## Media Release

## Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Major international conference in Hobart to hear dimate change driving species redistribution

International researchers will present the latest assessment of how dimate change is driving a week for a major international conference supported by the University of Tasmania.

The Species on the Move conference is being held for the first time to evaluate changes in the distribution of plants and animals in recognised global hotspots -east and south west waters.

The Conference Co-coordinator, Associate Professor Gretta Ped Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), said between 25% and 85% of marine and terrestrial species in any given area have been recorded as having moved to new environments, with dimate change considered to be the primary factor in the redistribution.

Scientists around the world are tracking animals, birds, fish and mammals to identify how and where species are already moving with dimate change, Assoc Prof Ped said.

The conference will hear about the impacts of changes in our environment and, in the face of those changes, how we can sustainably manage natural resources such as commercial fish populations.

exact mechanisms that underpin changes in species distribution and abundance are poorly understood, the overwhelming nature of the changes - from poles to the equator and ocean depths to mountains tops offers a rare opportunity to advance scientific theories of biogeography, evolutio

The conference has four main themes: detection, impacts, prediction and adaptation (<a href="http://www.speciesonthemove.com/themes">http://www.speciesonthemove.com/themes</a>).

Over 250 scientists are registered to attend the conference, to be held from February 9-12 and hosted by the University of Tasmania. Co-convenors are Assoc Prof Ped and Prof Stephen Williams from James Cook University.

More information: <a href="http://www.speciesonthemove.com/">http://www.speciesonthemove.com/</a>

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