

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Australia's small pelagic fisheries benchmarked against the world

Scientists from the University of Tasmania will join some of the world's top small pelagic fisheries experts in Adelaide for a five-day workshop to share knowledge and new technologies in a collaborative effort to further improve fisheries management.

The event, hosted by Associate Professor Tim Ward from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), and funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), will benchmark Australia's fisheries science for small pelagic species against the world's best.

It is an opportunity to look at the research and management methods of other fisheries of similar types from around the world and compare how Australia's small pelagic fisheries stack up against world's best practice and identify any opportunities for improvement.

World experts from the US, Spain, Chile, Portugal, Netherlands, Greece and Australia will share their knowledge of modern technologies and methods used for stock assessment, to protect marine species and ecosystems and set sustainable harvest limits for small pelagic species from around the world.

The forum chair, Professor Colin Buxton from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), said that Australia was recognized internationally for how it managed its fisheries but that there was always room for improvement.

"Conservationists and recreational fishers have been invited to join these top world scientists, industry representatives and fisheries managers in collaborative discussions in a forum later this week," he said.

Prof Buxton said that it was very important for all stakeholders to participate in the discussion on practical ways to ensure that valuable Australian fisheries are harvested in an ecologically and socially responsible way, without harming the surrounding ecosystem or other community values.

The five-day Small Pelagic Fisheries Workshop and Forum is being held at SARDI Aquatic Sciences, 2 Hamra Ave, West Beach, from Monday, 14 July 2014.

Further Information:

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