

Supplementary Submission: Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) - Availability of Research Data from the University of Tasmania

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There is an IMAS data management policy (http://mest.imas.utas.edu.au/geonetwork/docs/html/IMASDataManagementPolicy_Final.pdf) that is consistent with that of the broader University of Tasmania (UTAS) data policy. The IMAS data management policy clearly outlines that it is the general position of IMAS to make data available whenever possible. The exceptions to this may be when the data are collected under contract or through consultancies, in which case there may be access restrictions imposed (see above policy for details).

Most of the granting bodies, such as the Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Council and the Fisheries Research Development Corporation, have an open data access policy that UTAS researchers follow.

IMAS has recently established a data portal (<http://data.imas.utas.edu.au/static/landing.html>) that is being further developed to capture all research metadata, and wherever possible more detailed datasets. It is a pre-requisite that any data available on the data portal is guaranteed to have been quality-assessed/quality-controlled to make sure that the data are robust and therefore scientifically useful. As a consequence there may be some time delay between collection of original data and web availability of the final data.

Many IMAS researchers also add their data to the Australian Ocean Data Network (AODN) or the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) web portals

<http://www.imos.org.au/>

<http://portal.aodn.org.au/aodn/>

It is important to also note that where it is within the researcher's ability to do so (i.e., within the limits of contracts outlined above and the bounds of a reasonable request) IMAS researchers are more than willing to discuss IMAS research project objectives, findings and outcomes with interested stakeholders.