



MEMORANDUM

January 25, 2017

From: Charles A. Wilson, Chief Science Officer 

To: GoMRI Investigators

Subject: Clarification of GoMRI Data Policy and Procedures

Research Board (RB) memos dated December 2, 2013 and September 4, 2015 provide the basis for the GoMRI Data Policy and the expectation that GoMRI researchers comply with the Master Research Agreement (MRA) which is tied to all GoMRI funded research grants. To advance the growing interest of data transparency in science and address program compliance, the RB reaffirms that:

- all data be available within the GRIIDC system and accessible to the public at the time of publication and/or within 1 year of collection (whichever is sooner);
- all research publications should include direct links to the publication's supporting data; and
- all research publications should include the GoMRI data attribution statement.

The RB offers the following clarification to the above points from the GoMRI Data Policy.

### **Data Availability**

The RB interprets the meaning of “timely manner” and “minimum time delay” (from the MRA) as no later than the date of publication of results. If a scientific publication is not expected within 12 months of the data being collected then the interpretation of “timely manner” and “minimum time delay” is no later than 12 months after the collection of the data. In most cases standard oceanographic data can and should be submitted with very short time delay. A request for extension of any dataset beyond 12 months before submission to GRIIDC shall be regarded as an extraordinary exception and should be carefully justified.

Exceptions to the requirements that data be submitted to GRIIDC and simultaneously accessible to the public may be granted by request to the RB Data Committee via the GRIIDC.

All anticipated datasets that investigators plan to collect or generate with GoMRI funding should be identified to GRIIDC through the Dataset Information Form (DIF) as soon as possible after the grant start date.

### **Publications and Data Attributions**

It is recommended to schedule data submission to the GRIIDC system *concurrently* with the submission of manuscripts for peer-review to allow for the GRIIDC team to complete the dataset package review process before the data are made publicly available.

Attributions to the supporting data deposited within the GRIIDC system should be provided within published papers. The data attribution should use the following terms:

*Data are publicly available through the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Information & Data Cooperative (GRIIDC) at <https://data.gulfresearchinitiative.org> (doi:<doi identifier> [, <doi identifier2>, <doi identifier3>, ...].*

### **Defining a GoMRI Publication**

If a researcher is using GoMRI funds to collect and/or analyze a data set, those data shall be made publically available. If the data were collected using GOMRI funds the data are to be submitted to GRIIDC. If the data used in a publication were not collected using GoMRI funding, but support a GoMRI project's objectives and therefore analyzed using GoMRI funds the data should at a minimum be accessible through a national data center and preferably be submitted to GRIIDC. In both cases GoMRI acknowledgement should specify how GoMRI funds were used in support of the published research effort.

GoMRI funds shall NOT be used (nor GoMRI credited) to support the analysis of data and/or preparation of a manuscript that are not related to a funded GoMRI project objectives. GoMRI funds shall NOT be used (nor GoMRI credited) to support the analysis of data and/or preparation of a manuscript for which the associated data will not be publically available.

Please share this information with the members of your consortium or research team and contact the GoMRI Chief Science Officer with any questions or concerns.