

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



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## Welcome and introduction

We are pleased to present the 2019-2020 annual report for the CSIRO-UTAS PhD Program in Quantitative Marine Science (QMS), now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year under the renewed 5-year commitment that began 1 July 2015, and in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation overall.

The purpose of the QMS program is to enhance the quality and number of Australian PhD graduates in quantitative marine science, and to develop scientists with skills appropriate for potential employment by CSIRO and other organisations in the quantitative marine science field.

In early 2020 the program was reviewed by a CSIRO/UTAS panel. The review outcomes were positive and encouraging, and also pointed to some pathways for improvement, specifically a review of coursework that we will undertake in the coming year.

### Key Challenges, strategies, and achievements

- UTAS funding for scholarships continues at adequate levels. All UTAS academic units have targets for research higher degree enrolments. These targets are becoming difficult to meet solely from traditional sources of funding such as Research Training Program scholarships. Full or partial funding of students by the QMS program, industry, Centres of Excellence, ARC Discovery Projects and the Centre for Marine Socioecology are all looked on favourably when admission decisions are made.
- The QMS program continues to attract a higher number of international students than domestic students. This may become a challenge for the program as UTAS implements quotas on the ratio of domestic to international students.
- We continue to rejuvenate the project offerings on the QMS website to better reflect current supervision expertise and attract quality applicants.
- We are continually working to keep the course offerings relevant. We will continue to monitor the new structure and review the coursework this coming year.
- QMS conference funding continues to provide skilling and networking opportunities for our candidates, such as speaking at international symposia and conferences, enhancing the QMS brand.

It is a great pleasure to be part of the program, and we are very proud of our students.

Sincerely



Peter Strutton, Director, QMS Program

## Current steering committee membership

- Peter Strutton (IMAS, Director/Chair)
- Zanna Chase (IMAS)
- Klaas Hartmann (IMAS)
- Richard Matear (CSIRO)
- Peter Thompson (CSIRO), now retired. A new CSIRO member will be appointed.
- Simon Wotherspoon (IMAS, ex-officio)

## Statistics on enrolments, scholarships, submissions, and graduations

### Summary of student enrolments

The QMS Program was launched in 2004. Since then a total of 73 students have graduated from the Program, approximately 6 graduations per year. The enrolments per year for the current and previous 5-year contract are shown below.

| Financial Year                           | Number of Students | International | Domestic |
|--|--------------------|---------------|----------|
| 2010-2011                                | 3                  | 2             | 1        |
| 2011-2012                                | 9                  | 6             | 3        |
| 2012-2013                                | 6                  | 4             | 2        |
| 2013-2014                                | 3                  | 3             | 0        |
| 2014-2015                                | 10                 | 6             | 4        |
| 2015-2016                                | 15                 | 11            | 4        |
| 2016-2017                                | 9                  | 9             | 0        |
| 2017-2018                                | 6                  | 3             | 3        |
| 2018-2019                                | 4                  | 3             | 1        |
| 2019- 2020                               | 7                  | 7             | 0        |
| Applications Accepted<br>(not commenced) | 2                  | 2             | 0        |

### QMS full + top-up scholarships awarded 1 July 2019- 30 June 2020

Rani Ekawaty (International)  
Qianjiang Xing (International)  
Sofia Gabriel (International)  
Yu Wang (International)  
Ahmad Widyatmoko (International)  
Charley Gros (International)  
Xihan Zhang (International)

### QMS top-up scholarships awarded 1 July 2019- 30 June 2020

None

## Graduates 2019-2020

| <b>Name</b>                           | <b>Supervisors</b>   | <b>Research Project</b>  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Jessica Ericson</b>                | Patti Virtue<br>Peter Nichols                                      | Mapping the lipid content and composition of Antarctic krill across space and time: A quantitative approach to estimating krill recruitment in the present and future Southern Ocean |
| <b>Madeline Green</b>                 | Sean Tracey<br>Sharon Appleyard<br>William White                   | Population Connectivity of Sharks in the Western South Pacific   |
| <b>Vicki Hamilton</b>                 | Mark Hindell<br>Karen Evans  | Using Tooth Growth Chronologies to Investigate Responses of Marine Mammals to Variability in the Marine Environment  |
| <b>Thibaut Houitte de La Chesnais</b> | Gretta Pecl<br>Sean Tracey<br>Beth Fulton                          | The Role of Cephalopods in the Structure and Functioning of Marine Ecosystems  |
| <b>Javier Porobic</b>                 | Stewart Frusher<br>Beth Fulton                                     | An ecosystem-based management framework for the Juan Fernandez ridge fisheries   |
| <b>Samantha Twiname</b>               | Gretta Pecl<br>Chris Carter<br>Alistair Hobday<br>Quinn Fitzgibbon | Mechanistic Understanding of Climate-Driven Range Shifts: Using thermal tolerances of rock lobster to predict future change  |
| <b>Roxanna Vasile</b>                 | Klaas Hartmann<br>Sean Tracey<br>Eric Oliver<br>Alistair Hobday    | Rock Lobster Larval Dispersal Modelling  |
| <b>Alessandro Silvano</b>             | Guy Williams<br>Steve Rintoul                                      | Observations of Ocean –Ice Shelf Interaction at the Totten Glacier   |
| <b>Swan Sow</b>                       | Philip Boyd<br>Tom Trull   | Microbial Oceanography of the Southern Ocean Water Masses  |
| <b>Ana Berger</b>                     | Max Nikurashin<br>Bernadette Sloyan                                | Variability and dynamics of the Indonesian Throughflow   |
| <b>Curtis Champion</b>                | Sean Tracey<br>Alistair Hobday<br>Gretta Pecl                      | Responses to Warming Waters: Range extension in marine fishes from South-East Australia  |
| <b>Yannick Rousseau</b>               | Reg Watson<br>Julia Blanchard<br>Beth Fulton                       | Predicting the future of global seafood production   |

## Submitted theses 2019-2020

| Name                    | Supervisors   | Research Project   |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Ajitha Cyriac</b>    | Helen Phillips<br>Nathan Bindoff<br>Ming Feng                         | Eastward Flows, Ocean Mixing and Air-Sea Interaction in the Southeast Indian Ocean   |
| <b>Asher Riaz</b>       | Andreas Klocker<br>Nathan Bindoff<br>Terence O’Kane<br>Max Nikurashin | Closing the Energy Cycle in Global Ocean Models  |
| <b>Samantha Peel</b>    | Nicole Hill<br>Simon Wotherspoon<br>Scott Foster                      | Statistical Issues for Mapping Biodiversity in the Southern Ocean  |
| <b>Ram Patel</b>        | Helen Phillips<br>Andrew Lenton<br>Pete Strutton<br>Joan Llort Jordi  | The Physical and Bio-Optical Structure of Southern Ocean Eddies in Observations and Models                                       |
| <b>Saurabh Rathore</b>  | Nathan Bindoff<br>Helen Phillips<br>Ming Feng                         | The impact of recent Indian Ocean warming on the circulation, watermass distribution and air-sea interaction in the Indian Ocean |
| <b>Romain Forestier</b> | Julia Blanchard<br>Craig Johnson<br>Kirsty Nash<br>Asta Audzijonyte   | Modelling biodiversity related ecosystem processes as a Complex Adaptive System  |

## Summary of graduates

Since 2010 there has been a total of 60 students have graduated from the program.

| Year | Number of students | Year         | Number of students |
|------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 2010 | 8                  | 2019         | 8                  |
| 2011 | 5                  | 2020         | 3                  |
| 2012 | 5                  | <b>Total</b> | <b>60</b>          |
| 2013 | 9                  |              |                    |
| 2014 | 3                  |              |                    |
| 2015 | 5                  |              |                    |
| 2016 | 5                  |              |                    |
| 2017 | 6                  |              |                    |
| 2018 | 3                  |              |                    |

## Overview of current student projects

| Student              | Started    | Citizen ship | Scholarship   | Topic   | Primary Supervisor                | CSIRO Supervisor                 |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Abhishek Savita      | 5/06/2017  | Int          | IMAS          | Global and regional sea level sensitivity to changing ocean water mass properties and circulation processes     | Domingues, Catia                  | Marsland, Simon                  |
| Stephen Bradshaw     | 12/7/2017  | Dom          | IMAS          | Environmental drivers of Southern Rock Lobster productivity   | Hartmann, Klaas                   | Haddon, Malcolm                  |
| Florence Briton      | 3/12/2018  | Int          | QMS/IFREMER   | Evaluation of Harvest Control Rules for Mixed Fisheries Under Catch Quota Management                            | Gardner, Caleb                    | Little, Rich                     |
| Sandra Curin Osorio  | 20/04/2017 | Int          | BECAS         | Identifying Fish Stocks Prone to Interdecadal Productivity Shifts Across Different Worldwide Marine Ecosystems  | Frusher, Stewart                  | Geoff Tuck                       |
| Florian Devloo-Delva | 15/05/2017 | Int          | SET           | From Rivers to Ocean Basins: Quantifying Sex-specific Connectivity in Sharks                                    | Burridge, Chris                   | Feutry, Pierre                   |
| Emilio Echevarria    | 28/06/2017 | Int          | IMAS          | Global to Coastal Implications of Surface Current Modulation of the Wind-Wave Field                             | Holbrook, Neil                    | Hemer, Mark                      |
| Rani Ekawaty         | 1/8/19     | Int          | QMS           | Harvest Strategies for Tasmanian Coastal Fisheries Shared Between Recreational and Commercial Sectors           | Gardner, Caleb<br>Hartmann, Klaus | Davies, Campbell                 |
| Sofia Gabriel        | 28/10/19   | Int          | QMS           | Examining Habitat use and Behaviour of White Sharks   | Semmens, Jayson                   | Patterson, Toby                  |
| Kirianne Goossen     | 18/01/2016 | Int          | QMS           | Microbial oceanography of Australian Coastal Waters   | Bowman, John                      | Bodrossy, Lev                    |
| Charley Gros         | 4/3/20     | Int          | QMS           | Quantifying and Predicting Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) on the Antarctic Continental Shelf               | Nicole Hill                       | Dunstan, Piers<br>Welsford, Dirk |
| Freddie Heather      | 21/06/2017 | Int          | IMAS          | Development of a new class of size-structured ecological model for assessing human impacts on coastal food webs | Stuart-Smith, Rick                | Bax, Nic                         |
| Nicholas Hill        | 22/01/2018 | Dom          | Heather Brown | Harvest Strategies for Data Poor Tasmanian Coastal Fisheries  | Gardner, Caleb                    | Little, Rich                     |
| Zeya Li              | 5/11/18    | Int          | COSE          | Understanding ENSO Event Modulation of Marine Heatwaves   | Holbrook, Neil                    | Zhang, Xuebin                    |
| Stephy Libera        | 3/4/2019   | Int          | QMS           | The Ocean's role in driving Antarctic Sea Ice Trends  | Hobbs, Will                       | Matear, Richard                  |
| Jiale Lou            | 28/03/2017 | Int          | ARCCSS        | Predictability of the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation  | Holbrook, Neil                    | O'Kane, Terence                  |
| Maxime Marin         | 11/10/2017 | Int          | IMAS          | Marine heat waves in the southeast Indian Ocean   | Phillips, Helen                   | Feng, Ming                       |
| Jan Jaap Meijer      | 1/08/2017  | Int          | IMAS          | An Observational Study of the Role of Standing Meanders in Slowing the ACC and Transporting Heat to Antarctica  | Phillips, Helen                   | Rintoul, Stephen                 |
| Kieran Murphy        | 28/11/2016 | Int          | IMAS          | Life in the fast lane: understanding individual to community level processes of squid in a changing climate     | Blanchard, Julia                  | Richards, Shane                  |
| Amy Nau              | 2/06/2015  | Per Res      | TGRS          | Mapping the Middle: Analysis of the water column using acoustic and optical methodologies                       | Lucieer, Vanessa                  | Martin, Tara                     |

|                  |            |     |      |  |                                  |  |
|------------------|------------|-----|------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Nic Pittman      | 18/06/2018 | Dom | IMAS | Climate-Driven Variability in Tropical Pacific Productivity  | Strutton, Pete                   | Matear, Richard                            |
| Brett Stacy      | 17/12/18   | Int | QMS  | Optimising Data Collection and Robust Tag-Based Assessment Strategies for Exploratory Fisheries                                    | Hartmann, Klaas                  | Ziegler, Philippe<br>Burch, Paul           |
| Yu Wang          | 3/2/19     | Int | QMS  | Mesoscale Eddy Energetics and the Shelf-Open Ocean Tracer Exchange in the East Australian Current Region                           | Nikurashin, Max                  | Pena-Molino, Beatriz<br>Sloyan, Bernadette |
| Ahmad Widyatmoko | 2/3/19     | Int | QMS  | Applying New Tracking Technologies and Optimal Foraging Theory to Understand Small Scale Fisheries and Address Illegal Fishing     | Tracey, Sean                     | Wilcox, Chris<br>Hardesty, Denise          |
| Qianjiang Xing   | 16/09/19   | Int | QMS  | How the Complexity of Continental Breakup Controls Ocean Circulation   | Klocker, Andreas                 | Rintoul, Steve                             |
| Xihan Zhang      | 11/5/19    | Int | QMS  | The Role of Small Scale Ocean Dynamics for the Equilibration of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current and for its Sensitivity to Winds | Nikurashin, Max<br>Doddridge, Ed | Pena-Molino, Beatriz<br>Rintoul, Steve     |

## QMS sponsored conference travel

QMS funded \$10,000 in travel for 2019/2020. Students were awarded funds in the last round of 2019. No travel funding occurred in 2020 because of COVID 19 restrictions:

- **Maxime Marin**, AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting 2020, San Diego, \$2,500
- **Abhishek Savita**, AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting 2020, San Diego, \$2,500
- **Yannick Rousseau**, Marine Socio-Ecological Systems International Symposium (MSEAS 2020), Japan, \$2,500
- **Asher Riaz**, AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting 2020, San Diego, \$2,500

## QMS supported write-up scholarship

| Name             | Date started | Amount Awarded |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Rich Cottrell    | 14/9/2019    | \$8,000        |
| Yannick Rousseau | 2/9/2019     | \$8,000        |
| Swan Li-San Sow  | 1/7/2019     | \$8,000        |
| Ana Berger       | 6/4/2020     | \$8,000        |



## QMS supervisors

| UTAS Supervisor    | Number of current students | CSIRO Supervisors    | Number of current students | Supervisors from other institutions | Number of current students |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Audzijonyte Asta   | 1                          | Appleyard, Sharon    | 1                          | Hogg, Andrew (ANU)                  | 1                          |
| Bindoff, Nathaniel | 7                          | Bax, Nic             | 1                          | Massom, Rob (AAD)                   | 1                          |
| Blanchard, Julia   | 5                          | Bodrossy, Lev        | 1                          | Welsford, Dirk (AAD)                | 1                          |
| Bowman, John       | 1                          | Burch, Paul          | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Boyd, Phillip      | 1                          | Davies, Campbell     | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Burridge, Chris    | 1                          | Dobrohotoff, Peter   | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Carter, Chris      | 2                          | Dunstan, Piers       | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Chase, Zanna       | 1                          | Feng, Ming           | 2                          |                                     |                            |
| Coleman, Richard   | 1                          | Feutry, Pierre       | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Domingues, Catia   | 2                          | Foster, Scott        | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Edgar, Graham      | 1                          | Fulton, Beth         | 2                          |                                     |                            |
| Frusher, Stewart   | 2                          | Haddon, Malcolm      | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Gardner, Caleb     | 3                          | Hardesty, Denise     | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Hartmann, Klaas    | 4                          | Hemer, Mark          | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Hill, Nicole       | 1                          | Hobday, Alistair     | 3                          |                                     |                            |
| Hindell, Mark      | 2                          | Legresy, Benoit      | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Hobbs, Will        | 3                          | Lenton, Andrew       | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Holbrook, Neil     | 3                          | Little, Rich         | 2                          |                                     |                            |
| Johnson, Craig     | 1                          | Martin, Tara         | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Klocker, Andreas   | 2                          | Matear, Richard      | 4                          |                                     |                            |
| Llort Jordi, Joan  | 1                          | Nichols, Peter       | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Lucieer, Vanessa   | 1                          | O'Kane, Terence      | 2                          |                                     |                            |
| Meyer, Amelie      | 1                          | Patterson, Toby      | 1                          |                                     |                            |
| Michael, Kelvin    | 2                          | Pena-Molina, Beatriz | 2                          |                                     |                            |
| Moore, Brad        | 3                          | Richards, Shane      | 1                          |                                     |                            |

|                    |   |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Moreno, David      | 1 | Rintoul, Stephen   | 4 |
| Nash, Kirsty       | 1 | Sloyan, Bernadette | 3 |
| Nikurashin, Max    | 5 | Trull, Thomas      | 1 |
| Oliver, Eric       | 1 | Tuck, Geoff        | 1 |
| Pecl, Gretta       | 3 | Wilcox, Chris      | 1 |
| Phillips, Helen    | 6 | Zhang, Xeubin      | 1 |
| Phipps, Steven     | 1 | Ziegler, Philippe  | 1 |
| Semmens, Jayson    | 3 |                    |   |
| Strutton, Peter    | 3 |                    |   |
| Stuart-Smith, Rick | 1 |                    |   |
| Swadling, Kerrie   | 1 |                    |   |
| Tracey, Sean       | 4 |                    |   |
| Virtue, Patti      | 1 |                    |   |
| Watson, Reg        | 2 |                    |   |
| Whittaker, Jo      | 1 |                    |   |
| Wotherspoon, Simon | 3 |                    |   |

## Summary of QMS teaching (unit breakdown)

| Unit   | Teaching Staff UTAS   | Other Teaching Staff                              |
|--|---|---|
| QMS511<br>Physical Oceanography                          | Maxim Nikurashin<br>Jo Whittaker  | Bernadette Sloyan                                 |
| QMS512<br>Marine Biogeochemistry                         | Zanna Chase<br>Pete Strutton<br>Delphine Lannuzel<br>Hakase Hayashida<br>Bernadette Proemse                     | Eric Mortensen<br>Monika Wozniak<br>Kristen Karsh |
| QMS517<br>Data Analysis Methods                          | Simon Wotherspoon   |   |
| QMS510<br>Introduction to Quantitative<br>Marine Science | Simon Wotherspoon   |   |
| QMS513<br>Fisheries Science                              | Caleb Gardener<br>Klaas Hartmann<br>Craig Munday<br>Sean Tracey<br>Emily Ogier<br>Jayson Semmens<br>Rafael Leon |   |

## QMS student publications – 2019-2020

QMS student authors are indicated in bold. Publications have been included until one year after graduation to allow for delays in the publication process.

- Alexander, K. A., A. J. Hobday, C. Cvitanovic, E. Ogier, K. L. Nash, **R. S. Cottrell**, A. Fleming, et al. 2019. “Progress in Integrating Natural and Social Science in Marine Ecosystem-Based Management Research.” *Marine and Freshwater Research* 70 (1): 71–83. <https://doi.org/10.1071/MF17248>.
- Audzijonyte, Asta, Heidi Pethybridge, **Javier Porobic**, Rebecca Gorton, Isaac Kaplan, and Elizabeth A. Fulton. 2019. “Atlantis: A Spatially Explicit End-to-End Marine Ecosystem Model with Dynamically Integrated Physics, Ecology and Socio-Economic Modules.” *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 10 (10): 1814–19. <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13272>.
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- Briton, Florence**, Lynne Shannon, Nicolas Barrier, Philippe Verley, and Yunne-Jai Shin. 2019. “Reference Levels of Ecosystem Indicators at Multispecies Maximum Sustainable Yield.” *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 76 (7): 2070–81. <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsz104>.
- Buchanan, Pearse J.**, Richard J. Matear, Zanna Chase, Steven J. Phipps, and Nathan L. Bindoff. 2019. “Ocean Carbon and Nitrogen Isotopes in CSIRO Mk3L-COAL Version 1.0: A Tool for Palaeoceanographic Research.” *Geoscientific Model Development* 12 (4): 1491–1523. <https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-12-1491-2019>.
- Clavel-Henry, Morane, Jordi Solé, Miguel-Ángel Ahumada-Sempoal, Nixon Bahamon, **Florence Briton**, Guiomar Rotllant, and Joan B. Company. 2019. “Influence of the Summer Deep-Sea Circulations on Passive Drifts among the Submarine Canyons in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea.” *Ocean Science* 15 (6): 1745–59. <https://doi.org/10.5194/os-15-1745-2019>.
- Cottrell, Richard S.**, Kirsty L. Nash, Benjamin S. Halpern, Tomas A. Remenyi, Stuart P. Corney, Aysha Fleming, Elizabeth A. Fulton, et al. 2019. “Food Production Shocks across Land and Sea.” *Nature Sustainability*, January, 1. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-018-0210-1>.

- Devloo-Delva, Floriaan**, Roger Huerlimann, Gladys Chua, Jordan K. Matley, Michelle R. Heupel, Colin A. Simpfendorfer, and Gregory E. Maes. 2019a. “How Does Marker Choice Affect Your Diet Analysis: Comparing Genetic Markers and Digestion Levels for Diet Metabarcoding of Tropical-Reef Piscivores.” *Marine and Freshwater Research* 70 (1): 8–18. <https://doi.org/10.1071/MF17209>.
- . 2019b. “How Does Marker Choice Affect Your Diet Analysis: Comparing Genetic Markers and Digestion Levels for Diet Metabarcoding of Tropical-Reef Piscivores.” *Marine and Freshwater Research* 70 (1): 8–18. <https://doi.org/10.1071/MF17209>.
- Echevarria, E. R.**, M. A. Hemer, and N. J. Holbrook. 2019. “Seasonal Variability of the Global Spectral Wind Wave Climate.” *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans* 124 (4): 2924–39. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2018JC014620>.
- Ekawaty, R.**, J. Lynham, and P. Mous. 2020. “Can Demand-Side Management Replicate a Size Limit in a Small-Scale Fishery?” *Fisheries Research* 223. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2019.105436>.
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- Ericson, Jessica A.**, Nicole Hellessey, Peter D. Nichols, Stephen Nicol, So Kawaguchi, Nils Hoem, and Patti Virtue. 2019. “New Insights into the Seasonal Diet of Antarctic Krill Using Triacylglycerol and Phospholipid Fatty Acids, and Sterol Composition.” *Polar Biology* 42 (11): 1985–96. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00300-019-02573-6>.
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- Green, M. E.**, S. A. Appleyard, W. White, S. Tracey, **F. Devloo-Delva**, and J. R. Ovenden. 2019. “Novel Multimarker Comparisons Address the Genetic Population Structure of Silvertip Sharks (*Carcharhinus Albimarginatus*).” *Marine and Freshwater Research* 70 (7): 1007–19. <https://doi.org/10.1071/MF18296>.
- Healy, Teleah Joy, **Nicholas James Hill**, Adam Barnett, and Andrew Chin. 2020. “A Global Review of Elasmobranch Tourism Activities, Management and Risk.” *Marine Policy* 118 (August): 103964. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.103964>.
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- Murphy, K. J.**, D. Sephton, K. Klein, C. D. Bishop, and R. C. Wyeth. 2019. “Abiotic Conditions Are Not Sufficient to Predict Spatial and Interannual Variation in Abundance of *Ciona Intestinalis* in Nova Scotia, Canada.” *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 628 (October): 105–23. <https://doi.org/10.3354/meps13076>.

- Ni, Ping, **Kieran J. Murphy**, Russell C. Wyeth, Cory D. Bishop, Shiguo Li, and Aibin Zhan. 2019. “Significant Population Methylation Divergence and Local Environmental Influence in an Invasive Ascidian *Ciona intestinalis* at Fine Geographical Scales.” *Marine Biology* 166 (11): 143. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-019-3592-3>.
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## QMS review and links to national strategy

As mentioned in the introduction, the QMS program was reviewed in 2020. The major findings of that review were:

- The QMS program offers an existing engagement structure for staff and students, pre-opened doors, between CSIRO and UTAS and progresses the objectives of both organisations in the training and co-supervision of PhD students.
- It represents efficiency, as an established and overarching program, in facilitating the co-supervision and training intentions of both organisations.
- It carries a reputational standard for students that both attracts quality candidates and enhances the employability of graduates.
- It brings together UTAS and CSIRO staff around the supervision and training of students which creates and develops connections that facilitate collaboration.
- The coursework in the program is recognised as a distinct competitive advantage, however this view is not held consistently by all staff and students involved.
- The program has developed in parallel to the rise of IMAS/UTAS in the marine science area, as reflected in University Ranking and Performance assessments, and contributed to the world class ranking of CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere in its external reviews.

The recommendations were:

- For continued success, QMS supervisory teams are encouraged to be consciously selected across the scientific career range (early, mid and senior science levels). This will support succession planning, increase involvement of staff and career advancement opportunities of early and mid-career scientists and student mentor diversity. (TOR 3)
- Continue to support distinct CSIRO contribution to the QMS & Centre for Marine Socioecology (CMS) programs. At the end of the next 5-year period, if the QMS program and CMS programs are to be continued, CSIRO and UTAS to consider if synergy between them has grown such that new arrangements might be suitable. (TOR 4)
- (1) UTAS and CSIRO should reiterate the value of coursework to supervisors, incoming and existing students (TOR 5) (2) A review of QMS course structure and content should be undertaken within the next twelve months, led by the QMS director. (TOR 5)
- CSIRO and UTAS explore options to stimulate domestic demand towards the UTAS future direction of less than 30% international students, by for example establishing a register of all enquiries towards creating a pool of potential applicants. (TOR 6)
- The success of graduates be captured to allow post-PhD stories to be used in promotion of the program and refreshed on the QMS website to attract domestic recruits. (TOR 7)
- (1) Seek to ensure that competitive scholarships and top-ups are attractive to students in the current market. (TOR 8) (2) CSIRO is introducing a new minimum \$10K policy for top-up scholarships. CSIRO will need to comply with the new CSIRO top-up policy for any QMS student who does receive a QMS top-up, as they will be considered as being co-funded, and the policy will apply. (TOR 8)
- Mostly maintain the status quo going forward. There are opportunities for additional CSIRO staff engagement in teaching, which may be motivated with formal organisational recognition of the benefits and workloads. (TOR 9)

The QMS program considers the review outcomes extremely helpful and constructive and will be working to implement the recommendations this coming year. We would like to thank the review panel members for their hard work during a challenging time: Alistair Hobday, Bernadette Sloyan and Nigel Foster (CSIRO) and Simon Wotherspoon, Neil Holbrook and Anya Reading (UTAS).

The full QMS review report is available from Christine Fury or Pete Strutton on request.

In 2019, the QMS program was highlighted as a national success story in quantitative marine science education by the National Marine Science Committee, in their report into training for the blue economy. The NMSC web site hosts the [summary](#) and [full reports](#).