



# DATA POLICY

October 2007  
DRAFT v1.0

Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
1201 New York Avenue NW, Fourth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005  
[www.joiscience.org](http://www.joiscience.org)

The Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI), through the establishment of an interactive, distributed, and integrated network of ocean sensors and software, represents a fundamentally new approach to marine science that requires new policies regarding data access and distribution. The OOI infrastructure will provide a myriad of different data streams containing real-time, near-real-time, and time-critical, space-referenced and time-referenced data to be used for studies of the complex interactions amongst physical, chemical, biological, and geological processes in the ocean. Both the nature of the science to be addressed under OOI, and the auspices under which the data are collected, demand that OOI data be rapidly disseminated, open, and freely available (within constraints of national security).

- Rapidly disseminated implies that data will be made available as soon as technically feasible (i.e., there will be no delays in distribution for non-technical, non-security reasons).
- Open implies that data distribution will be unrestricted (unless for reasons of national security).
- Freely available means that data will be distributed without charge; there may be charges for the cost of reproduction and delivery when access is not web-based.

We envision the data policy as relevant to OOI data providers and OOI data users. In each case obligations exist in both directions.



The functions of the observatory system are not described by the data policy, although the observatory system is responsible for meeting the obligations imposed by the data policy.

In the OOI system, data will be generated by data sources, namely ocean sensors and software processes. Three classes of ocean data are envisioned, as follows:

- **Core and Community Data** – generated by data sources that are part of the basic OOI infrastructure (e.g., meteorological or basic environmental data, or system data), or by data sources that are funded through collaborations in support of the user community or a subset of it (e.g., broadband seismometers or ADCP)
- **Individual Principal Investigator (PI) data** – generated by data sources created by an individual or group of individuals for a specific research project
- **Commercial data** – generated by privately funded data sources with commercial purposes; this data may be deemed proprietary and may carry usage fees

While encouraging the open and free distribution of all data, it is also recognized that individual investigators who have invested significant time and intellectual effort in the development of a sensor are entitled to some protection of this investment. Thus, an exception to the policy outlined above can be made for data derived from individual PI data sources:

- Individual PIs who have developed a data source that becomes part of the OOI network may have exclusive rights to the data produced by that data source for a period of no more than one year from the onset of the data stream. The period of exclusive access must be approved in each case by the OOI Facility Governance Group. After the exclusivity limit, the historical data as well as the current stream from the individual PI data source will be made publicly available under the policy described for core and community data.

Data produced by all OOI data sources (including individual PI data sources) will be archived according to the OOI Data Management Plan and metadata will be catalogued describing all data collected including a description of where and how it is archived.

Data will be made publicly available to users through a general web interface, and through distribution to data archives, including the national data repositories (e.g., National Geophysical Data Center, National Oceanographic Data Center, and National Buoy Data Center).

**Users of OOI data will:**

- Be logged as recipients of data
- Acknowledge the OOI as provider of the data in any publication or presentation
- Cite and/or acknowledge the PI or community as the originator of the data when it is from an individual PI or community data source
- Provide an annual report (online) on use of OOI data

**Providers of OOI data will:**

- Establish an archival and metadata plan which will be approved by the OOI management structure
- Associate their data with metadata that meets or exceeds national requirements (e.g., Federal Geographic Data Committee; [www.fdgc.gov](http://www.fdgc.gov));
- Meet the interface specifications for data and metadata provided by the observatory operators (*The interface specifications should address data provenance, description, quality, maturity level (raw data streams, automated quality control, processed, derivative products), and collection context, and support interoperability with other observatories, archives, and databases.*)