CEDAR: DATA AND DOCUMENT RESCUE COASTAL AND ESTUARINE DATA/DOCUMENT ARCHEOLOGY AND RESCUE

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ABSTRACT: There are many documents and data related to the marine environment that have never been formally published; they exist as gray literature and therefore are not widely available to the scientific community and academia. These documents and data are important because they help define the state of the coastal environment in the past, and can be useful as a baseline when evaluating the current state of degradation and setting restoration goals. Due to the nature of the paper and media on which they exist, and in some cases the conditions in which they are housed, the data and documents are in jeopardy of being lost. These materials cannot be located using electronic and manual bibliographic searches because they have not been formally catalogued or archived in libraries.

The purpose of the Coastal and Estuarine Data/Document Archeology and Rescue (CEDAR) project is to collect unpublished data and documents on the marine ecosystem; convert and restore information into electronic and printed form, and distribute it electronically to the scientific community, academia and the public. "Data Archaeology" is

used to describe the process of seeking out, restoring, evaluating, correcting, and interpreting historical data sets. "Data Rescue" refers to the effort to save data at risk of being lost to the science community. CEDAR parallels other data and document rescue efforts including the Global Oceanographic Data Archaeology and Rescue (GODAR) of the NOAA National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC)/World Data Center-A for Oceanography (WDC-A). CEDAR is focused on coastal and estuarine data and documents. CEDAR differs from simple document scanning in that scientific selection, review and editing of the final product is necessary to insure clarity and completeness.

The NOAA/NODC/Library and Information Science Division (LISD) and the NOAA/National Ocean Service/National Centers for the Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) are currently conducting the CEDAR effort for material related to marine environment of South Florida, specifically Florida Bay and adjacent ecosystems under a grant from the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Prediction and Modeling Program. Rescued documents can be viewed at www.aoml.noaa.gov/general/lib/CEDAR.html

This project is an example of how science and librarianship (information science) can collaborate to serve environmental restoration programs.