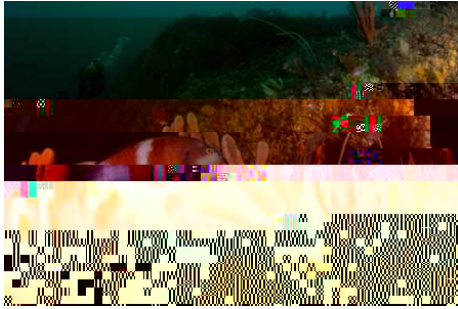


“What I found most striking about this work”, comments lead author Dr Amanda Bates, “is that marine reserves have an important role to play in understanding ecological change in the absence of fishing – the knowledge that we have gained was only possible because the long-term data on fish species were available from a marine reserve and could be usefully compared against nearby sites that were open to fishing.”

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Rocky reef community in southeast Tasmania. Large-bodied species such as the blue-throated wrasse were observed in greater numbers in a marine reserve following protection from fishing, leading to greater community stability and resilience. Image Credit: Dr Rick Stuart-Smith.