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THE COVER

An Antarctic krill gazes out at the camera in the frigid waters of the Southern Ocean. Although they measure only about 5 centimeters long, krill are an important food source for many marine animals, including Adélie penguins. Gathering accurate information about the abundance and distribution of these little crustaceans is not easy, especially in the cold, remote, and often stormy waters off Antarctica. In "The Ocean Robot Network" (pages 434-441), authors Oscar Schofield, Scott Glenn, and Mark Moline explain how underwater autonomous vehicles (UAVs) are filling in our understanding of this crucial part of the ocean ecosystem. Data from UAVs show that krill abound in warm, upwelling waters around Antarctic canyons, explaining why these locations are also hotspots of penguin activity. (Photography by George F. Mobley, NatGeo Creative.com.)