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Abstract: Data Management: If it's Good Enough for the Government, It's Good Enough for You

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The Public Access to Research Results (PARR) policy is being implemented across all federal agencies in the United States. It requires all data collected with federal funds to be made publicly available in a timely manner. In order to implement this plan within the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) a series of policies have been put into place to address various issues of data management, including, but not limited to, access, documentation and citation. The Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) funds the majority of projects dealing with shallow water coral reefs in many offices across NOAA. These projects collect a large variety of data from satellite derived products to in water monitoring. This variety of data along with various line office requirements provides a unique set of data management issues. I will present an overview of how we are currently managing data within CRCP and talk about how these management practices are good recommendations for all coral reef researchers. Some of these recommendations include tools that are available to wider research community. As the field of data science emerges as an important tool for resource management it is necessary for coral reef data to be managed and shared appropriately. Open access to publications and data is becoming more often a requirement rather than a recommendation, and as rigorous as scientists can be on their collection methodology, they should be equally as rigorous on how they manage their data. It is only through proper management that data can be made useful into the future.