

## Developing a long term strategy for using AUVs in polar research

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Three international workshops have reviewed the use of AUVs (autonomous underwater vehicles) in polar and extreme environments: Acoustic navigation and Communications for High-latitude Research, Seattle, Feb 2006

<http://anchor.apl.washington.edu/index.html>

Masterclass in AUV Technology for Polar Science, NOCS, March 06

<http://www.noc.soton.ac.uk/CASEE/CASEE2/Introduction.html>

AUV Science in Extreme Environments, SPRI, Cambridge, April 07

<http://www.noc.soton.ac.uk/CASEE/CASEE2/pages/Science.html>

These have shown that AUV technology is well developed and can answer a range of scientific questions beyond the capabilities of other methodologies. The final workshop identified that there was a need for strategic planning for the incorporation of AUVs into polar research, especially given the long term legacy objectives of IPY specifically:

- A collective multinational programme drawing upon national assets and resolving the institutional barriers to implementing this. - A move from short expeditions to long term effort, (sufficiently resourced to withstand occasional setbacks) for example: routinely launching and recovering AUV from bases around the Antarctic, Lagrangian drifters and acoustic navigation networks (ANCHOR).