

The potential and the limitations of low-cost drones for aquatic resource cartography



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A drone decision tree



Pictures



Maps



High cost



\$50K

Low cost



<\$3K

Cartography with low-cost drones

Fly drone, take pictures

Adjust images for:

non-planar distortion

off-vertical error

Assemble images into mosaics

Geo-register into a GIS by either:

registering to accurately-located ground markers

overlaying on existing air photos

Orthorectified, geo-registered photomosaic

