



SCPI (Self-Contained Plankton Imager)

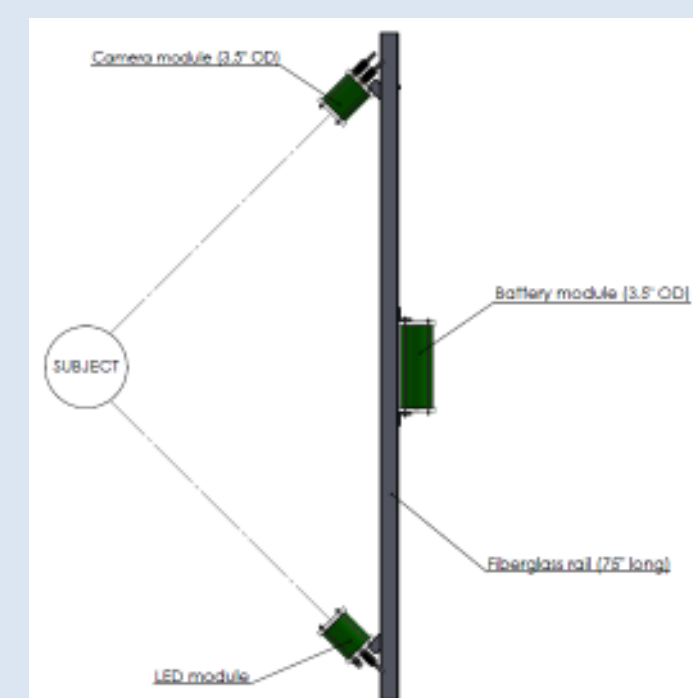
A Multi-Purpose, Modular, Underwater Imaging System

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What is SCPI?

- GoPro Hero 3/3+
- Low cost (<\$3000)
- Easy to fabricate / operate
- Open source design
- Easily adaptable
- Depth rating of 300m



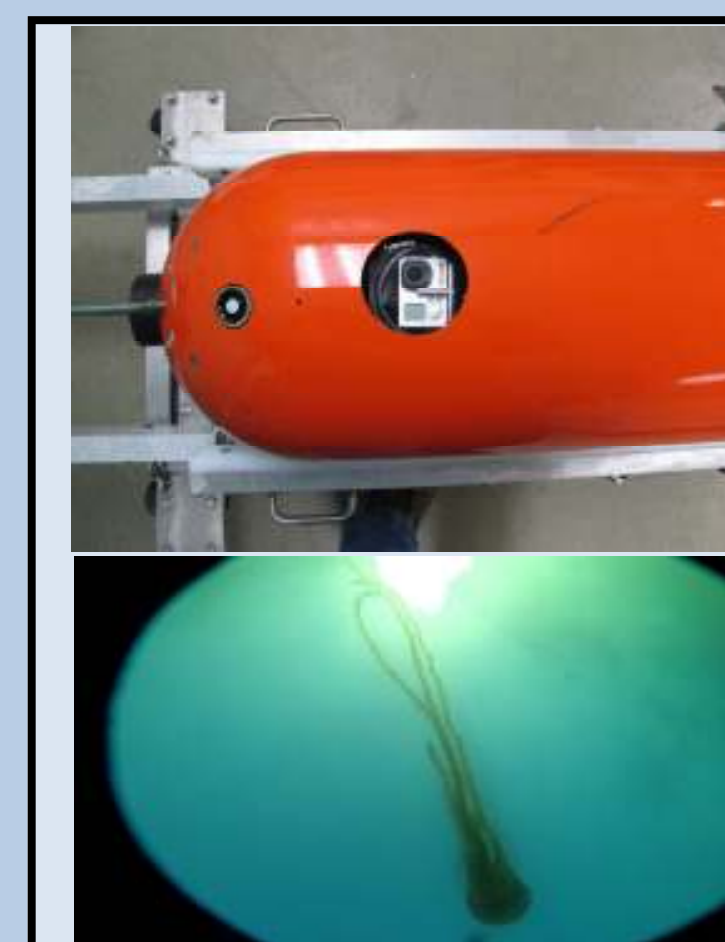
- Able to resolve 10cm targets at 1m target distance
- Still images or video
- Battery good for 2900 images (4500mAh)
- Lighting: 2000 or 3700 lumens
- Deployable on multiple platforms
- Autonomous or tethered operation

F/V Donna Kathleen



As members of a multi-organizational effort, Mary Gleason of The Nature Conservancy, Rick Starr of MLML, and Tim Maricich of the F/V Donna Kathleen are evaluating a SCPI system with the intention of incorporating it into their instrumentation suite. They are interested in gathering density, size, and habitat-association data for rockfish and other demersal fish (eg. Lingcod). The initial thrust of their study is on the overfished species in fishery closure areas in federal water, specifically the Rockfish Conservation Area. In the future, similar surveys could be conducted in the state marine protected areas.

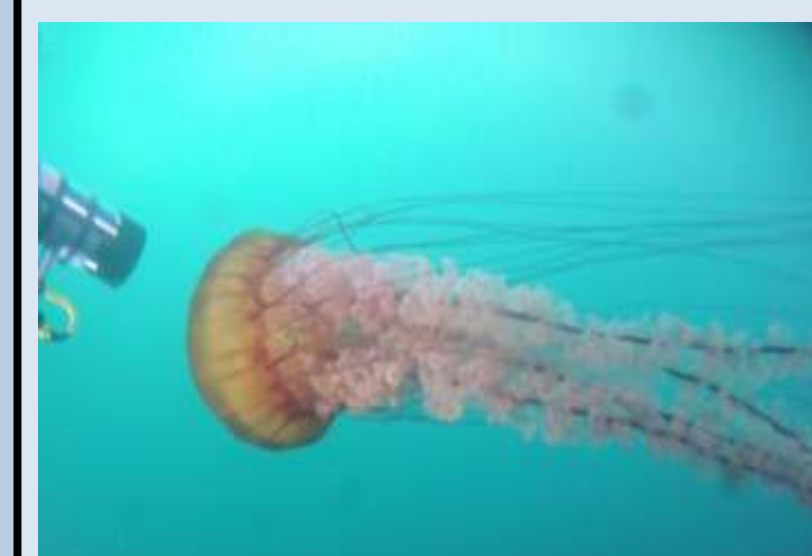
AUV Daphne



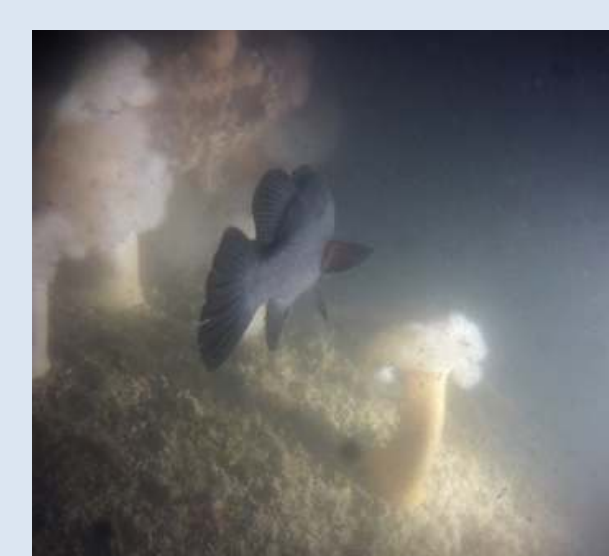
A SCPI system has been integrated onto the Tethys class of AUVs and has been utilized on a number of deployments. In this configuration, SCPI is tethered to the vehicle. SCPI is then powered from the vehicle's battery and is controlled by the vehicle's computer, which can trigger the camera as needed. In 2013, SCPI captured video of the Wave Glider while Daphne was actively tracking it. More recently, SCPI has been used for zooplankton (eg. Jellyfish) recording as the suite of standard sensors cannot detect these animals.

Engineering Tests

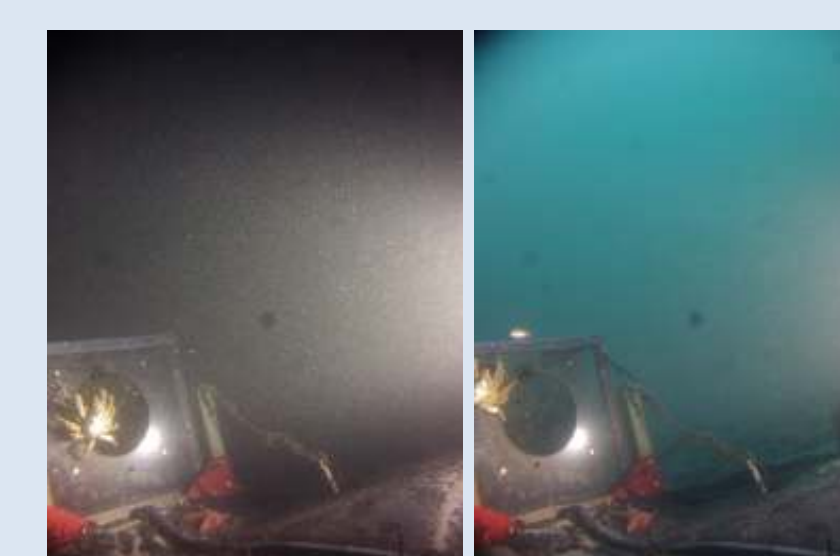
Our initial deployments were focused on verifying that SCPI met all of our original functional requirements. SCPI was mounted onto ROV Ventana's midwater tool sled and taken to its maximum operational depth of 300m. SCPI was also mounted to a simple horizontal bar and deployed to various sites in Monterey Bay including the swFOCE site at Hopkins Marine Station and an abandoned discharge pipe in Moss Landing.



ROV Ventana



Moss Landing



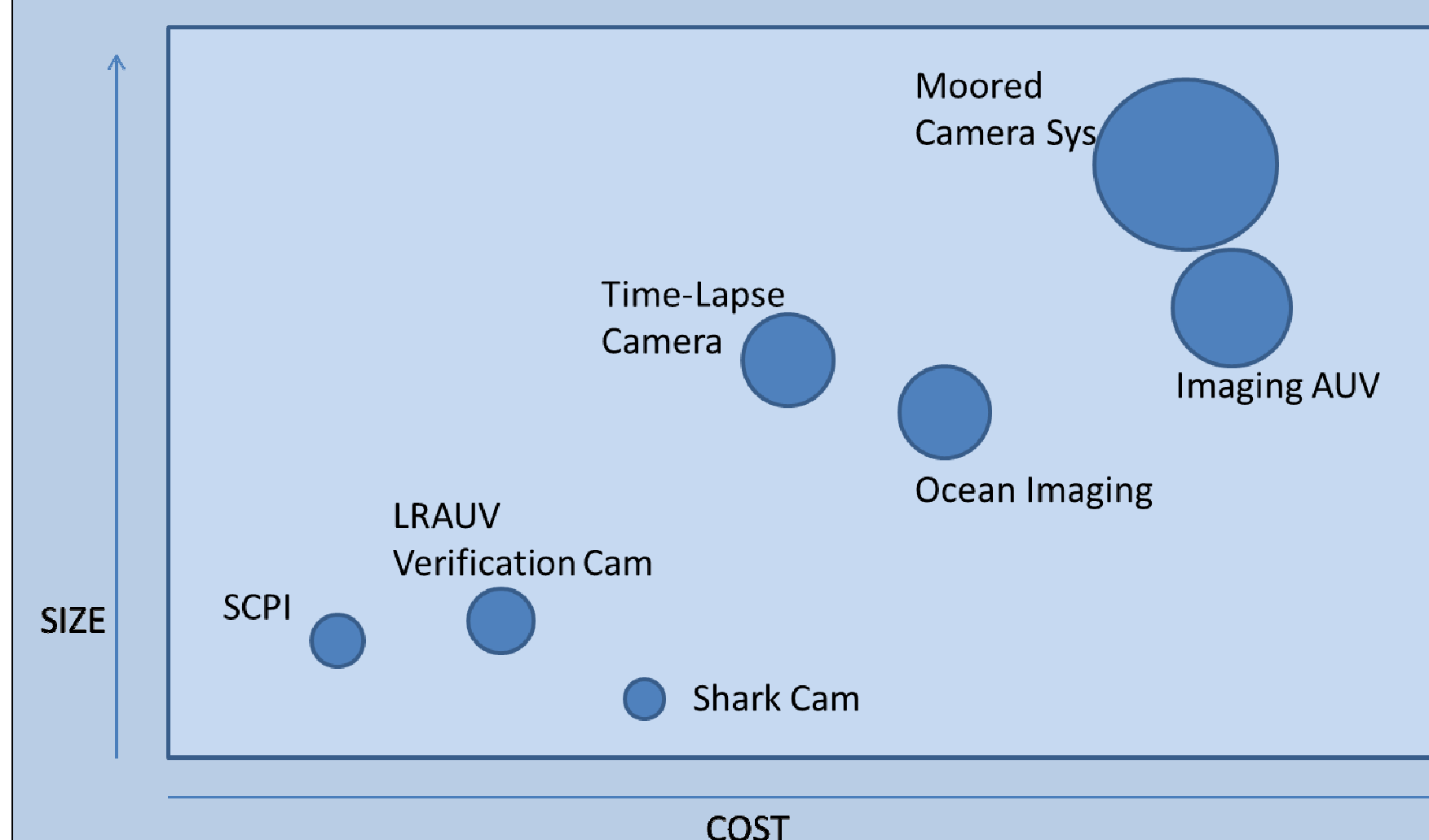
swFOCE site at HMS

Wave Glider



In 2014 we plan to deploy a SCPI system on the Liquid Robotics Wave Glider. Because of the Wave Glider's range and duration, this is the perfect platform to test the long term deployed behavior of SCPI.

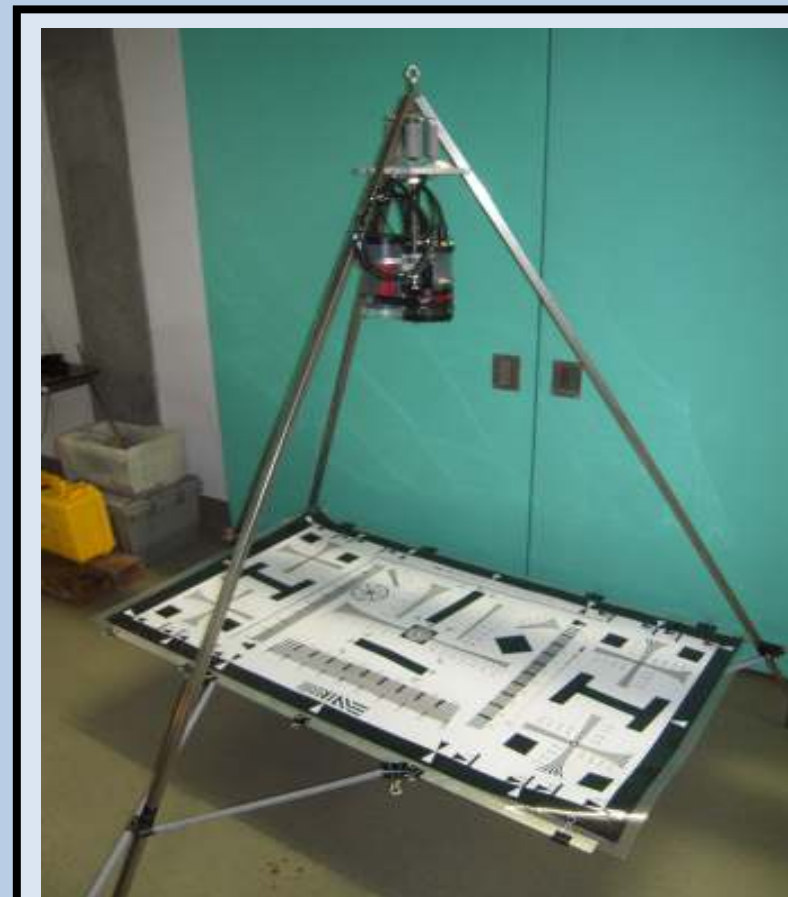
Where does SCPI fall within MBARI Camera Projects?



Timeline:

- 2012: Concept design & prototype build
- 2013: Engineering tests & deployments
- 2014: Operational deployments
- 2015: Camera upgrade / deployments

Antarctica Deployment



Stacy Kim of MLML will be deploying two SCPI systems in Antarctica in late 2014 to help her study the benthic ecology of two locations near McMurdo Station. Both sites are located under 1 to 2 meters of sea ice and have never been photographed. The first location at Mystery peak is in 40 meters of water and both systems will be deployed for 1 month, each taking an image every 20 minutes. The second location, between Tent Island and the Erebus Glacier Tongue, is in 200 meters of water. Both SCPI systems will again be deployed in this location, this time with extended primary lithium battery packs, allowing them to take an image every 20 minutes for 3 months.

