
Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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International management of marine resources needed as ocean warming reshapes marine communities

Ocean warming over the next century will drive rapid change in the stability of current global marine diversity patterns that have existed for thousands of years, according to

Prof Burrows said evidence of newly-formed communities of marine species driven by temperature shifts are most likely to be found where temperatures are changing rapidly, such as Tasmania's east coast.

"The fact that several of these rapidly warming areas include some of the world's most vexing maritime territorial disputes (for example, Senkaku, Paracel and Spratly islands, located in the East and South China seas) highlights the complex role that climate change might have for international ocean governance.

"The likely arrival of large numbers of climate marine migrants, and resulting compositional changes in present-day biotic communities, could exacerbate tensions between coastal nations and increase the need for international management of marine living resources," Prof Burrows said. Prof Vari said the research