



**International
Standard**

ISO 25451

**Ships and marine technology —
Technical requirements and
guidelines for seafloor mapping
with uncrewed marine vehicles**

Navires et technologie maritime — Exigences techniques et lignes directrices pour la cartographie des fonds marins réalisée par des engins sans équipage

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Technical provisions	2
4.1 General.....	2
4.2 Standard of time and space.....	2
4.2.1 Geographic coordinate system.....	2
4.2.2 Vertical reference.....	2
4.2.3 Standard of time.....	2
4.2.4 Projection.....	3
4.3 Measurement accuracy.....	3
4.3.1 Navigation and positioning.....	3
4.3.2 Water depth measurements.....	3
4.3.3 Sound velocity profile (SVP) measurement.....	3
4.3.4 Height of tide measurement.....	4
4.4 Seafloor survey operation planning.....	4
4.4.1 Survey method.....	4
4.4.2 Survey mission line planning.....	4
4.5 Mobilization ship (MOSHIP) selection for survey operations by USV/UUV.....	5
4.5.1 MOSHIP selection for USV.....	5
4.5.2 MOSHIP selection for UUV.....	5
4.6 Survey preparation.....	5
4.6.1 USV/UUV pre-launch inspection.....	5
4.6.2 Instrument inspections.....	6
4.7 Survey implementation.....	6
4.7.1 Communication system installation.....	6
4.7.2 Pre-launch testing.....	7
4.7.3 Launch and recovery.....	8
4.7.4 Seafloor survey.....	8
4.7.5 Survey process.....	9
4.8 Seafloor survey data.....	9
4.9 Data processing and output.....	10
4.9.1 Data cleaning.....	10
4.9.2 Data correction.....	10
4.9.3 Data output.....	10
Bibliography	11

Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 8, *Ships and marine technology*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Marine technology*.

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Introduction

Seafloor mapping is a fundamental marine survey activity, which can produce results including bathymetric maps, seafloor topographic maps and geomorphologic maps. Traditional methods of seafloor mapping include single-beam echo sounding and multi-beam echo sounding. Recently, uncrewed surface vehicles (USVs) and uncrewed underwater vehicles (UUVs) have been increasingly employed in seafloor mapping, enriching the technical methods and diversifying the survey platforms. These surveys now cover areas such as estuaries, coastal regions, and the open sea.

Currently, the technology for seafloor mapping using uncrewed marine vehicles has matured and is widely applied in marine oil and gas exploration, seabed mineral resource exploration, offshore engineering design and construction, as well as undersea tunnel and pipeline installation. Recognition of this technology by relevant industries continues to grow. This document concerns the functions and characteristics of uncrewed marine vehicles and the survey instruments they carry, specifically addressing the technical features, application environments, and functional requirements for seafloor mapping with uncrewed marine vehicles.

This document has been developed to standardize the technical design, field survey procedures, data processing and data output for seafloor mapping using USVs or UUVs equipped with single-beam or multi-beam echo sounders. This document aims to enhance the quality of field surveys and the accuracy of seafloor mapping data.

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