

# Fisheries Habitat Survey with a Small Low Cost AUV

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**Abstract:** The AUV Xanthos was deployed in spring 2003 to demonstrate how the capabilities of autonomous underwater vehicles may be applied to the preservation and study of fisheries resources. Xanthos carries a low-light camera, LED illumination, and side scan sonar. The vehicle's small size and robustness permit the use of a vessel of opportunity (a fishing trawler) to examine fisheries habitat. Surveys were conducted in protected zones and heavily fished areas, and the results compared.