
Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Shark and fish biology experts to descend on Hobart

Over the next week Hobart will play host to 260 of Australia's leading shark and fish biology experts.

Sponsored by IMAS, the joint event at Wrest Point will bring together delegates from the Australian Society for Fish Biology and members of the Oceania Chondrichthyan Society (who specialise in sharks and rays), beginning on Sunday and concluding on Wednesday.

It's the third major conference to be sponsored by IMAS in 2016, bringing a total of more than 850 delegates to Tasmania for high profile science events.

IMAS researcher Dr Sean Tracey, who is co-chairing the conference and was recently appointed an Ambassador for Business Events Tasmania, said Hobart was an obvious choice for such events.

"Tasmania is home to many world leaders in fisheries and aquaculture research as well as Southern Ocean and Antarctic science, and we are also a very hospitable state - the national and international delegates love coming to Tasmania," Dr Tracey said.

"The 850 delegates Tasmania's hosted will deliver significant economic benefits while raising the profile of the local scientific community and ensuring we remain at the forefront of research in key research disciplines."

One of the main themes of the upcoming conference will be intersections and collaborations between scientists and stakeholders from different disciplines and sectors, and stronger engagement with the wider community due to the growth of citizen science projects and more effective science communication.

The conference will also highlight the contribution of female scientists and discuss strategies to overcome gender bias in fish and fisheries research.

"Gender bias in the field of science is a global issue and it is great to see Australian research societies come together and discuss how opportunities for greater equity can be achieved," Dr Tracey said.

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