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## Graeme Ewing



University of Tasmania

The 2022 Technical Award winner is Graeme Ewing from the University of Tasmania for his 30 years of support to several research institutes through field sampling, laboratory work, data management and analysis, equipment design, and effective communication and stakeholder engagement.

Graeme's career in science did not begin with marine research. An undergraduate degree in chemistry from UNSW in the 80s led to scientific work in the private sector (food technology in dairy processing, biochemistry in medical pathology, metallurgy at an aluminium casting plant). After an Honours degree in environmental studies, Graeme worked as an environmental scientist with the Tasmanian state EPA. A research Masters in fish ecology facilitated a shift into the university sector in fisheries and marine research with UTAS, with a stint with the Australian Antarctic Division working on benthic impacts from the toothfish fishery.

From his almost 30 years of supporting marine research, Graeme has many memorable sampling experiences around Tasmania's spectacular (and unforgiving) coast, and amongst sea ice on the Antarctic continental shelf slope. Through supporting academia he's enjoyed the privilege of working closely with world leaders in marine science, and particularly with the inspiring student postgrads destined to be future leaders.

Graeme believes that excellent technical support is a requirement for excellent research outcomes. Through project management of the minutiae of the execution of research, technical officers can facilitate the wider focus that senior scientists require to position their research within the body of scientific knowledge and to maximise its future application. Over his career in support of marine research Graeme has strived to develop and confer the qualities required to meet this model of technical support.

Arguably, the most important quality a technical officer can possess is the can-do resourcefulness and determination to safely keep the wheels (or propellers!) turning under difficult conditions and within a tight budget.