
Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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New study predicts worldwide change in shallow reef ecosystems as waters warm

A new study based on the first global survey of marine life by scuba divers has provided fresh insights into how climate change is

“Broad changes will likely spread across the ecosystem, affecting human activities such as fishing.”

Professor Edgar said ongoing monitoring of marine life at both local and regional levels was needed to allow the early detection of such changes.

This would allow adaptive fisheries and conservation management, and help to minimise the social and economic impacts.

“Species monitoring of shallow reef communities at national scales is only possible with the support of citizen scientists, such as the RLS divers who contributed data to our study.

“The RLS data set now includes information on 4000 species in 50 countries, allowing a better understanding of how and why species are distributed, while also providing an early-warning mechanism for climate-induced changes,” Professor Edgar said.

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