

# Marine Heatwave Response Plan

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CMS-IMAS Webinar - The Long Hot Summer

Thursday, 14 December 2023

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania



# 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

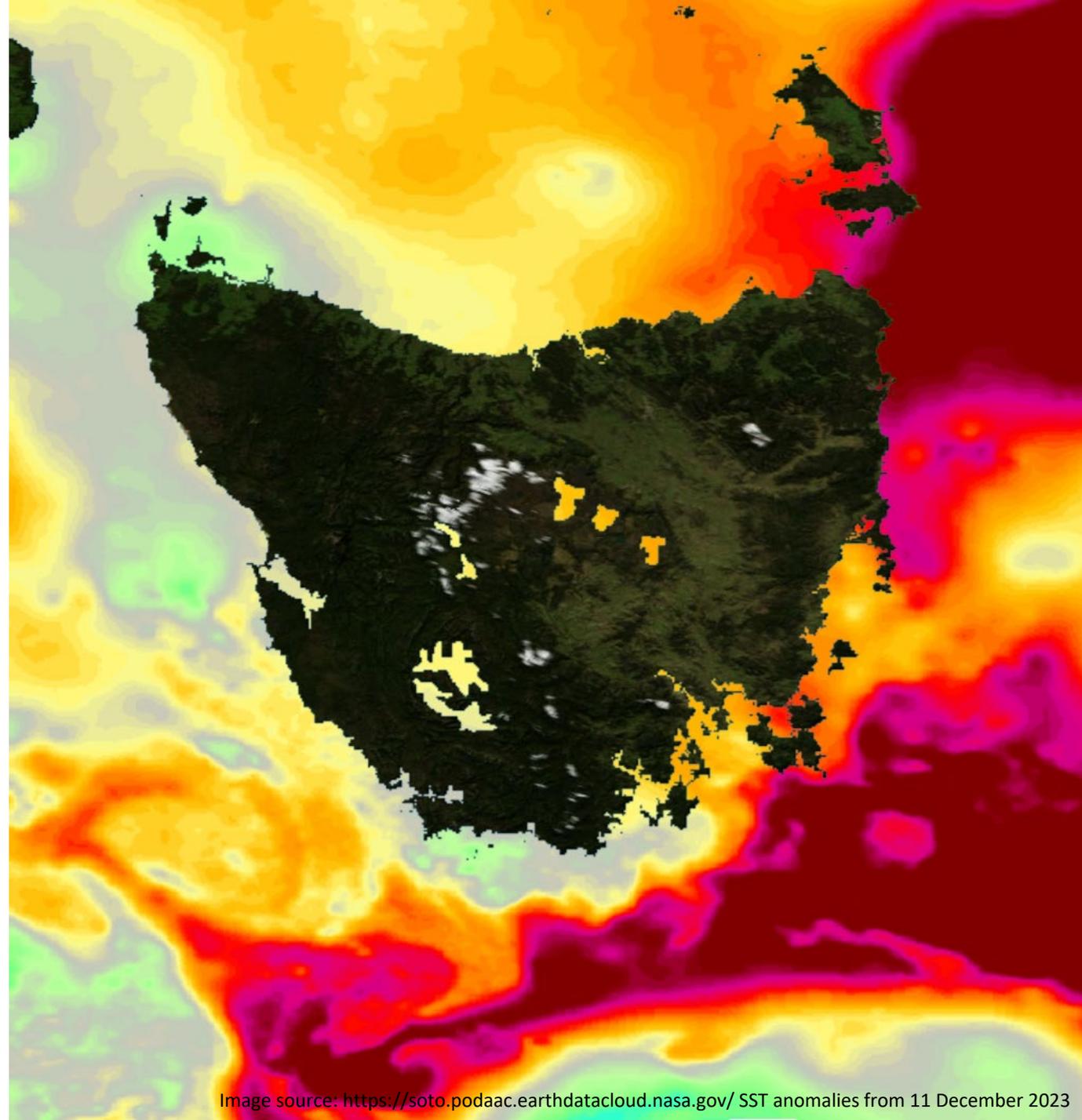
Development of an incidence response framework is for version 2.

## 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.



# 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.

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## Marine Heatwaves

Like heatwaves on land, marine heatwaves (persistent or continual above average ocean temperatures) can harm plants, animals and the environment.

The east coast of Tasmania is currently experiencing marine heatwave conditions, but there are actions the community, industry and NRE Tas can take to reduce the impact of the event.

### Actions you can take

During marine heatwaves you should:

- **Be cautious when eating or using wild caught seafood** - [Harmful algal blooms \(including paralytic shellfish toxins\) and diseases](#) are more common during marine heatwaves, which can increase your risk getting sick from eating wild caught seafood. Visit the [Department of Health's website](#) for advice and current public health alerts.
- **Be vigilant about biosecurity** - [Diseases](#), like abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG) and *vibrio*, are more common during marine heatwave events. To help prevent the spread of disease:
  - Make sure to wash down boats, fishing and dive gear when moving between areas.
  - If you catch your own bait, source it from the same area where you fish.
- **Report signs of marine heatwaves** - By reporting signs of marine heatwaves, you can help NRE Tas respond to and reduce the impact of marine heatwaves on the environment, industry and the community. See below for more detail.

### Signs of a marine heatwave

During a marine heatwave, you may see: