

# Abalone Industry Reinvestment Fund (AIRF)

Update: May 2024

## Market access for east coast abalone; updated biotoxin risk management

Lead Agency: Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

Funding: \$93,715.00

Start Date: 1 July 2022

End Date: 15 April 2026

Status: CURRENT

### Aims and Objectives:

This project aims to:

1. Improve abalone biotoxin risk management by providing evidence to update the Abalone Biotoxin Risk Management Plan with view towards a more cost-effective, multi-species approach.
2. Determine PST levels in Blacklip Abalone on the east coast of Tasmania in accordance with DAWE sampling requirements in preparation for opening of the fishery in 2023.

### Progress Report:

An extension to this project was granted to recruit a PhD student to follow up on the reasons why toxins remain in high levels in abalone for some of the east coast blocks, preventing export approval for re-opening. Namely, whether the retention of toxins is due to slow depuration or continued exposure.

The abalone aquaculture experiments as part of a related project, AIDF 26 have commenced. Several different health measures to collect additional data during these experiments for analysis by the future PhD student have developed. This will complement the work done as part of this project (2020-54) and should help the successful student upon appointment.