



# MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

---

## Funding boost for sustainable fisheries research at UTAS

Three University of Tasmania research projects aimed at ensuring the continued sustainability of fisheries have received Australian Government funding for 2014.

More than \$700,000 has been committed to the three Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) projects by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

UTAS researchers are collaborators on a further four projects to be funded in the FRDC's Open Call round, details of which were announced today by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Richard Colbeck.

"Given that Tasmania is the largest seafood-producing state in Australia, it is appropriate that projects in which UTAS researchers are either the chief investigators or collaborating with national and international institutions make up nearly one third of the successful applications for funding," the Executive Director of IMAS, Professor Mike Coffin, said.

"Global food security depends on sustainable fisheries, and that sustainability can only be ensured through good science-based management such as that being explored by IMAS."

The three IMAS projects to be funded by the FRDC are:

- The Atlantic Salmon Subprogram: predicting marine currents, nutrients and plankton in the coastal waters of south-eastern Tasmania in response to changing weather patterns, \$339,528 (principal investigator Dr Christine

Crawford; co-investigators Associate Professor Stewart Frusher and Dr Kerrie Swadling);

- Tasmania's coastal reefs: deep reef habitats and significance for finfish production and biodiversity, \$237,199 (principal investigator Dr Jeremy Lyle; co-investigators Dr Neville Barrett, Prof Colin Buxton, Dr Nicole Hill and Dr Vanessa Lucieer);
- Understanding East Coast recruitment collapse – development of pre-recruitment monitoring, simulation of recruitment variation and predicting the impact of climate variation, \$141,764 (principal investigator Assoc Prof Caleb Gardner; co-investigators Dr Craig Mundy and David Tarbath).

Assoc Prof Gardner and Dr Lyle, along with their IMAS colleagues Dr Emily Ogier and Prof Keith Sainsbury, are also collaborating on projects led by Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), CSIRO, the USA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Spanish Institute of Marine Sciences and several Australian state-based agencies.

**Information released by:**

The Communications and Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6226 8518; 0429 336 328 (Peter Cochrane)

Email: [Peter.Cochrane@utas.edu.au](mailto:Peter.Cochrane@utas.edu.au)