



Media Statement



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DAVID LLEWELLYN
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

PROFESSOR COLIN BUXTON
Director, TAFI

Community Input For Marine Climate Change Website

An innovative new website that aims to engage the community in mapping the effect of climate change on Tasmanian waters was launched today by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn.

The Coastal Climate Change Range Extension Database and Mapping Project (REDMAP) was created by the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) with extensive support from many different community and industry groups, as well as local schools. TAFI was awarded a Tasmanian Community Fund grant to implement the project.

“REDMAP is an interactive website which lets the public report sightings of marine species which might be shifting distributions further south due to warming waters along the State’s coastline,” Mr Llewellyn said.

“It is the only venture of its kind in Australia and provides a link between the Tasmanian community and the world-class science being undertaken in Tasmania.

“It’s also an opportunity to engage the community and industry about the impacts of climate change.

“There is currently no other website in the world that will obtain the kind of detailed marine information REDMAP aims to secure with its interactive mapping database.”

The project aims to use the extensive knowledge and experience of local fishers and divers to create a network of observers to help track how Tasmanian waters are changing.

TAFI marine biologist and REDMAP designer, Dr Gretta Pecl, created the project specifically to engage and inform the community.

Director of TAFI, Professor Colin Buxton, said recent research and anecdotal evidence has indicated several dozen marine species are shifting their ranges further south along the Tasmanian coast, with some species being 'newcomers' to our waters from Victoria and New South Wales.

"Temperature monitoring over the last 50 years has shown that waters off the east coast of Tasmania are warming at over three times the global average," Professor Buxton said.

"While there may be many reasons for habitat shifts of species, it is suspected that the effects of climate change, in particular rising sea temperatures, are creating the greatest impact.

"REDMAP is unique among 'citizen science' projects, in that the data is made available to the whole community to see. The website also features some fantastic teaching materials and showcases our world-class marine science."

Mr Will Mure, of Mures Restaurant, is helping to sponsor the REDMAP project.

"Supporting the project is a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge the vast amount of knowledge held within the fishing community," Mr Mure said.

"Commercial and recreational fishers accumulate a wealth of valuable information. It's great to have a project that balances traditional scientific data with the insights and observations of the industry."

To view the REDMAP website, go to: www.redmap.org.au

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