

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

This research project will collect a variety of data related to oceanographic, cellular, physiological, biochemical and ecological measurements on sponges, as well as sponge and spongivore diversity surveys of shallow and mesophotic coral reefs. The PI will coordinate, archive and manage all data generated by the project participants. Some of these data will be in the form of electronic files, including digital photographs, related to field surveys. We plan to make these data broadly available 1 year after processing; this will give the coPIs adequate time to disseminate the information at meetings and within the peer-reviewed literature.

Data formats. Field notes will be transcribed into notebooks upon return to the lab, and ultimately into electronic format. Digital photographs taken in the field will be downloaded, labeled appropriately, and saved on computers and external disc drives at UM. Results from experimental manipulations and laboratory analyses will be recorded in laboratory notebooks and stored in secure locations in the PIs' laboratories. Electronic data will be archived in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets with the appropriate metadata in Microsoft Word files. These data will reside within the University of New Hampshire and University of Mississippi computing centers. The data will also be deposited with the Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office [BCO-DMO] for broader dissemination, and redundancy as required of NSF funded projects. Archival samples will be photographed *in situ*, preserved for future molecular work and for museum vouchers. Metadata will minimally include: sample code, taxonomic identification, collection date/time, site name & depth, and GPS coordinates.

Data transfer. Electronic data and/or publication access will be posted at the PIs' websites approximately 1 year after sample processing, and will be available for use without restriction. Physical samples will be maintained at the University of New Hampshire and the University of Mississippi's NOAA NIUST Ocean Biotechnology Center & Repository, where they will be available through a simple Material Transfer Agreement. We do not anticipate any intellectual property, or ethical or privacy issues stemming from this research.

User groups. We anticipate that these data will be most useful in published formats with broad applicability to research scientists and coral reef managers interested in coral reef biodiversity and ecosystem function. However, we recognize that some individuals may be interested in the raw data files for their own meta-analyses and/or comparative studies. As such, the aforementioned data files will allow these analyses and be made available upon request.