

STRATEGIC VISION 2024-27



CENTRE FOR MARINE SOCIOECOLOGY

**We acknowledge and pay respect to the
traditional owners and custodians of Sea Country
all around Australia, in particular *lutruwita*/
Tasmania, and recognise their collective wisdom
and knowledge of our oceans and coasts.**

CONTENTS

The background of the page is a photograph of three divers in the ocean. One diver is in the foreground, holding a yellow fin. Another diver is to the right, and a third is further back. The water is blue with some seaweed floating on the surface. In the distance, there are mountains under a clear sky.

- 5 Overview
- 6 CMS Pathways to Impact
- 7 CMS Core Areas of Work
- 8 Ways of Working
- 9 CMS People



OVERVIEW

The Centre for Marine Socioecology (CMS) was established as a collaboration between UTAS, CSIRO and the AAD to address research questions and stakeholder needs regarding current and future uses of the ocean and coasts using a coordinated interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach.

Since conception, CMS has also sought to fill the need to grow a pool of talented and capable inter/transdisciplinary researchers, by providing training and support for the emerging generation of researchers and practitioners. CMS brings together a diversity of disciplinary expertise from across UTAS and CSIRO, and from many other research and institutional collaborators, through active collaboration that works to directly address the theoretical and applied aspects of marine socioecological systems research.

CMS aims to be a world-leading inter/transdisciplinary research centre, by developing and (co-) delivering work and research that supports informed and sustainable management stewardship of ocean and coastal systems. Progress towards this aim continues to be achieved. The centre has expanded significantly from its beginnings. CMS commenced at the end of 2014 with 3 research fellows and 4 PhD students. As of 2024, CMS currently engages 41 PhD students and has expanded to connect over 130 members from diverse disciplines and organisations.

CMS is globally recognised for its innovative approaches to marine inter/transdisciplinary research, as well as its applied research focus and outputs developed in collaboration with diverse stakeholder groups and across knowledge systems. In Tasmania, CMS is increasingly recognised as a connector of leading Tasmanian ocean (science) organisations.

We foster and facilitate collaborative research activities to address critical inter/transdisciplinary challenges and issues in the marine space. As of 2023, CMS has a field-weighted citation impact score of 2.59 (compared to a global average score of 1), meaning that our collective work is consistently cited 2-3 times more than other research in similar areas.

VISION A WORLD-LEADING CENTRE TO SUPPORT INFORMED AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MULTIPLE-USES IN MARINE AND COASTAL SYSTEMS

MISSION TO PROVIDE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING THAT UNDERPINS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE DOMAIN FOR ALL USERS AND BUILDS THE NECESSARY CAPACITY TO PROVIDE SKILLS AND SOLUTIONS FOR INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY





CMS PATHWAYS TO IMPACT

(OUR STRATEGIC AIMS)

1 CMS is a world leader in interdisciplinary marine research

2 The CMS brand is internationally recognised and highly regarded

3 We build and maintain active and meaningful stakeholder connections at the CMS level across science, policy and industry

4 We secure appropriate and sustained funding for the CMS that offers longevity

5 CMS is a world leader in delivering training in interdisciplinarity in marine socioecology

6 Within CMS, our culture is one of trust, integrity, cohesion, support, and diversity

7 CMS is a leader in effective science communication and engagement.

View our Pathways to Impact Plan

https://marinesocioecology.org/wp-content/uploads/UTAS_CMS_Pathways-to-Impact-Plan_Web.pdf

CMS CORE AREAS OF WORK

RESEARCH

Shaping the field of interdisciplinary marine research

We seek to develop and (co-) deliver world-leading research that supports informed and sustainable management of ocean and coastal systems. Our niche is in the diverse and highly applied inter/transdisciplinary research that we conduct collaboratively across our centre and within our local and broader (including international) communities. CMS research and researchers publish across diverse relevant fields including climate change, integrated ocean management, understanding stakeholder conflict and ocean literacy, to name a few.

RESEARCH SYNTHESIS

Expanding the potential and impact of marine research

CMS was founded to address inter/transdisciplinary research questions and needs that cannot be tackled using single-disciplinary approaches. Our strength is in our capacity to draw together academic disciplines and also interested groups who would normally rarely interact, and to provide space for shared learning from multiple knowledge sources. This shared space enables research synthesis and stocktakes that can lead to advances far beyond what is possible from narrowly focused single-discipline research projects that do not consider diverse stakeholder knowledges and needs: e.g. FutureSeas 2030, SeaChange.

RESEARCH TRAINING

Supporting the next generation of inter/transdisciplinary research leaders

A key part of our mission is to be a global leader in inter/transdisciplinary training. We provide regular training and development opportunities for our members and students, as part of this aim to develop leading interdisciplinary research and researchers. In particular, we focus on building capacity amongst our students and ECRs, by equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to be and become effective future ocean research leaders: e.g. Future Ocean Research Leaders program, CMS Interdisciplinary Spring School.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION AND EXTENSION

Connecting our research to the world

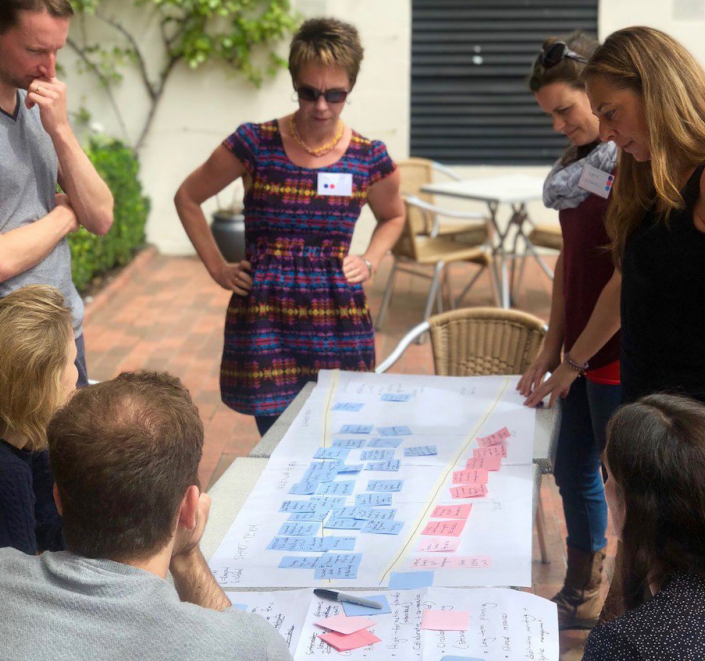
CMS is a connector of marine (research) organisations. As a centre at the intersection between research and society, we seek to connect people from outside of science and research with ocean research and knowledge (e.g. contributing to ocean literacy), and with relevant stakeholders and networks too (e.g. connecting diverse groups through our annual showcase events). This is a dynamic and fast-evolving space: we also practice reflexivity through our efforts to develop best practice approaches for engaging broader society on ocean and climate research – and conduct innovative research evaluations on engagement and communication practices; e.g. Curious Climate Tasmania and Schools programs, citizen science initiatives, and educational or experiential games.





WAYS OF WORKING

We bring together an extraordinary diversity of disciplinary expertise and consider multiple knowledge systems. We work together in active multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary collaborations to directly address the theoretical and applied aspects of marine socioecological systems from local to global scales.



INTRA-DISCIPLINARY

– working within a single discipline



CROSS-DISCIPLINARY

– viewing one discipline from the perspective of another



MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

– people from different disciplines working together, each drawing on their disciplinary knowledge



INTER-DISCIPLINARY

– integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines, using a genuine synthesis of approaches



TRANS-DISCIPLINARY

– creating a unity of intellectual frameworks beyond the disciplinary perspectives, often including stakeholders, (i.e. a person or group that has an investment, share or interest in the outcome of the research)

CMS PEOPLE

CMS centres around coordinated, cooperative, and collaborative research. Our key stakeholders and partnerships include colleagues, groups, and organisations from across science and research (locally, nationally, internationally), policy-makers and resource managers (e.g. NRE, DCEEW), and civil society (e.g. community groups, traditional owners, NGOs, etc.).

See our website for recent partnerships.

To achieve this coordination and collaboration, CMS has several support structures that facilitate knowledge and power sharing, agenda setting, and delivery of research, training and extension:

- **IMAS/UTAS and CSIRO:** organisational oversight, research institute input
- **Steering committee:** strategic oversight, stakeholder input
- **CMS core team:** strategic and day-to-day oversight
 - » *Director:* leadership, coordination and strategic partnerships
 - » *Deputy director:* leadership and strategic partnerships
- **Knowledge broker:** CMS internal and external knowledge transfer, research culture, breaking down silos (e.g. between different levels of gov, different sectors, disciplines, etc.)
- **Executive Support Officer:** high-level support and advice across a range of administrative functions that support the operations and mission of CMS
- **Theme leads:** identifying and supporting research development, training, and extension activities across CMS. Note, two theme leads are appointed for each of our five CMS themes, generally but not necessarily one senior and one ECR, to facilitate diverse experiences/perspectives and support the development of our ECRs.
- **Early career researcher and student reps:** identifying student and early-career training and research needs and activities
- **CMS affiliated students and researchers:** active input and collaboration

View Our Research Themes

https://marinesocioecology.org/wp-content/uploads/UTAS_CMS_Brochure_Web.pdf

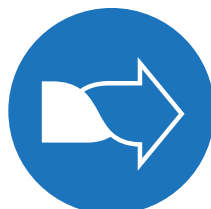
OUR RESEARCH THEMES



**Coastal
& Marine
Governance**



**Sustainable
Futures &
Planetary Health**



**Environmental
Change &
Adaptation**



**Knowledge
Production**



**Science
Engagement
& Impact**

CHALLENGES

RESEARCH APPROACH



CMS CORE TEAM



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Knowledge Broker
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