
Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Honours research shows Ocean Acidification to slow kelp production

Research by an IMAS Honours student has found Ocean Acidification could jeopardise growth in one of the Southern Hemisphere's most widespread and abundant kelp species.

Published in the prestigious international journal *Nature Scientific Reports*, the research was conducted by Damon Britton during his 2014 Honours year in collaboration with other researchers from IMAS and CSIRO.

The study found that Ocean Acidification - falling pH levels in the ocean due to the absorption of CO₂ generated by human activity - is likely to affect the ecology and productivity of habitats dominated by the canopy-forming kelp *Ecklonia radiata*, which can be found from South Africa to southern Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Britton, the paper's first author, said pH levels within kelp beds fluctuate substantially due to

