

## **The use of airborne remote sensing for benthic cartography: advantages and reliability**

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*(Received 14 April 1996; in final form 23 July 1996)*

**Abstract.** Airborne remote sensing is a useful tool for the production of biocenosis maps. The use of an image processing system, integrating bathymetric data, makes it possible to considerably refine the charting, through a layer of water of variable thickness and quality. Other limiting factors may have an impact on the quality of results. The identification of these factors makes it possible to propose a scale of reliability. Four examples of aerial teledetection surveys provide the basis for *(i)* assessing the reliability of the maps, *(ii)* determining the reasons for this variation in reliability, and *(iii)* using the scale as a means for assessing the reliability of a given map. The factors used are such that the reliability scale could subsequently be applied to the cartography of other marine assemblages.