

ONR Seabed Characterization Experiment (SBCX)

Data Sharing and Publications Policy – December 2015

The ONR Seabed Characterization Experiment (SBCX) is a multi-investigator, multi-institution, multi-sponsor experiment comprised of multiple coordinated scientific projects. The experimental site will be in the ‘mud patch’ area of the New England Continental Shelf. The New England Mud Patch is approximately 60 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard, MA. The location is generally characterized by a layer of mud (acoustically soft material) of varying thickness draped over a harder substrate. A reconnaissance survey of bathymetry and stratigraphy was conducted in summer 2015 and the main experiment is scheduled for spring 2017. All data are collected for basic research projects and are unclassified. As governed by this document, the data will be controlled with limited releasability for a period of three (3) years following the conclusion of the main experiment. At the conclusion of the three years, the data become public release, distribution unlimited.

Objectives

The full success of the SBCX multi- investigator, multi-institution experiment depends on the successful coordination of data sharing among the collaborating scientists. Many of the experimental objectives require the quantitative analysis of multiple interdisciplinary data sets and therefore data must be readily exchanged between researchers. The collection of such extensive data sets requires significant investments in both capital and scientific resources by government and participating organizations. By ensuring exclusive access to the data for a limited amount to time, this agreement serves to protect the interests of all direct participants in the experiment in working toward their experimental objectives using data collected for such purposes. Under the agreement, program participants shall be permitted access to all measurements made during either the reconnaissance survey or main experiment without further permissions. To facilitate access, a record of all collected data, and paths to obtain raw files, will be maintained on a website with access restricted to program participants. The list of direct program participants will be held by ONR in consultation with the chief scientists (CS) of the program. During the period of controlled release, access to the data by other outside parties will be made in consultation with ONR and the CS on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the policies on publications (see below) are respected.

Publication Using Data

Although this agreement establishes access to all data for all parties, it also recognizes that specific data sets may be collected by either an individual principle investigator (PI) or groups of PIs to test and/or validate specific ideas. Further consideration is thus given to protect intellectual property rights for publishing data collected for these purposes. Data collected during the ONR Shallow Water Experiment are expected to fall loosely into two categories: (a) routine or institutionalized data, and (b) program or investigator-specific data.

Routine Data

Examples of (a) routine data include (but are not limited to) sea level or weather buoy data and standard climatological data which is routinely collected and archived by others, raw satellite data which is routinely available on the World Wide Web, and ship's underway SAIL and hull-mounted ADCP data. Publication of these data generally does not require co-authorship, although citation and/or acknowledgement is expected of the investigator using the data.

Program/ Investigator Specific Data

Examples of (b) program/ investigator data include (but are not limited to) data from oceanographic and acoustic moorings and acoustic sources, towed and lowered CTD data, data from surface drifters and subsurface floats, data from unique underway sampling systems or from sensors mounted on autonomous vehicles, and satellite data which has been sufficiently post-processed and value-added that the investigator has a stake in its continued usage.

There are two possible actions for publication of program/ investigator data, both of which require discussion with and permission from the PI data collector:

1. Expectation of co-authorship: This is the usual condition. Scientists making use of the data should anticipate that the PI data collectors would be active participators and require co-authorship of published results.
2. Provide citation to and acknowledgement of the data: In cases where the PI data collector acknowledges the importance of the application but expects to make no time investment or intellectual contribution to the published work, the PI data collector may agree to provide the data to another scientist providing data reports are properly cited and the contribution is recognized in the text and acknowledgements.

In the case of data collected by a team of PIs, all the PIs should be consulted before the data are released to any outside party (not in the program) by any single investigator. Investigators using other investigator's data must discuss/ send any manuscript to them prior to submission anywhere. Agreements about publication, authorship, or citation should be documented at a minimum by email between the PIs. A PI that obtains data from another PI cannot then disseminate these data to another PI unless there has been full discussions with the original data taking PI.

Model Outputs

Output from numerical models that are not routinely and operationally run should be considered as the equivalent of type (b) program/ investigator data. Investigators endeavoring to utilize such output should expect co-authorship by the modeler unless declined by the modeling team leader.

Roles and Responsibilities

Principal Investigators who are responsible for the collection of data during the ONR Seabed Experiment are considered participating SBCX scientists. Further, modelers and

theoreticians that are in the SBC 2017 program are considered participating SBCX scientists.

Participating PI scientists that collect the data have primary responsibility for quality-controlling their own data and making it available to the rest of the SBX participating scientists some of which did not collect the data but are involved in collaborative analysis of the data. Data must be made available to the participating scientific community on a timely basis. As soon as data might be useful to other PI researchers, the data should be released, along with documentation that can be used by the other PI researchers to judge data quality and potential usefulness.

Participating PI scientists who wish to use other PI data sets are responsible for notifying those principal investigators of their intent and inviting collaboration and/ or co-authorship of published results.

For the first three (3) years after SBCX data collection, only PIs participating in the data collection effort and who are part of the SBCX 2017 program will be authorized to share SBCX data. After that time, SBCX PIs may allow non-participant use of their data sets.

Requests for data from investigators who are not direct participants in the SBCE experiment will be considered only if the investigators agree to the Publication and Data Sharing policies given above.

There will be no third party data dissemination.

All potential users who access the data will be reminded of the SBCX commitment to the principle that data are the intellectual property of the data collecting participating PI scientists.

Program sponsors of participating PI scientists may arbitrate and reach agreement on data sharing questions when they arise.