



# MEDIA RELEASE

## NEWS FROM THE MARINE ADAPTATION NETWORK

DATE: FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2012

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

### **Launch of the 2012 Marine Report Card**

The Adaptation Research Network for Marine Biodiversity and Resources (or Marine Adaptation Network), CSIRO and the Australian Government Fisheries Research and Development Corporation have partnered to produce the *Marine Climate Change in Australia: Impacts and Adaptation Responses 2012 Report Card*.

The 2012 Marine Report Card provides expert assessments of the effects of climate change on Australia's marine ecosystems. The report card provides confidence assessments around both the current and projected-future states of Australia's marine climate as well as climatic impacts on marine species and habitats.

The report card also outlines actions underway to enhance adaptive capacity.

This Second National Report Card is the result of contributions from more than 80 authors from 35 organisations.

Associate Professor Neil Holbrook, from the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and Convenor of the Marine Adaptation Network, has been lead author of the section on El Niño-Southern Oscillation and has also been a member of the Report Card steering committee.

"We have some options to improve adaptive capacity and marine system resilience to climate change," he said.

"Through social attitudes, economic policy, management and governance arrangements, we can reduce other stresses such as coastal nutrient waste, and adopt more flexible management practices," Assoc Prof Holbrook said.

The Marine Adaptation Network aims to help document and advance knowledge regarding the effects of climate change on Australia's marine biodiversity and resources, and to assist policy and decision-makers to develop appropriate climate change adaptation strategies. The Report Card contributes to this aim.

Professor Gustaaf Hallegraeff is another lead author from IMAS. He has led the Marine Report Card section on phytoplankton.

“The phytoplankton news is that there will be winners (photosynthesis stimulated by increased CO<sub>2</sub>, range expansions of warm-water species) and losers. But it is not all bad news.

“With some organisms, such as calcareous coccolithophorids, for which we feared impacts of ocean acidification, there are strong indications that their short generation times allow for adequate acclimation and adaptation.”

The 2012 Marine Report Card can be downloaded from [www.oceanclimatechange.org.au](http://www.oceanclimatechange.org.au).

### **Launch Details**

**Venue:** QLD Maritime Museum, Brisbane

**Date:** 9am, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012

**Speaker:** Neil Holbrook – Convenor, Marine Adaptation Network

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