Data Management Plan

In accordance with NSF policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results (AAG Chapter VI.D.4), a data management plan has been developed that will ensure uninterrupted access to the data generated through this award. All of our data, including any environmental data generated in this work, will be made available to the scientific community as outlined below. In general, the timely and long-lasting sharing of results and datasets is the ultimate goal.

The outline of our plan for sharing data include the following:

- publishing data in a timely fashion
- vouchering specimens of new species, if discovered, during the research
- ensuring data generated from this work is made publically available
- depositing any environmental data collected during the research

Publishing Data

All primary data collected during the grant period will be shared through publications. All manuscripts will include a disclaimer in the Acknowledgement that any data will be made available upon request. No plans exist at this time for metadata analyses.

Vouchering specimens

Following the directive of the Sample and Data Policy regarding Biological Samples, several practices have been adopted to ensure the sharing of valuable sample material. Experience with this type of work exists (e.g., describing a new species of sponge as part of a previous award 0647119 - Friday et al. 2013). To ensure that the entire community has access to any samples (especially macroinvertebrates that might be discovered as part of the survey work) material will be archived (i.e., voucher specimen) in appropriate venues (e.g., Smithsonian Museum).

Environmental Data

The research associated with this proposal might generate temperature and light data from shallow habitats in the lower Florida Keys. Specifically, HOBO® Data Loggers may be placed in the flats just to the south of Mote Marine Laboratory. If this occurs, duplicate loggers will be deployed to verify the measurements that are taken. Once collected, the data will be deposited in the Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office (BCO-DMO: http://www.bco-dmo.org/).

Macroinvertebrate Data

The data collected on macroinvertebrate populations and communities will be shared through BCO-DMO. Existing data collected over the last two years will also be made publically available. These data include estimates of density, species richness, and diversity; the ability to compare pre- and post-hurricane structure, and to follow any shifts that occur over the coming years will be accessible to the community.