

## **CPR Data Management Plan**

Funding obtained for this project will be used to continue Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) Tows on established Routes in the North Western Atlantic (including the Eastern Seaboard) over the five year period from 2012 to 2016. These tows will continue to operate on a monthly cycle and will collect phytoplankton and zooplankton samples that are analysed to produce abundance and presence data over temporal and spatial scales for a large number of plankton taxa. Additional biochemical and molecular data will be generated based on selected CPR samples collected with support from this grant.

Data concerning tow position, dates and times will be recorded on paper log forms by the towing ships crew and later entered into the CPR database by hand. Phytoplankton and Zooplankton samples will be captured on silk cassettes within each CPR unit. These samples will be sent to SAHFOS at Plymouth in the UK where they will be analysed and archived. Analysis of all samples will be completed within one year of collection and the results will be incorporated into the CPR database after quality control checks.

### ***Data quality and backup.***

Taxon data for each sample will be entered into a holding database by two members of SAHFOS staff who will cross check data entered against paper records. Data will be further examined by other members of quality control staff before publication to the CPR database takes place. The CPR database will be backed up to tape on a weekly basis, and the backup tapes will be sent to the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) on a quarterly rotation to ensure the data are secure and can be restored in the event of a hardware or software failure.

### ***Access to Data***

Metadata for taxa recorded in the tows will be supplied to the following projects all of which are collaborative and provide open access to CPR metadata and data visualisation tools to show the global geographic distribution of CPR data.

- Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) <http://www.iobis.org>
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) <http://data.gbif.org/datasets/resource/1743>
- European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNET) <http://bio.emodnet.eu>

Data resulting from processing of samples from these tows (and any other tows recorded in the CPR Database) will continue to be freely available to all scientists (including those in the USA) for research through SAHFOS's Associated Researcher Programme, which enables collaboration between SAHFOS researchers and external scientists. Scientists requiring access to the data should read the instructions and complete the licence agreement available at <http://www.sahfos.ac.uk/data-archive/license.aspx> and will then be provided with the required data.