

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Global study by Tasmanian researchers shows what is needed to make marine parks effective

University of Tasmania (UTAS) researchers have announced the results of the largest study so far undertaken of the effectiveness of marine parks designed for nature conservation.

In collaboration with overseas investigators and skilled recreational divers, UTAS biologists counted numbers and sizes of more than 2000 fish species along underwater transect lines set at 1986 sites in 40 countries. They then used this information to measure how fish communities in 87 marine protected areas (MPAs) worldwide differed from those in nearby fished areas. Their findings were published today in the prestigious journal *Nature*.

Lead author Professor Graham Edgar of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) at UTAS, highlighted the importance of establishing more effective MPAs.

“We found little difference between fishes living in most MPAs and those in nearby

