

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR MARINE AND ANTARCTIC STUDIES

DATE: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

International workshop to focus on sustainable fisheries

Sustainable fisheries and their role in future food security are on the agenda at a three-day workshop at the University of Tasmania's Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS). The workshop will be attended by a group of international experts, including guest keynote Professor Ray Hilborn from the University of Washington.

Prof Hilborn is an internationally recognised and highly regarded expert on global seafood stocks. His paper published in *Nature* this week, *Fisheries: Does Catch Reflect Abundance*, is featured on the front page and discusses common mistakes in calculating global seafood stocks which have led to incorrect statements that we are running out of seafood.

The workshop will bring together scientists from Australia, Europe and North America as part of an ongoing international collaboration to address the role, source and impact of fisheries, and the place of Tasmania and Australia within that context.

Questions and issues of interest include:

- What are the environmental implications of Australian seafood imports and the environmental footprint of Australia's seafood trade imbalance?
- What role do energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon emission controls have in fisheries management?
- How will global food security be affected by rising fishing costs associated with increased price of oil?
- Where do fisheries fit within a sustainable global food supply?

The three-day meeting is being hosted at IMAS Taroona and will be led by Dr Bridget Green. It runs from Wednesday 27th February to Friday 1st March.

IMAS scientist Dr Bridget Green, said despite the topical nature of food security, seafood is often left out of any debate about our future food supply.

“Our Australian fisheries are considered to be in the top five of best-managed fisheries globally, however 70 per cent of Australians think seafood is unsustainable.”

Dr Green said fisheries are often viewed unfavourably because of perceptions of overfishing.

“In part, it comes back to our definition of sustainability. Well-managed fisheries in other countries have proven to have a smaller carbon footprint than other protein sources, such as meat. And wild fisheries such as rock lobster do not use significant freshwater and no antibiotics, fertilisers or pesticides. If we can have a low carbon footprint while maintaining healthy stocks and productive fisheries then that is sustainable.”

Prof Hilborn will also discuss this at his public seminar on Thursday 28th February at 6pm.

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