Supporting our scientists by avoiding duplication of their effort is vital for successful implementation of the USGS requirement of Data Management Plans (DMP). The USGS Coastal and Marine Geology Program (CMGP), plans to expand the functionality of an internally developed system called Compass. Compass was recently created to ensure that all federally funded data collections be managed and preserved for the CMGP offices in Woods Hole, MA, St. Petersburg, FL, and Santa Cruz, CA. In addition to maintaining metadata about field activities and linking data collected by projects, we are working to increase Compass’ functionality to include creating, managing, and updating DMPs, since much of the information is currently collected for active projects in Compass.

Implementing Data Management Plans in CMGP

A team of CMGP data managers have been meeting biweekly since February 2015 to develop this recommendation for implementing the new USGS requirement that all projects have Data Management Plans (DMPs). In general terms our recommendation is this:

- Use existing Compass resources.
- Establish required DMP elements.
- Implement, with guidance.
- Refine and improve.