Marine Heatwave Response Plan

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Wild Fisheries Management Branch | Marine Resources

CMS-IMAS Webinar - The Long Hot Summer

Thursday, 14 December 2023

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Tasmanian Government

The draft Plan

We are currently in the process of drafting the Plan. The Plan is a living document to allow a flexible approach to evolving and emerging challenges.

The structure of the Plan is comprised of five main components.

1. **Early warning system**

Attending climate briefings from CSIRO/BOM (next is scheduled for Feb 2024). Documenting existing monitoring, working with IMAS on the best way to report changes to intensity, location, and duration of the current MHW on a regular basis.

2. **Risk Assessment**

Initial risk assessment to identify vulnerable species, industries and coastal communities. A more comprehensive risk assessment to be conducted for version 2.

3. **Emergency response**

Development of an incidence response framework is for version 2.

4. **Management response**

Includes species or taxa group, potential impact, response, response leader and impacted stakeholders. This will evolve over time.

5. **Communication strategy**

Dedicated MHW webpage, plain English info flyers - with guidance on how to report observations, NEW online response form to log non-urgent observations of possible MHW impact currently being tested, Fishcare volunteers sharing information at boat ramps etc. over summer.

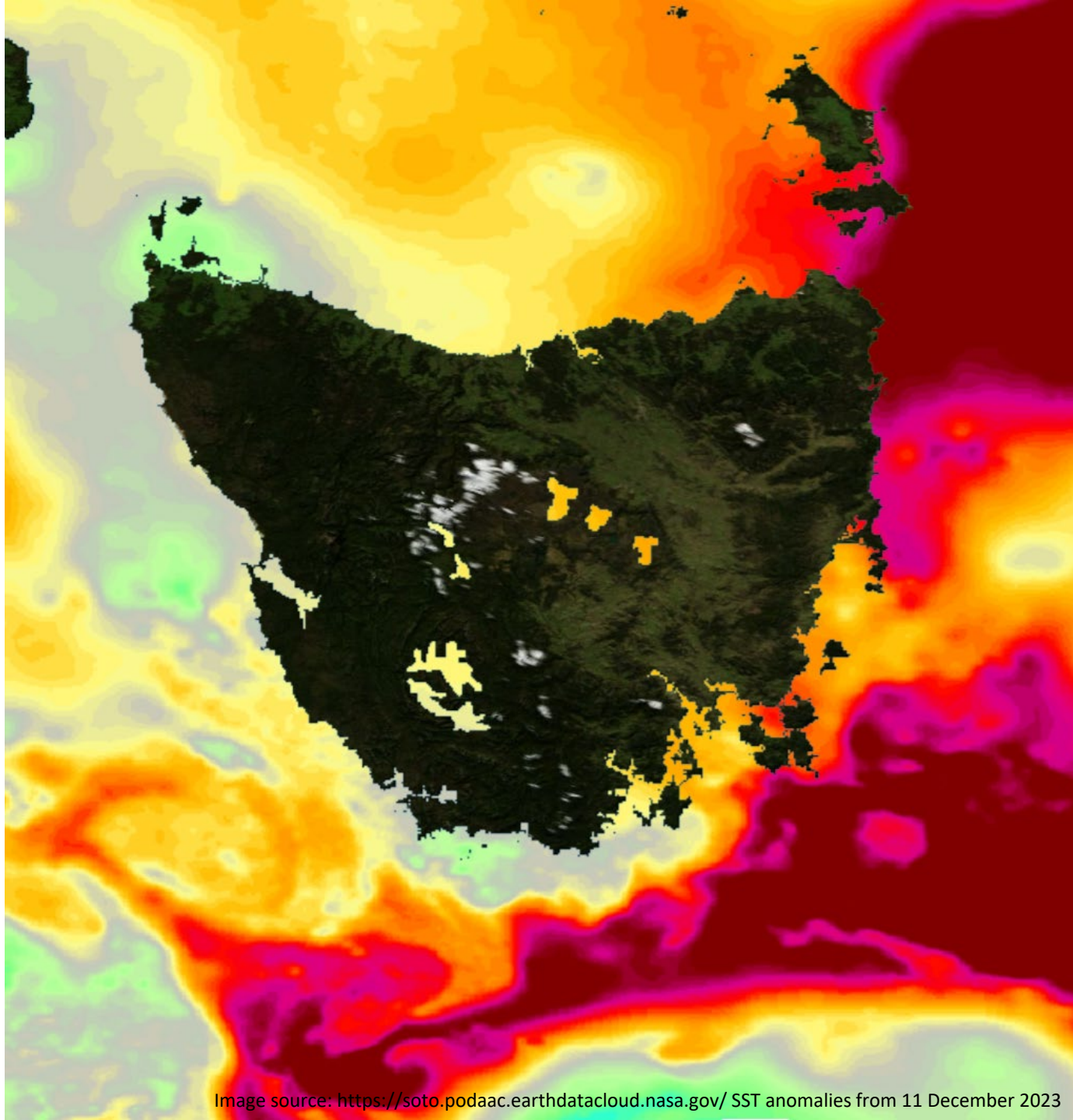

Image source: https://soto.podaac.earthdatacloud.nasa.gov/ SST anomalies from 11 December 2023

Next steps

- Update MHW webpage with new information (MHW category and status) when available
- Encourage reporting of potential impact observations
  - Emergency - to relevant hotline
  - Non-urgent - to relevant email address or online form
- Promote info on social media
- Aim to release final **initial** response plan by early 2024, subject to Secretary approval.

- **After MHW event**
  - Aim to review the impact of MHW.
  - Complete prioritisation of species after assessing impacts of MHW.
  - Review existing monitoring programs and determine if more monitoring is required.
  - Finalise incident response framework.
  - Review and adapt the response plan as necessary.