
Dr Kirsty Nash



Centre for Marine Socioecology

University of Tasmania

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

The 2022 Emerging Leader in Marine Science is Dr Kirsty Nash, an affiliated researcher with the Centre for Marine Socioecology in Hobart, for her impactful and interdisciplinary work across coral reef ecosystems, health, science communication, and gender equity in academia.

Kirsty's research has become increasingly interdisciplinary over time - exploring sustainability challenges facing the world's oceans and the communities that rely on them by bringing together collaborators working in marine science, food systems, public health, psychology, and governance. Kirsty did her PhD at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University on the resilience of coral reef ecosystems before completing a postdoc studying coral reef fisheries. In 2016 she moved to Tasmania to work on a project exploring marine social-ecological systems. At the University of Tasmania, she worked as Theme Lead in Sustainable Futures and Planetary Health at the Centre for Marine Socioecology and was awarded an ARC DECRA Fellowship at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, exploring the micronutrient content of coral reef fish. In 2021 she was awarded a L'Oreal Fellowship for Women in Science. Kirsty has over 60 peer-reviewed publications, many in high-impact journals.

In addition to her scientific research, Kirsty has also shown exceptional achievement as a mentor, STEM advocate and communicator. She regularly engages in outreach activities in Australian and American schools and has received several science communication prizes.

She co-led the Future Seas project, a collaboration of 116 researchers exploring alternate futures for the world's oceans, to help develop interdisciplinary research skills among PhD students and ECRs. Kirsty believes that a diverse and supportive academic culture is fundamental to creating excellent research and led the development of a free online resource to help academics and researchers navigate work and caring responsibilities – such work was recognised with the inaugural Australian Academy of Science Changemakers 2020.