



UNIVERSITY of
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IMAS
INSTITUTE FOR MARINE & ANTARCTIC STUDIES

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Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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IMAS sharing Open Data with the world

Data collected by IMAS during the course of its world-class marine and Antarctic research is now being shared with scientists and communities across the globe with the launch of the IMAS Data Portal.

Executive Director Professor Richard Coleman said IMAS was committed to the principle of Open Data – sharing its data freely and openly so scientists and researchers locally, nationally and internationally can collaborate and benefit from each other’s research.

“IMAS makes a significant contribution to the global research effort in areas such as climate change, fisheries management, and the Antarctic and Southern Ocean,” Professor Coleman said

“Addressing major scientific challenges such as these requires multidisciplinary national and international collaboration.

“Sharing our data with other researchers and organisations around the world means they can build upon and benefit from what we learn, just as we use their data and insights.”

The data now available through the IMAS Data Portal at www.imas.utas.edu.au/data ranges from measurements of Australian sea surface temperatures to the tracking of the migratory flight paths of Short-tailed Shearwaters in the Southern Ocean.

Prof Coleman said researchers can now access data about the physics, biology and chemistry of the ocean collected from vessels, satellites, data loggers, tags and surveys conducted by scientists and volunteers around the world.

“As would be expected given our location in Tasmania, IMAS is particularly strong in Southern Ocean and Antarctic research.

“But through initiatives such as Reef Life Survey and *TemperateReefBase* we are also collecting and sharing global data about life on rocky and coral reefs, along with data on temperate reef environments.”

The development of the IMAS Data Portal project was funded and supported by the Australian National Data Service (ANDS), leveraging massive investment in the Australian Ocean Data Network through the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS).

ANDS estimates the value of data supporting public research in Australia to be at least \$1.9 billion and possibly as much as \$6 billion per annum.

ANDS and IMOS are supported by the Australian Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy Program.

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