



MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR MARINE AND ANTARCTIC STUDIES

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Lobster researcher wins prestigious national Science and Innovation Award

Dr Cedric Simon from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies at the University of Tasmania has received top honours at the prestigious 2012 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

His research into innovative assessment methods of the nutritional condition of rock lobsters earned him two awards at the Canberra ceremony.

Every year, the Science and Innovation Awards provide recipients with grants of up to \$22,000 to undertake innovative projects that contribute to the ongoing success and sustainability of Australia's agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries. The awards are open to anyone aged 18 to 35 working or studying in the rural industries.

One recipient also receives an additional \$33,000 to expand their research project, as part of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Award. Dr Simon was the proud recipient of these extra funds this year.

Dr Simon's research addresses the big issue of seafood security. He's investigating a number of factors. "Developing a safe way to accurately assess the nutrition, digestion and reproduction condition of lobsters will be invaluable to aquaculture, and improve yield and product quality," he said.

Dr Simon will collaborate with industry leaders and researchers in Canada to learn how standard veterinarian diagnostic equipment can be used to quickly assess lobster condition and health through blood samples. The equipment will be calibrated to lobster species commercially important to Australia.

"This project will also benefit the lobster fishing industries. Live lobster holding and handling facility staff will gain knowledge about their stock's nutritional status, leading to improved methods for shipping live lobsters," he said.

Director of IMAS's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Coasts Centre Professor Colin Buxton was delighted with the announcement of Dr Simon receiving top honours at this year's awards.

“Cedric is a talented young member of our research team and really deserves this award. It is a further recognition of IMAS as a world leader in lobster research, promoting sustainable fisheries and moving a step closer to a lobster aquaculture future,” he said.

To arrange interviews with Dr Simon please contact Sam East, Communications, Outreach & Marketing Manager, IMAS, 03 6226 6683

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