

RV BELGICA ACTIVITY 2015

LIEVEN NAUDTS



Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences



Belgian Science Policy Office

1. General



length: 50.9 m beam: 10.0 m draught: 4.6 m

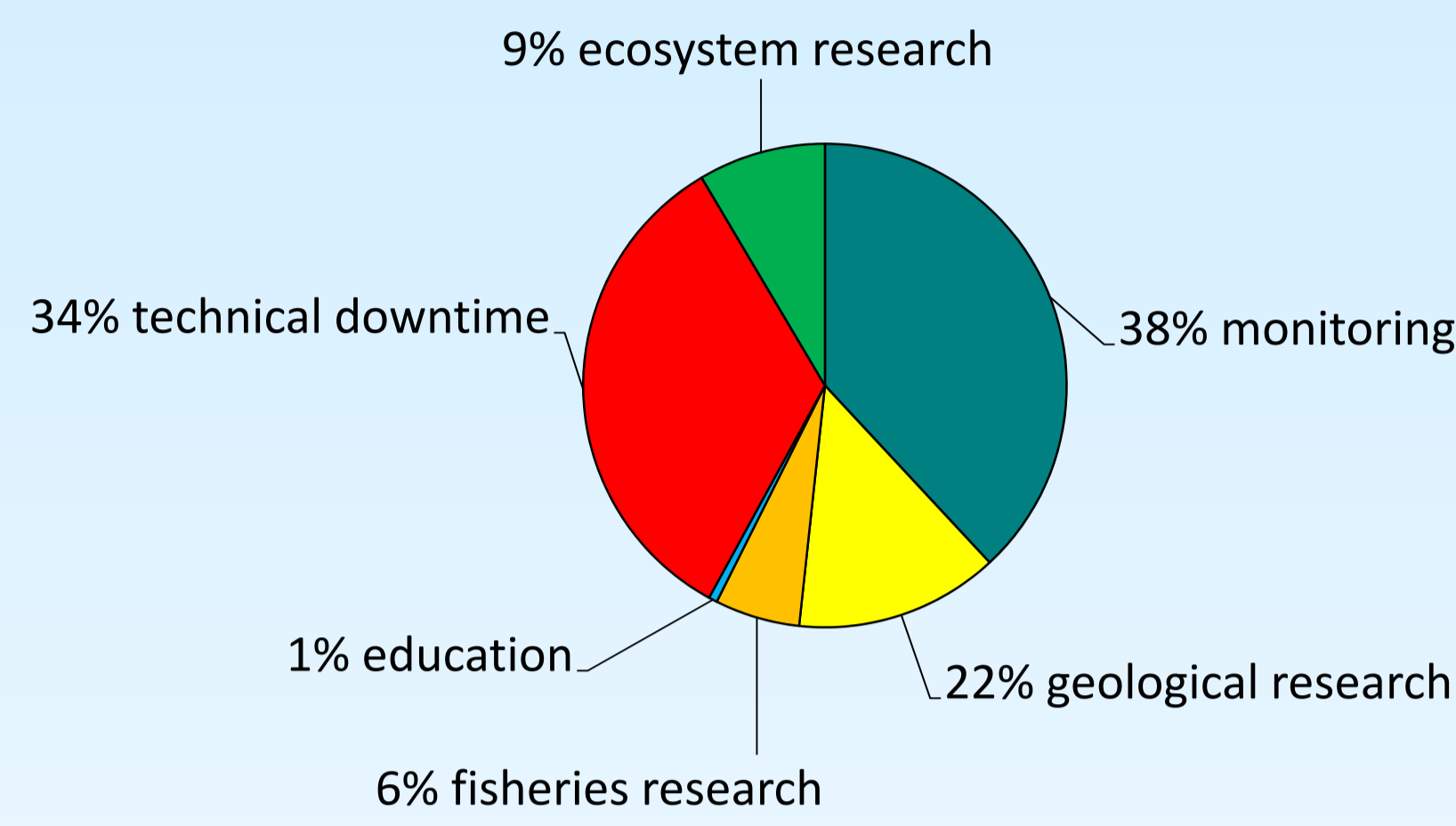
Operated by Belgian Navy since °1984

Belgian Navy crew :15 pax
Scientists :16 pax

Owned by Belgian Federal Science Policy

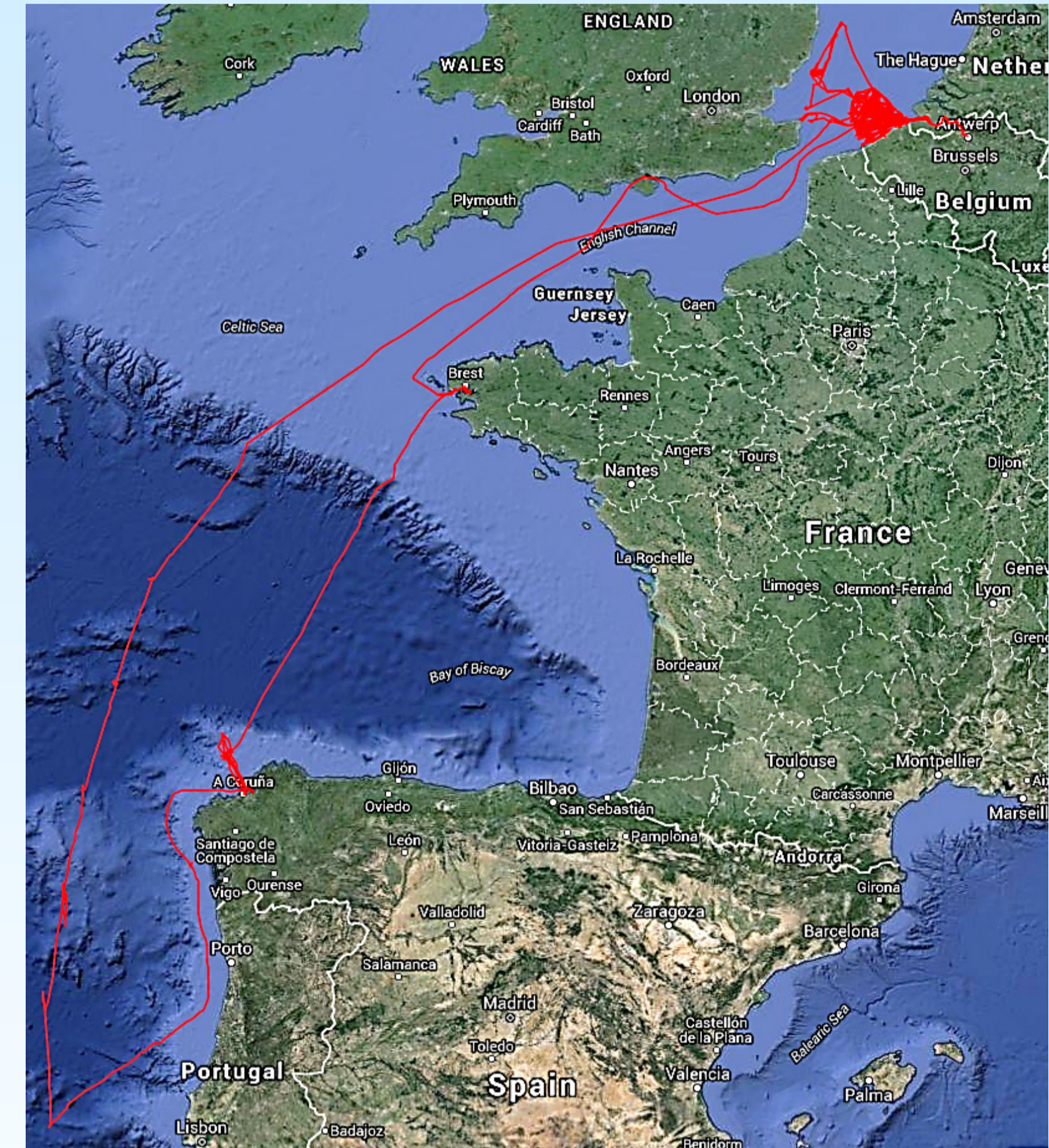
Coordinated by RBINS – OD Nature

RV Belgica 2015:
Evaluation of the 176 planned days



Program 2015

Ship track 2015



sailed distance 2015:
6 912 nm

2. Activities

Joined seismic campaign with RV Simon Stevin

- Testing of different high-resolution seismic source and receiver combinations at different offset configurations
- Development of an efficient prospection methodology for submerged landscapes and cultural heritage at sea
- Positive interaction between two different crews/ organizations (Belgian Navy & Flemish ship operator VLOOT)
- Good PR to show the necessity & complementarity of both vessels

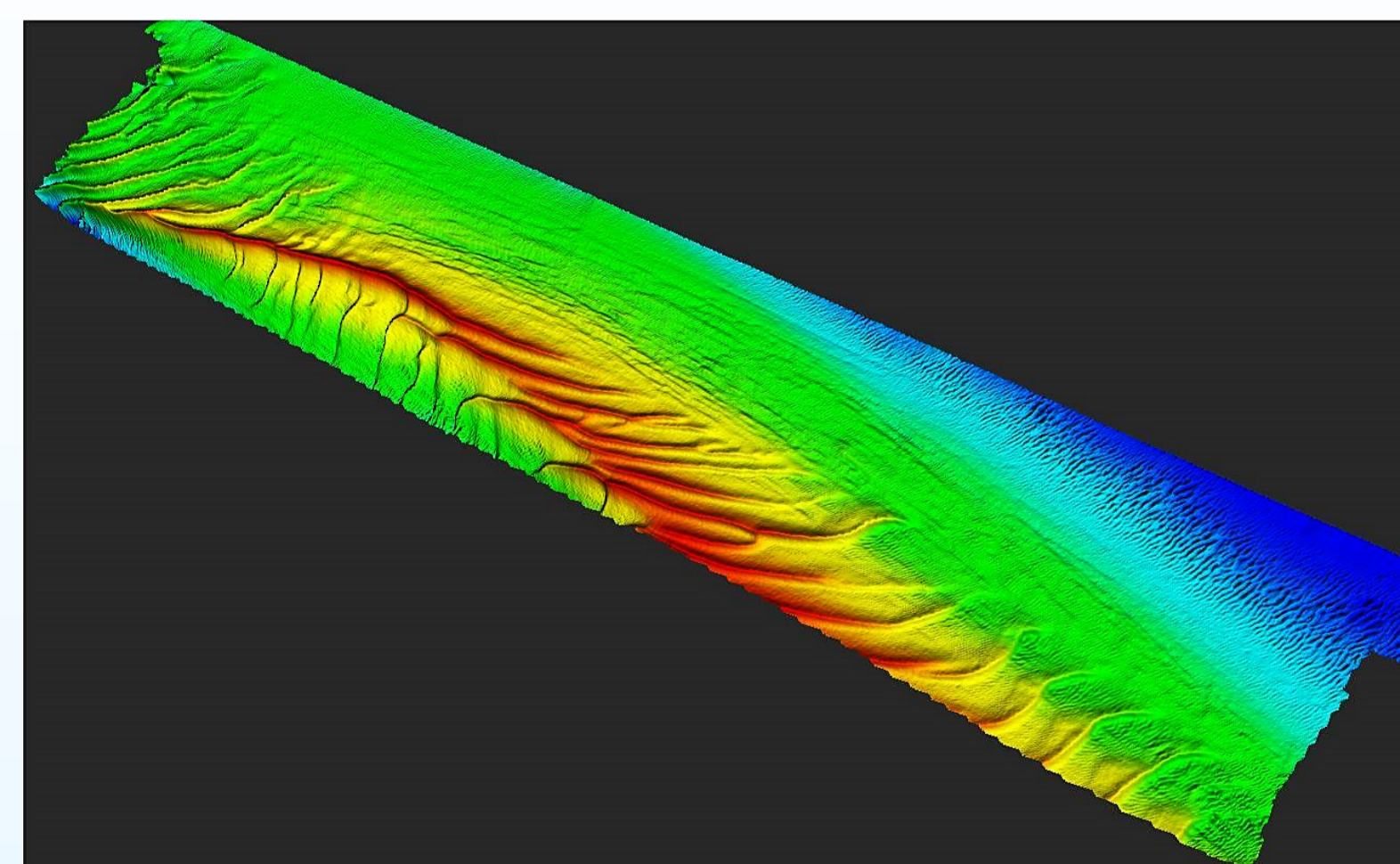


Miscellaneous:

- RV Belgica became an ocean station with the ESFRI ICOS-ERIC (Integrated Carbon Observation System)
- RV Belgica's EM3002 multibeam (FPS Economy) obtained IHO "special order" (highest category < 40 m water depth)

ICOS

INTEGRATED CARBON OBSERVATION SYSTEM



Flooding Incident:

- 19.07, the ship flooded in the harbor; up to 1,2 m sea water in ER
- all cabling and affected systems needed to be replaced or completely overhauled
- In total 59 days of planned science days were lost and 17 research projects were affected
- Hole in the hull result of bacterial corrosion
- Total maintenance cost and claim to CASCO (Hull & Machineries) insurers: **1.5 M€ incl. VAT**



3. Refit & Replacement process

Refit

- The budget of ca. **1 M€ incl. VAT** for the obsolescence maintenance has been foreseen
- Will foresee in a new platform management system (alarm systems, propulsion management, etc.)
- Will foresee in a new electrical steering of the hydraulic systems
- Is planned in 2016 for a period of ca. 5 months (DAMEN, Dunkerque)

Replacement

- Working group with Cabinet Science Policy was initiated
- Support letters of all major institutes and universities are foreseen
- Support letters of new private partners are foreseen
- Working groups with Defence for the technical part of the tender, the purchase and the exploitation is foreseen in 2016

Update scientific needs

- An update scientific needs as expressed in 2008 was performed



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