

# 10 years of operating the coastal/regional RV Simon Stevin

*past and future*



*Dre Cattrijsse*

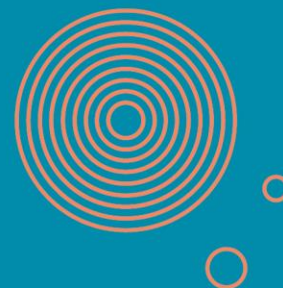


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## RV Zeeleeuw

Pilot tender refitted for simple coastal work

10 crew & 20 scientists

2001 – 2012

Daytrips – occasionally 2 days at sea

150 at sea

## RV Mtafiti - Kenya



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## RV Simon Stevin

Purpose build for coastal/regional research

7/9 crew & 12-10 scientists

2012 – 20??

daytrips & campaigns

180 days at sea

2x number of research projects (30)

Yearly Operational budget

900.000 (Ship Operator ) + 400.000 (VLIZ)



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# Operations not in design model

- Fully automated underway data acquisition system
- ROV
- Vibrocore (3m cores up to 100m depth)
- Subbottom Profiling (over the side mount)
- Buoy work
- AUV operations
- USBL (over the side mount)
- Intensive scientific diving operations



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**Extremely strict & limiting scheme**

**Max 40 nights at sea / year**

**Fortnightly 3day campaigns**

**Not in summer months**

**Since 2018**

**>45, even +50 nights at sea**

**8d campaigns**

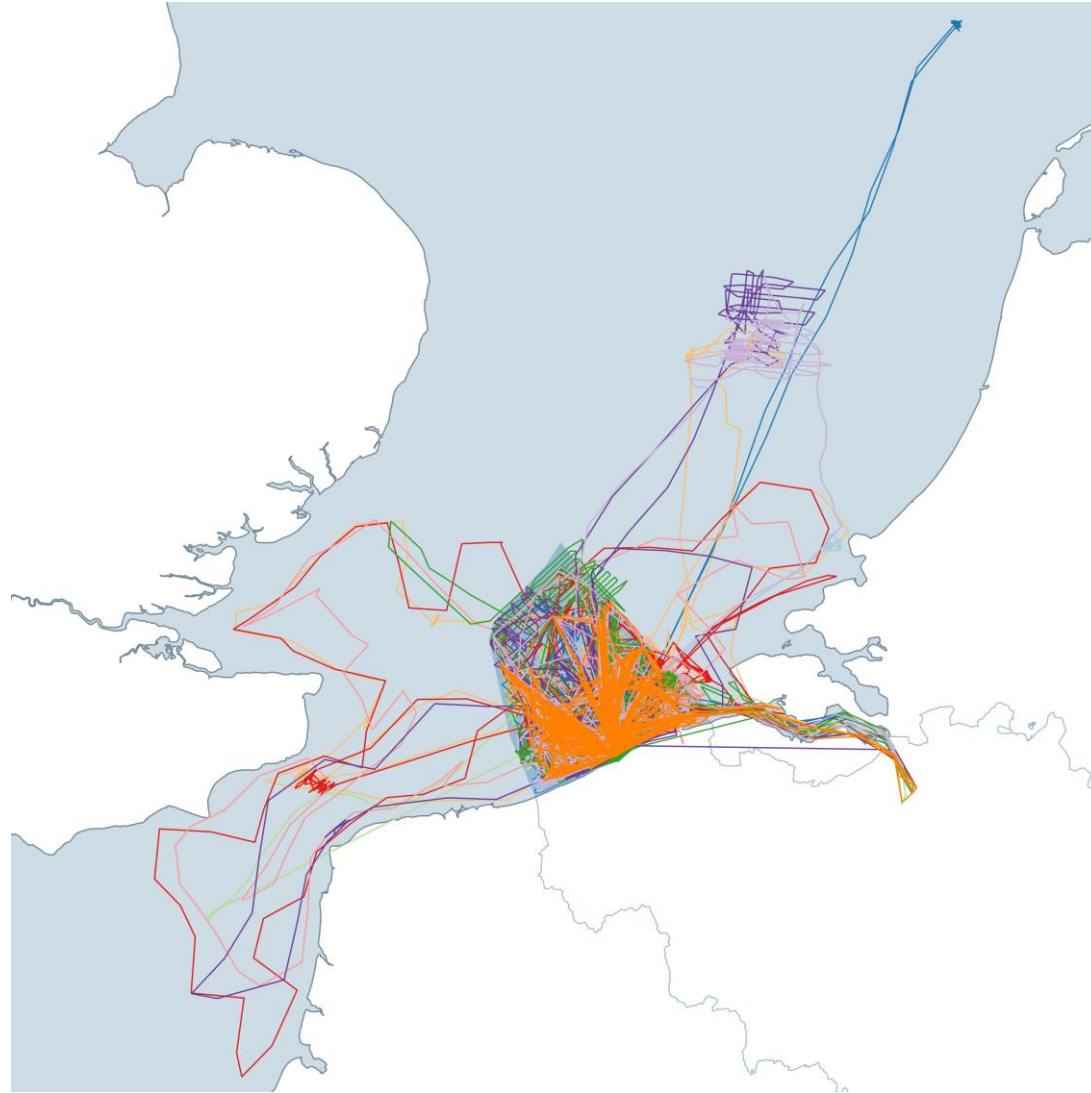
**Request for 2023 : 84**



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# Complementarity with RV Belgica

RV Zeeleeuw vs RV Belgica : no comparison

RV Simon Stevin vs RV Belgica : roughly same capacity, different modes of operation

RV Simon Stevin vs new RV Belgica : major increase in operational & technical capacities



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## Technical improvements

Lack of sufficient lab space

Better work boat

Larger aft deck

Crane ops at sea

Noisy bowthruster

## Operational improvements

Flexibility in planning

2nd crew



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## Approaching 15yrs Ops

**Prepare the refit for 2025-2027 : study & feasibility**

**Evaluate newbuild vs refit**

**Keep complementarity with Belgica**



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## Aanvragen Scheepstijd Algemeen

