
Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Latest progress report on research into Macquarie Harbour environmental conditions

IMAS researchers today released the [results of the latest survey](#) of environmental conditions in Macquarie Harbour, carried out as part of [a research project](#) studying oxygen dynamics and conditions on the bottom of the harbour.

IMAS Research Fellow Dr Jeff Ross said regular updates are being provided on the project, which is designed to inform the long-term sustainable management of the harbour.

"Our January survey highlighted an improvement in bottom water oxygen conditions but little change in faunal communities in the sediments since the deterioration in spring 2016," Dr Ross said.

"Our midyear survey has now documented some encouraging signs of faunal recovery."

Dr Ross said the spread of the bacterial mat around leases had retracted and oxygen conditions through the middle of the year have improved.

"However, signs of faunal recovery are still limited, and we need to continue to monitor the situation closely."

"The model suggest that oxygen replenishment of the bottom waters is more likely to occur when river flows are low," Dr Wild-Allen said

The CSIRO model has also been used to understand the 'age' of different parts of the water column.

Dr Wild-Allen said it was clear that the water in the middle of the water column is resident in the system for the longest period of time and that this helps explain why this region is where the lowest levels of oxygen are often seen.

The project is funded by the Australian Government's Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), the Tasmanian Government, and aquaculture companies, and is due for completion in early 2018.

The latest report, together with those