

Marine conservation to be interpreted through the camera lens

High school students from around the state will have the chance to showcase their talents and raise awareness of Tasmania's unique coastal and marine environments via a new photo competition.

The Marine Conservation Student Photography Competition, an initiative of the Australian Maritime College's National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability, will be launched to coincide with World Oceans Day on Wednesday, 8 June.

Organiser David Maynard said the competition is open to all Tasmanian students in Years 9 to 12 and this year is centred on the theme *Ecologically sustainable development in marine and coastal environments*.

Mr Maynard said the issue of ecologically sustainable development was of particular significance to Tasmania, an island state with just under 10% of Australia's coastline and where the majority of the population lives within 50 km of the coast.

"Tasmania's coasts and coastal waters host some of the most iconic marine life and habitats in Australia and are a source of state pride and identity," Mr Maynard said.

"Fisheries, aquaculture and tourism are just three of the opportunities our coastal and marine environment provides. How we use, manage and conserve our environmental assets for maximum economic, environmental and social outcomes will be a major factor to our future wellbeing and prosperity."

Mr Maynard said ecologically sustainable development (ESD) was about using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so the ecological processes on which life depends were maintained.

Students will be asked to capture the theme using one of the following five categories that reflect ESD's diverse values:

- Environment
- Economics
- Society
- Issues
- Creativity

On July 14 students and teachers will be able to attend a one-day forum at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery to learn more about ESD from speakers representing government and non-government organisations.

Competition entries must be submitted on A4 glossy photographic stock and accompanied by a supporting paragraph of up to 250 words. Entries will be accepted from Monday, 20 June – Monday, 15 August 2011.

The major prize winner will receive a digital SLR camera plus a framed print of their photograph. The winners and runners up in each category will also have their work exhibited at the NEW Gallery, University of Tasmania, in October.

The competition is being supported by a number of community groups and businesses including NRM North, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Northern Tasmania Camera Club, the Australian Maritime College and the University of Tasmania.

For further details please visit www.amc.edu.au/photocomp

Members of the media are invited to conduct interviews and take photographs/footage of David Maynard at the Australian Maritime College on Tuesday, 7 June between 10am-11am.

Information released by:

Nicole Mayne, Media Office, Australian Maritime College

Phone: 6324 9874 Mobile: 0414 730 116

Email: n.mayne@amc.edu.au

