_v2
 - ☐ World_12NM_v4
 - ☐ World_EEZ_v12_boundaries
 - ☐ World_EEZ_v12_Greenland
 - ☐ World_EEZ_v12_Iceland
 - ☐ World_EEZ_v12_Jan_Mayen
 - ☐ World_EEZ_v12_Norway
 - ☐ World_EEZ_v12_Svalbard
 - ☐ World_EEZ_v12
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- Value
High : -200
Low : -4000
- ☒ gebco_2025_n90.0_s0.0_w-90.0_e0.0.tif

Background is GEBCO 2025 bathymetry

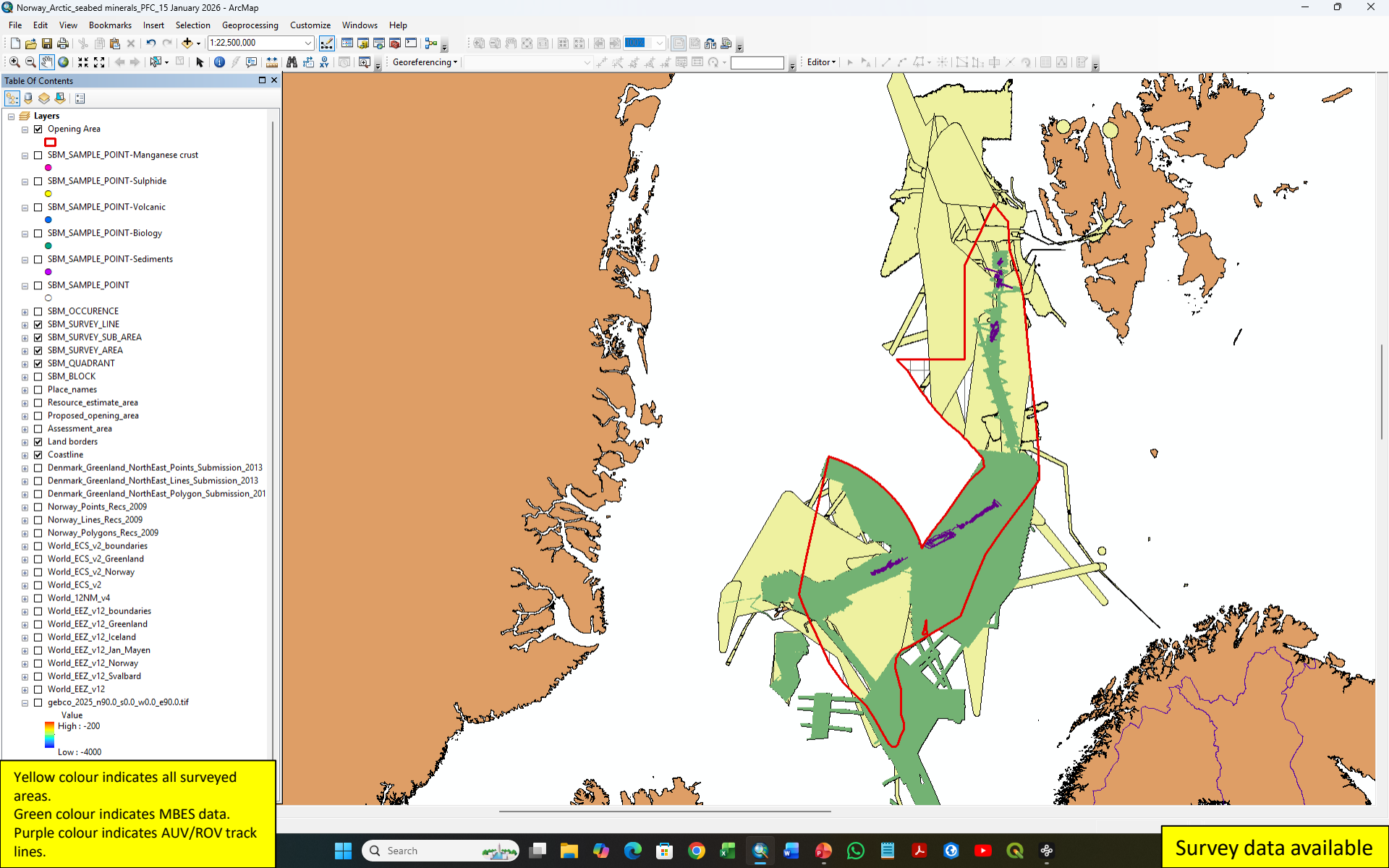
Molloy Deep

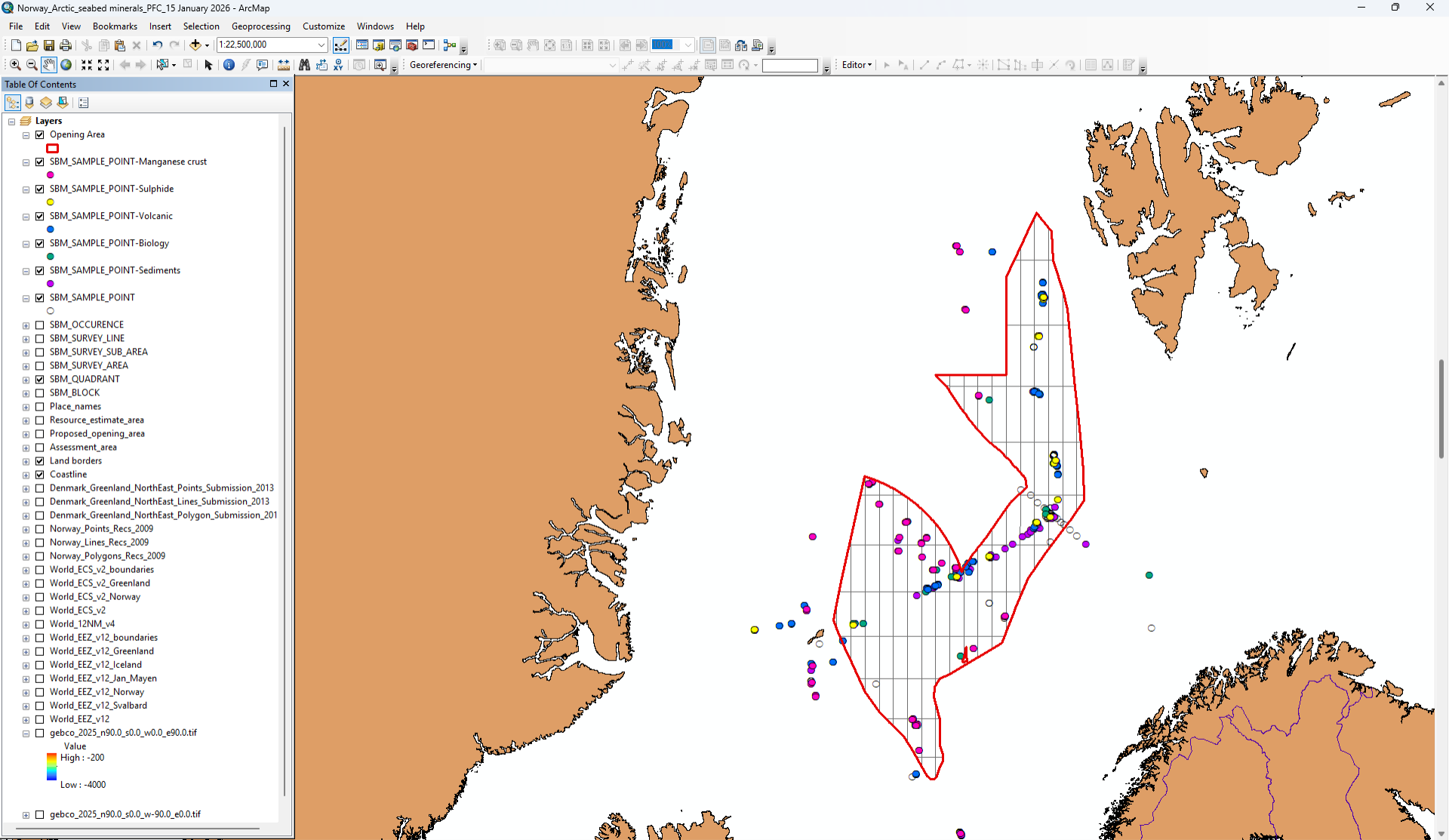
Knipovich Ridge

Mohns Ridge

Note that both labelled mid-oceanic ridges (Knipovich and Mohns) display the typical axial valley morphology.

Major seabed features and place-names





Yellow dots are sulphides and magenta dots are manganese crusts.

Sample data available

In December 2025, following a change of government in Oslo, it was agreed that Norway's plans for deep-sea mining would be deferred or put on hold until at least 2029.