

Data Management plan

Types of data

This project will generate three types of data, which lend themselves to archiving and sharing:

- (1) tabular data on community structure (colony abundances and sizes by species and location).
- (2) tabular data on recruitment and recruit survival at the study sites.
- (3) digital elevation models (DEM) of quadrats within the St. John study sites and tabular data containing topographic complexity indices of those DEMs.
- (4) statistical analyses supporting publications

Data formats and standards

Data will be generated as Excel spreadsheets and text files. Each Excel file will contain a metadata worksheet that will note all entries, relevant codes and edits. Text file metadata will be maintained in a separate Metadata document that will identify each data file and contain all relevant metadata regarding the subject of the data, site, date, relevant data codes and notes on collection, entry and edit dates.

Field data are entered from field data slates images of which are themselves stored as jpg files prior to entry. Entries are entered while in the field and proofread upon return from fieldwork.

Data storage and access during the project

Data files will be stored on laptop computers during fieldwork and will be backed up to external hard drives while in the field and backed up to UB Box cloud storage when adequate internet access is available. Sharing of data among project participants will be based on access to the UB Box files.

Policies for access to and sharing data

Following NSF policies, project-related data will be made available on the BCO-DMO project site within 2 yr of data collection. The exceptions to this rule will be data related to graduate thesis projects, which will not be made available until 12 mo following graduation or upon publication of the analyses, whichever occurs first.

iv. Polices and provisions for re-use, redistribution, and production of derivatives

All users will have open and free access to our data within 2 yr of collection, unless embargoed to meet the needs of graduate thesis preparation. Although not required for access, we will encourage users to acknowledgement access to our data and make contact with the lead PIs in the spirit of effective collaboration.

v. Archiving and access to data

Data from the project will be archived with BCO-DMO. The project will be linked with BCO-DMO project 562086 (<http://www.bco-dmo.org/project/562086>), which is the

project site containing the data developed from OCE-1334052. That site contains the historical data that will be an essential component of the analyses.