

# Abalone Industry Reinvestment Fund (AIRF)

## Toxins in Abalone Industry PhD Program 2024–2027

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

Funding: \$136,933.00

Start Date: 1 April 2024      End Date: 1 December 2027

Status: CURRENT

### **Aims and Objectives:**

This project aims to support a PhD student to provide both fundamental and applied research into significant issues facing the Tasmanian Abalone Industry: climate change and harmful algal blooms.

Specific aims are listed below, but industry should be aware that there is no guarantee that PhDs will specifically deliver the stated aims. As research lines of enquiry are not always successful and the primary objective for a PhD is the recipients' education, the project focus may change through the term of the PhD. However, the topic of research remains consistent, and research therefore will be conducted in the area of interest identified and agreed by IMAS and industry.

The PhD on harmful algae will aim to answer the following questions:

- Are certain PST analogues retained for longer periods, and if so, what are the human health/market access implications of this?
- Is longevity of toxins in foot tissue on the east coast due to slow depuration or continual exposure?
- Do PST impact adult abalone health and recruitment?