



### **30 years RV Belgica: How big is Belgica?**

The Belgian oceanographic research vessel “RV A962 Belgica” celebrates her 30th anniversary in 2014.

To celebrate this event and to promote the RV Belgica to the general public, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) launches a campaign on the weekend of 17 and 18 May 2014 with an animated movie, a symposium, and open doors during the Brussels Harbour Day.

The research vessel watches closely over our heaving province both day and night. A huge pile of scientific knowledge is required to keep our North Sea viable and profitable. It is in the interest of all Belgians that the deep blue motor of the North Sea keeps on humming. Just think about durable fishery, wind energy, sand mining, and tourism. There is simply a need for a new ship, RV Belgica II, to continue protecting the North Sea. A ship for more scientists, more high-precision instruments and remotely operated underwater vehicles.

You can discover the future in “[How Big is Belgica](#)”, the animated movie.

On **Friday 16 May**, the RV Belgica will sail from Antwerp to Brussels where the ship will arrive with other ships (Stern) at 17.00h at the Heembeekkaai. On Saturday, a scientific symposium will gather scientists to discuss the importance of RV Belgica and her possible successor, RV Belgica II.

The general public is invited to visit the RV Belgica on **Sunday 18 May** during the Harbour Days of Brussels. You can come on board and meet the Belgian marine scientists from the University of Ghent, ILVO, INBO, FPS Economy, Defence and of course RBINS – OD Natural Environment. And we will give you some information on the new Belgica because – How Big is Belgica?

Everybody is welcome on the ship from 10.00h till 17.00h (the harbour day is open till 19.00h) on the op de Van Heembeekkaai (near Van Praetbrug and the Royal Yacht Club).

Follow our activities on Facebook and Twitter, from next week onwards!

More information on the Harbour Day: <http://www.feestindehaven.be/>