

# Kelp – Help is on the way

Dr Cayne Layton (IMAS & CMS, UTAS)



## Kelp forests:

- Multiple kelp species in TAS (~10 dominant)
- Foundation of our rocky reefs and the Great Southern Reef (GSR)
- Home to a diverse and unique community of flora and fauna
- Under threat in TAS, across the GSR, and globally (multiple threats)



*Matt Doggett*



*Great Southern Reef Foundation*



*Emiliano Cimoli*

[Cayne.Layton@utas.edu.au](mailto:Cayne.Layton@utas.edu.au)



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## Kelp forests & Marine Heatwaves (MHW)

- MHWs different than background ocean warming
- MHWs have caused kelp losses in AUS, USA, EU, etc
  - In WA, ~100 km permanent retraction of kelp & GSR in 2010/11
- TAS 2015/16 (one of the biggest & longest MHW ever recorded!)
  - losses of bull kelp & giant kelp
  - losses of abalone (the whole forest is at threat, not just the kelps)



*Prof Thomas Wernberg, UWA*



*Matt Doggett*



*Itaru Takaku*

[Cayne.Layton@utas.edu.au](mailto:Cayne.Layton@utas.edu.au)



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## What are we doing?

- Monitoring (pre- & post)
- Biology/physiology
- Genetics & seed-banking
- Habitat restoration
- Urchins (ecology & fisheries)



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Scott Bennett

Matt Doggett

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## What can you do?

- Keep your eyes open (observations!)
  - Email, iNaturalist, Atlas of Living Australia & photos (1 x closeup, 1 x far away)
  - KelpTracker 2.0 (online)
- Keep your mouths open (talk!)
  - talk with friends & family
  - advocate for kelp forests and the GSR (which are chronically underfunded)



"Graham"

Will Marshall-Gray

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