



Maritime Strategy Committee of the Norwegian Naval Society (SMSMARSTRAT) – About us

The Maritime Strategy Committee of the Norwegian Naval Society is a subject Committee under the Norwegian Naval Society, a historical association founded in 1835 to promote the interests and development of the Norwegian Navy.

The Committee had its first meeting on October 5th, 2004. The Committee functions as the Norwegian Naval League's think tank and is a central player in focusing and discussing issues related to maritime strategy, naval power and the future of the Norwegian Navy.

Purpose and mandate

The main purpose of SMSMARSTRAT is to work for better understanding and knowledge of maritime strategy and naval matters in the Norwegian League, including:

- Increased understanding for the fact that Norway, as a coastal state, maritime-, fisheries- and oil nation, has major maritime interests in both near and distant waters.
- Increased insight into the vital role of the Armed Forces, and especially the Navy, in safeguarding and protecting these maritime interests.
- Development of long-term perspectives for the development of the Navy within a security policy framework.
- Act as an advisor to the executive board and the president of the Norwegian Naval League, and help SMS formulate its positions.

To achieve this purpose, SMSMARSTRAT engages in the Norwegian society on maritime matters

The Committee prepares reports, strategic assessments and input to the authorities. For example, they have contributed with analyses on the strategic development of the Navy, where they consider factors such as global rivalry, developments in the High North, and Norway's need for a robust maritime force structure, presence and integration with allied forces.

An important part of the activity is to highlight and create understanding of the Navy's importance and role in society. This is done, in consultation with SMS management, through engagement with:

- Elected politicians, political institutions and authorities
- Individuals, media and defence associations
- The Norwegian Maritime Journal (Norsk Tidsskrift for Sjøvesen)

The Committee consists of competent former and still serving senior naval officers and specialists.

In its strategic assessments, SMSMARSTRAT has made specific proposals for changes to the structure of the Navy, with the aim of strengthening operational capability and utilizing Norway's maritime expertise.

Through its work, SMSMARSTRAT actively contributes to the public debate and the political decision-making process related to maritime security and the development of the Armed Forces.