

Installation of two new multibeam echosounders SIMRAD EM3002 on board of a coastal and river-based surveying ship.

The survey ships which the Flemish Hydrography uses to perform its bathymetric measurements are operated by a sister division within the Flemish Government, namely DAB Fleet.

There is one hydrographic vessel to monitor the Belgian Continental Shelf: ms Ter Streep. A new smaller vessel will be used from September 2006 to monitor the coastal area and the Flemish marina and fishing ports. On the river Scheldt and the Canal Ghent-Terneuzen, four smaller hydrographic vessels, like ms Veremans and ms Parel II, are used to perform the hydrographic measurements.

Ms Ter Streep and ms Veremans were equipped with a ten year old SIMRAD EM 950 multibeam echosounder. These old multibeams have now been replaced by the new generation high performance shallow water multibeam EM3002. Ms Parel II has a SIMRAD EM3000 multibeam on board and will be upgraded to the EM3002 system at the end of this year.

This new high-tech equipment should allow the Flemish Hydrography to monitor wrecks with a much higher accuracy. A three year measuring program will be developed in order to study all charted wrecks again.

There is a high demand of internal users within the Flemish Government to measure the Belgian Continental Shelf with multibeam instead of single beam. In the near future priority will be given to sound the sandbanks, fairways and other relevant areas with the new installed multibeams.



Ms Ter Streep



Ms Veremans