



OCEAN
OBSERVATORIES
INITIATIVE

Data Use Policy

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Document Control Sheet

Version	Date	Description	Originator
0-01	Sep 29, 2011	Revision and consolidation of Appendix A-1 of the Data Management Plan, 1102-00000	S. Ackleson and B. Bergen
1-01	Dec 20, 2011	Merge existing Data Policy and T&Cs from DMP along with SA's revision plus items from reviews of many other NSF programs. Reduced 10 pages in two documents to 6 total. Removed redundancies. Merged part of pre-commission policy document in this document.	B. Bergen
1-04	Jan 10, 2012	Incorporated edits from SA. Including rewording/clarification of user support	B. Bergen
1-05	Feb 10, 2012	Adjudicated and incorporated changes from OL leadership and legal	B. Bergen
1-06	Feb 17, 2012	Minor mods from OL Contracts	B. Bergen
1-07	Mar 20, 2012	Separated DP and T&Cs; edited exclusive period	B. Bergen
1-08	Mar 26, 2012	Incorporates NSF feedback	B. Bergen
2-00	Aug 27, 2018	Revised to reflect OOI 2.0	J. Glatstein

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1 Purpose

The Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) program, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), is an interactive, distributed, and integrated network of ocean infrastructure supporting science-driven sensor systems to enable long-term, complex, interdisciplinary ocean investigations. This OOI Data Policy pertains to the definition, collection, distribution, and use of all data and materials collected and produced by the OOI. It was established in accordance with accepted domestic and international best practices in marine and atmospheric science. The purpose of this document is to present the OOI Data Policy.

2 Definitions

“OOI data” is defined as data or product(s) produced by or resulting from instruments connected to the OOI system, the OOI infrastructure, associated metadata, and any additional observations made as a result of quality control and assurance.

A product is defined as an item or information that is derived from observational data through any kind of computation, processing and/or listing of raw data. This includes aggregation, analysis, modeling, or visualization processes.

An OOI data “User” is defined as an individual, group or organization that receives or uses OOI data for any reason.

3 Data Sources

OOI data emanate primarily from three sources but is not limited to:

- **Core** – instruments that are part of the OOI infrastructure
- **Ship-based** – calibration and validation data collected during installation/recovery/maintenance cruises to the sites of OOI infrastructure
- **Project Specific** – instruments that are attached to or use the OOI infrastructure and are owned and operated by persons/organizations other than the OOI Program.

Regardless of source, all data produced as a consequence of the OOI infrastructure are considered OOI data and are governed by this data policy.

4 Data Policy

4.1 Fundamental Data Policy

In principle, all OOI data will be made publicly available, free of charge, as quickly as feasible. There will be no delays in distribution for non-technical, non-security reasons. The User is granted the right to use OOI data and web sites for any legal and non-prohibited purpose whatsoever (further discussed in the User Terms and Conditions) -- to access, link to and use, create derivative works, publish, distribute, disseminate, transfer, or copy. Two possible exceptions to this policy are when the data impact national security or if individuals, groups, or organizations are granted temporary exclusive data rights.

4.2 Temporary Exclusive Data Rights

Individuals, groups, or organizations that have invested significant time, resources or intellect in the development of new and novel instruments may request a period of exclusive access to the resulting

data. In such situations, the researcher and OOI, with NSF approval, may enter into an agreement granting exclusive access to specific data in accordance with the following criteria:

- Exclusivity applies only to data collected by new, innovative, instruments that are either attached to or use the OOI infrastructure.
- Requests for exclusive data access must be submitted as part of the researcher’s proposal to NSF and provide a justification for the exclusive period.
- Exclusivity will not extend beyond one year from the date of the initial instrument(s) operation within the OOI system.
- During the exclusivity period, the **existence** of the instrument(s) will be posted on the OOI web site. The actual data/metadata will NOT be available.
- After the exclusivity period, all data collected during the exclusive period and any current and future data collected by the instrument(s) will be made publicly available through the OOI web site.

4.3 Storage and Archival

All OOI data will be securely stored and available for a period of time within the OOI system. The period of time is determined on a data type by data type basis and considers the usage and cost of storage. All OOI data will be easily discovered and accessed through the OOI Cyberinfrastructure. OOI data will be submitted to national data archives (e.g., NODC, NGDC) for long-term storage before being deleted from OOI storage based upon available budget.

Retrieval of OOI generated data from national archives is by direct access to the national archive.

As mentioned previously, the period of time data are stored locally within OOI is dependent on multiple factors. As a baseline, the following table depicts the minimum local OOI storage period.

Sensor Type and Information	Minimum period of time for OOI storage before data and data products are moved to long term storage/ national archives
HD Cameras	30 days
Broadband Hydrophones, Still Cameras, Seismometers, Low Frequency Hydrophones	60 days
All other Instruments	Life of program
Documentation and algorithms	Life of program

4.4 Pre-Commission Data

OOI released certain data to the user community prior to the commissioning of OOI assets, including the commissioning of Cyberinfrastructure elements. In these situations, in addition to the terms and conditions listed below, the released data is considered preliminary with no assurance of quality or validity. Associated metadata may likewise not have been provided or not provided at the commissioned

standard. Since these data were intended primarily for internal system development purposes, quality controls may not have been applied in full, and the OOI Program Office offers no assurance that these data will be stored and submitted to archives.

4.5 Metadata

The OOI program makes reasonable efforts to ensure that metadata associated with all OOI data meet or exceed accepted national and international standards. Individual researchers, groups, or organizations that operate instruments within the OOI system and therefore provide additional OOI data will conform to the OOI metadata rules and procedures in place at the time of data collection.