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[redacted] research funding

World-[redacted] aquaculture research is giving Australia a front-running at the cutting edge of aquaculture – and business is beating a path to the University of Tasmania's Taroona marine laboratories.

Operated by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), the Taroona facility is the home of an internationally-recognised and funded study to mass produce lobster seed stock. This study has emerged from more than 15 years of research.

IMAS researchers have closed the life cycle of three species of rock lobster, successfully breeding from seed stock to grow

The process has attracted a new $5 million funding agreement from the Australian Research Council to

iate Professor Stephen Battaglene.

"This presents outstanding commercial opportunities for Australian companies in an international multi-
Professor Peter Rathjen, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Tasmania

“Research undertaken at the University has focused on using both temperate and tropical lobster species and has delivered reliable platforms for advanced water treatment and management systems, lobster reproduction, larval rearing and formulated feeds,” Mr Herzig said.

[illegible] ISA Facility provides the research, research and development and commercialisation.

“This research is attracting global business opportunities, as well as prospects for new aquaculture industries in Australia beyond rock lobsters and into applications for culture systems, [illegible] essor Rathjen said.

Project research partners are IMAS, Pardon, ISA, Plastic Fabrications, The University of Auckland, NZ and the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The $5 million ARC Hub investment will provide six PhD positions at the University of Tasmania, which Professor Rathjen said [illegible] Australia. Another 20 researchers and support staff [illegible] engaged in the project.

IMAS Director, Prof Mike Coffin, said wild rock lobster fisheries have been declining worldwide due to [illegible]

“World demand for seafood is growing rapidly and aquaculture is the only sustainable way to increase the production of [illegible].

“In Australia, aquaculture is expanding faster than any other primary production sector and farmed seafood has established itself as integral to the domestic Australian market for seafood,” Prof Coffin said.

iate Professor Battaglene said the rock lobster research program had begun in 1998 with the local southern rock lobster. In that time, researchers had selected broodstock, mastered reproduction control, developed larval-rearing technology and nutrition. The system was then applied to the faster-growing tropical varieties.

“The next research challenge for the Taroona team will be how to scale up from the ‘laboratory’ to commercial production and to reach the position where re-
practica

iate Professor Battaglene said the progress made in the project has only been possible with the long-standing support of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and previous grants [illegible] Australian Research.

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