

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 16 JULY 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Hobart now an “extraordinary” research hub, says IMAS director

An “extraordinary confluence” of marine and Antarctic research entities now called Hobart home, the Executive Director of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) said today at the opening of the inaugural IMAS Research Showcase.

“We host 40 per cent of Australia’s marine research capacity and 60 per cent of its Antarctic research capacity,” Professor Mike Coffin said.

Three major institutions – CSIRO, the Australian Antarctic Division and IMAS, an institute of the University of Tasmania - employed nearly 1,000 staff in Hobart.

IMAS’ 135 staff was supplemented by 120 graduate students. IMAS will soon be headquartered on Hobart’s waterfront adjacent to the CSIRO when Sandy Bay staff move to a new \$45 million building in December. A further \$7.5 million is being spent on an experimental aquaculture facility at Taroona.

Prof Coffin said that IMAS – founded in 2010 – was a “toddler” when compared to such venerable marine research institutions as the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, both based in the USA. However, he expected that within a decade IMAS would enjoy a similar international standing to that of another benchmark institution, the University of Tokyo’s Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute.

The Director of IMAS’ Fisheries, Aquaculture and Coasts Centre, Prof Colin Buxton highlighted the significance of the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement between the University of Tasmania and the State Government.

“This is one of IMAS’ most important partnerships, underpinning world-leading temperate marine and coastal research in support of the effective and sustainable management of marine resources in Tasmania.”

Prof Buxton said his centre was currently involved in 142 projects, with total funding of nearly \$42.4 million under management.

“Rock lobster aquaculture represents more than 34 per cent of our total research effort – thanks to the partnership with the American seafood

restaurant chain Darden – but there is also a healthy distribution across other marine research areas, including salmon, abalone and other species.”

More than 35 IMAS scientists – about half the research staff – are giving short talks during the Research Showcase. The second-day (**Wednesday 17 July**) will focus on ocean and Antarctic governance; marine and Antarctic ecosystems; ocean processes and climate change.

Tonight (**Tuesday 16 July**) IMAS and the Royal Society of Tasmania will present a free public lecture on *Food from the sea: the changing marine environment*, starting at 7.30 in the Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre, Sandy Bay UTAS campus.

<http://www.media.utas.edu.au/general-news/all-news/food-from-the-sea-the-changing-marine-environment>

Event details

Who: IMAS researchers representing the full spectrum of temperate marine, Southern ocean and Antarctic research

What: IMAS Research Showcase

When: 16 – 17 July 2013, 9am to 6pm each day

Where: Commission for the Conservation of Marine Living Resources, 181 Macquarie St, Hobart

A detailed schedule of the Showcase is available online: <http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/quick-links/research-showcase-schedule>

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