A lot has happened since the June workshop and we couldn’t wait to tell you!

**BEDI Proposal**

We have been awarded a small grant through the Big Earth Data Initiative (BEDI) program to make passive acoustic data archived at NCEI accessible to the public and to support the stewardship of NOAA’s Ocean Noise Reference Station Network (NRS) data. The project runs from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

- Two major components of the project involve creating a geoportal and facilitating submissions of passive acoustic data and metadata to NCEI. **Work is well underway and our progress to date is outlined below.**
- If you’re interested in reading more on the work and the players involved, check out the [full proposal](#).

**Geoportal**

The basics for our passive acoustic geoportal are already up and running! Check it out by following this [link](#). The stationary data provided to us by NEFSC for the pilot project are shown and some basic filters are in place. **In the coming months, we will expand the functionality of the site and the volume of data available.** The NRS data are the focus for expanding the archive.

**Data Packaging Software**

Chuck has developed a fantastic [data packaging software](#) just for your data! It has an easy to use interface similar to our water column sonar data packager and handles all the important parameters associated with passive acoustic data. Chuck has been working very closely with Marie Roch to ensure the entered metadata follow the Tethys database schema.

- Deployment metadata exported from your Tethys database can be imported into the packager to pre-populate the fields and information entered in the packager can be exported and used to populate Tethys.
“Passive Packer” facilitates submission of raw acoustic data and ancillary data, such as observational data, and captures additional metadata needed to generate ISO-compliant metadata records.

Jason Gedamke is currently using the software to package up some of the initial NRS datasets. His feedback will be used to refine its functionality and design.

This tool is intended to make data submission as easy as possible, so please let Chuck know your thoughts and suggestions so he can implement them in future versions!

Front page of the passive acoustic data packaging software, “Passive Packer”.

Additional tabs, news items, and information have been added to the project's Google Site. This is a great place to stay up to date on our latest work.