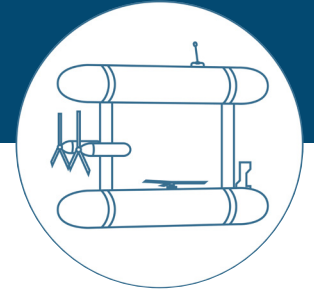


Fact Sheet



Autonomous Underwater Vehicles

Autonomous Underwater Vehicles or AUVs are unmanned vehicles that operate independently and under their own power. While very large-scale surface processes can be easily addressed by both remote sensing and ship-borne systems, characterisation of seafloor processes is often unachievable by these traditional methods. AUVs are effective for rapid and cost-effective high-resolution, accurately geo-referenced and targeted acoustic imagery of the seafloor.

IMOS deploys AUVs in Australian waters to provide a critical link between oceanographic and benthic processes from both tropical and temperate reef environments, spanning the entire latitudinal range of Australia.

To support a more in-depth understanding of natural, climate change and human-induced variability in the shelf environments, the Autonomous Underwater Vehicles Facility operates an integrated benthic monitoring program collecting high-quality seafloor imagery and associated water column data using AUVs at sites around the country.

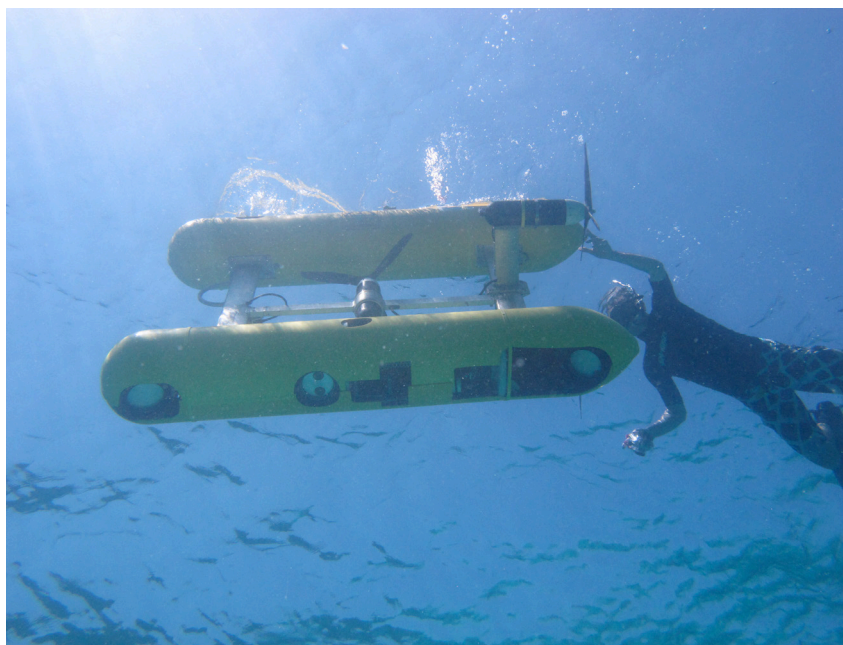


Image credit: Kim Brooks, AIMS