



# MEDIA RELEASE

## NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR MARINE AND ANTARCTIC STUDIES

DATE: MONDAY 2 JULY 2012

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

### **IMAS at AMSA – All things marine and in-between right here in Hobart**

More than four hundred marine scientists from Australia, New Zealand and beyond are converging on Hobart, Tasmania today (**Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup>**) for the fourth joint conference of the Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) and the New Zealand Marine Sciences Society (NZMSS).

The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) will contribute 35 of the 400 marine scientists attending the conference, with its Executive Director, Professor Mike Coffin, one of the keynote speakers.

“This year the conference theme, Marine Extremes - And Everything In Between, is a creative exploration of the many extreme places in the marine environment (like polar seas or deep-sea habitats) as well as the many extreme events that affect the ocean (such as cyclones, floods, tsunamis, bleaching, hypoxia, ocean acidification, biological invasions or ecosystem shifts)” said AMSA President Professor Lynnath Beckley. “In particular, extreme events expand our knowledge and test our understanding of how resilient the environment is.”

Dr Karen Miller from IMAS, who chairs the AMSA Scientific Committee, added: ‘It’s been most pleasing to see such a robust body of work come together over the past year and the Scientific Committee has worked extremely hard to get the diverse program finalised.

“Several heavyhitters of Australian and New Zealand marine science are keynote speakers. Prof Coffin is one of them and he’ll be delivering his keynote on Wednesday (4<sup>th</sup> July) on last year’s destructive Japanese earthquake and tsunami.”

Other Invited keynote speakers for the conference include:

Dr David Griffin (CSIRO- Australia): Extreme oceanic events (Monday July 2nd)

Dr Scott Nodder (NIWA – New Zealand): Southern Ocean (Tuesday July 3rd)

Dr Dennis Gordon (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd – New Zealand): Marine biodiversity (Thursday July 5th)

“We have a unique critical mass here in Hobart for expertise in Southern Ocean and Antarctic science,” noted Prof Coffin. “IMAS is a key player within this collaborative space and this year’s shared AMSA conference with New Zealand is an ideal venue to share our vision and research.”

IMAS, as well as CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, the Australian Antarctic Division, the Antarctic Treaty System Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the Integrated Marine Observing System are all based here.

Hobart is the home port for a number of bluewater research vessels, such as the RV *Southern Surveyor*, RV *Aurora Australis*, and RV *L’Astrolabe*. Currently under construction, Australia’s new marine national facility research vessel, RV *Investigator*, will also call Hobart home.

The conference will be officially opened this morning by Dr Susan Wijffles of CSIRO, who is the international steering team co-chair of Argo, a major global ocean observing system.

The full program can be viewed on the AMSA Conference website: <http://www.amsa-nzmss2012.com.au/>

**To arrange interviews with any IMAS researchers** please contact Sam East, Communications, Outreach and Marketing Manager, IMAS on (03) 6226 6683 or 0418 299 470.

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