Data management plan: Hovel OCE-1131616

The proposed project will generate data on the effects of disturbance on biodiversity in a key marine coastal habitat. The data will consist of measures of biodiversity and community composition for epifaunal organisms in seagrass habitat, and will be used for a student thesis or dissertation, and then publically disseminated via conference papers and posters, invited seminars, and peer-reviewed publications. We will produce peer-reviewed publications quickly upon project completion.

Data will be collected in the field and in the laboratory, and transferred to electronic media within at most several days of collection. During the sampling process, I will assure the quality of the epifaunal counts by training the undergraduate assistants and graduate student and performing random duplicate counts and species identifications. The Hovel lab has completed several projects involving seagrass epifauna and we have produced photographic species identification guides to assist in training. The graduate student and I also both will perform random checks of the accuracy of data transferred from data sheets to Excel. Data files will be held on at least three password-protected computers, including the student's computer and one housed in the PI's locked office on the SDSU campus. Data also will be backed up regularly on a dedicated hard drive owned by the PI. The project will involve a small set of researchers so there is no need for storage on a website.

Data will be co-owned between the PI and students basing theses on the proposed project. Data ownership will be spelled out in a *Data Ownership Agreement* that is required of all SDSU Ecology students. The agreement, signed both by the student and their advisor, stipulates that students will be first author on any resulting publications from thesis projects, with the advisor as junior author. If additional graduate or undergraduate students make significant contributions to the project (beyond simply assisting with field work), they may be granted coauthorship as well. In order to ensure the timely publication of results from projects, the agreement also stipulates that if students do not submit their results for publication within one year of graduating, the advisor reserves the right to complete an ms and submit it for publication (maintaining the agreed upon order of authors).

After publication, upon request data will be shared by the student and PI with colleagues and institutions with an interest in seagrass habitat structure and disturbance, including overseas colleagues who have recently explored effects of seagrass disturbance on fauna using artificial seagrass. The data also will be submitted to the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) in Silver Spring, MD, which serves as a repository for global environmental data. The data will be preserved for long-term future use via NODC's archives and can be disseminated to researchers through their system.