



## NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD

*"Building a clear understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems that enables effective management and sustainable use of marine resources."*

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### **North Pacific Research Board Confidentiality of Information**

#### **Confidentiality of Video and Photographic Information**

The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) contracts with principal investigators that have the following stipulations on provision of data:

- NPRB reserves the right to distribute any and all information pertaining to the data and analyses found in and deriving from programmatic reports. None of the data gathered or analyses performed with funds from NPRB is proprietary in nature. Research results shall be published and made available to the public and other researchers as requested by NPRB.
- Data must be reported in an agreed-upon system, in accordance with specifications in a data management and information transfer plan, which will be developed by NPRB, in consultation with the applicant. It will specify, among other requirements, the storage media and formats, month and location for reporting, and other relevant information, such as metadata, that may be required by the circumstances of the project.
- NPRB is exploring the issue of confidentiality of video and photographic information collected on commercial fishing vessels. Fishing companies that are cooperating in research have raised concerns that the above stipulations raise the specter of the possibility of Freedom of Information Act requests for the raw data (such as video footage) by non-governmental organizations and the public for a variety of unintended purposes (such as video editing for negative public relations or evidence for personal injury cases regarding injured crewmembers).

#### **Specimen Archives and Universal Protocol**

Within constraints of available funding, NPRB seeks to establish local, regional, and national partnerships for archiving tissue and organisms and other types of samples and ensuring they are properly curated to preserve their quality.

### **Marine Geological Samples**

Principal investigators are required to archive and curate sediment, core, and dredge samples and to make them available to other investigators as soon as possible but no later than two years after the samples are collected. They must describe in their proposals how their geological specimens will be archived.

### **Biological Samples**

Academic, private, and community facilities have traditionally been sites where biological materials are curated. Not all material can (or should) be accommodated in these facilities. Principal investigators should archive voucher and type specimens as dictated by community standards and practices, as required by journals for publication, and as appropriate to support research results. Sharing of valuable sample material is highly encouraged and can be facilitated by providing metadata, indicating that samples are available early in the development of a research program.

Collections of biological specimens are necessary for many types of research in biological sciences, including one of the most essential activities, species identification. The National Science Foundation is the principal source of federal support for enhancement of these collections, principally by helping make improvements in infrastructure and computerization of large and disparate datasets. Typically, collections are housed at institutions with programs in systematics and other biodiversity-related research, and the collections have been built over many years and contain thousands or even millions of specimens. Natural history collections contain records of life on earth that are unique and irreplaceable, including specimens of extinct species and temporal information on changes in the ranges of native and introduced species. Such collections provide materials necessary for research on biodiversity, including evolutionary relationships, ecosystem functioning, and biological conservation.