

Tuesday 25 September 2018

Warming ocean temperatures over the next 40 years are predicted to create novel combinations of marine life on deep ocean reefs that are unlike deep reef communities today.

In research [published in the journal Nature Climate Change](#), a team of IMAS scientists studied how habitat-forming species on deep reefs across eastern Australia may respond to rising water temperatures driven by climate change.

Their modelling predicted that many species of deep sea sponges and corals will contract their distribution to cooler southerly waters as their habitats experience warming in coming decades, and that different groups of organisms will respond to warming in different ways.

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As climate change progresses, organisms will change their distributions, but the study showed that different groups are likely to move in different ways and so we will e