

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2008

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Developing expertise in the economics of fisheries

Increasing demand for economic input into fisheries and other marine resource management has led to a program being established by UTAS with funding from the Fisheries Research and Development Commission.

UTAS School of Economics and Finance Head Dr Sarah Jennings said that economists with the necessary skills in the area of fisheries are relatively few in number and are widely dispersed across Australia.

“As well as the lack of trained economists able to work in this field, there is also a lack of postgraduate training opportunities in marine resource economics,” she said.

“By having a program that targets these issues we will hopefully develop experts who are able to help the fishing industry meet the challenges of the future, by improving resource access and allocation arrangements and enhancing profitability.

Dr Jennings said an important initiative will be the establishment of a network of fisheries economists to highlight research activities, and to provide networking opportunities for existing and emerging fisheries economists.

Dr Jennings said the program has several elements including the establishment of a cross-institutional graduate training programme in fisheries economics, which will be run collaboratively between UTAS, the University of Adelaide, the Queensland University of Technology and CSIRO.

Both Australian and State priorities will be addressed by the program, which will also develop a fisheries economics training program for industry and government marine scientists and managers.

Advertisements will be placed soon calling for interested PhD candidates and fisheries advisory bodies will be approached for research priorities, she said.

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