

## **Data Management Plan**

Plastic marine debris collected in the North Atlantic, North Pacific, and South Pacific Oceans and Caribbean Sea has been archived at Sea Education Association (SEA) in Woods Hole, MA for more than 25 years. All material collected in a single net tow is stored together in containers including plastic bags (most samples), glass scintillation vials, paper envelopes, and metal tins (from late 2010 to mid-2012). All samples collected on SEA vessels after August 2012 will be stored in glass scintillation vials. Collections of samples are stored in cardboard boxes in dark but ambient conditions at SEA.

Net tow metadata and plastic concentration data (number of plastic pieces collected per square kilometer) for the North Atlantic and Caribbean Sea that were published in Law *et al.* (2010) have been archived with the Marine Geoscience Data System, and are also available in GeoMapApp.

The data generated through this project will include measurements of polymer type for approximately 1000 net tow samples from the SEA archive, and particle size and chemical analysis (e.g. presence of carbonyl groups, Differential Scanning Calorimetry) for a subset of 100-300 of these net tow samples. Laboratory and field data will be analyzed for the same properties. Because there is currently no standard archive for marine plastics data, we plan to work with staff of the Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office (BCO-DMO) located at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), to publish the results of the sample analysis as well as the laboratory and experimental data in a manner compliant with the requirements of the Division of Ocean Sciences Data and Sample Policy (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04004/nsf04004.pdf>).