



Thursday 31 October 2019

Media Alert – Seaweed Workshop

Some of the world's leading seaweed experts will tomorrow (**Friday 1 November**) meet in Hobart to discuss the future of seaweed habitats, environmental management and market opportunities.

The Workshop *Seaweed for Life and the Future* will bring together scientists, industry and the public (9am-5pm) and will be followed by a free Public Lecture (*both events sold out*) and displays at the IMAS waterfront building from 6.30pm.

Media are invited to interview local and overseas scientists and video/photograph the Workshop in session:

When: 12.30pm, Friday 1 November 2019

Where: CSIRO Lecture Theatre, Battery Point

IMAS Associate Professor Catriona Macleod said Tasmania is at the forefront of seaweed research, both as a critical part of our marine environment and as an aid to environmental management.

"There is huge potential for Tasmania in seaweed aquaculture, as seaweed is a natural superfood," Associate Professor Macleod said

"This has long been recognised in Asia and, with our clean waters, Australia and Tasmania are in an amazing position to take a lead in this space.

"Local researchers and the aquaculture industry are exploring opportunities to grow seaweed commercially alongside the salmon aquaculture industry, which provides nutrients beneficial to seaweed growth – potentially a win: win situation.

"At the same time, IMAS research in recent years has revealed how Tasmania's Giant Kelp forests and East Coast kelp reefs have been devastated by the impacts of ocean warming and the consequent arrival of invasive long-spined sea urchins.

"Understanding how to grow and promote seaweed could be key to restoration efforts," said.

Speakers at the Workshop will include Canadian seaweed aquaculture expert Professor Thierry Chopin and Chilean marine biologist and seaweed specialist

Professor Alejandro Buschmann, while the Public Lecture features IMAS scientists and Professor Chopin.

On **Monday 4 November** one of the visiting seaweed experts, US marine biologist Professor Charles Yarish, will give a free public talk **at 10am** at the IMAS waterfront building on "Opportunities, challenges and future directions of open-water seaweed aquaculture in the United States".

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