

Early Human Occupation of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico 2009:



Data Management Plan

Project Description:

Crucial details about the initial colonization and subsequent dispersal of late Pleistocene humans into and through the New World remain problematic and highly controversial. In our 2007 proposal, we postulated that now-inundated environments in littoral zones such as the eastern Gulf of Mexico should contain evidence of earlier coastlines with intact beach features and indications of the initial anthropogenic use of these environments. We further postulated that it should be possible to identify the channels and related geomorphological features of Florida's west coast karst river systems which intersected these submerged coastlines during the late Pleistocene. As these rivers would have attracted human occupation/utilization and, it thus would be expected that early human habitations should be located in close juxtaposition to them.

Our NOAA-funded 2008 investigations yielded abundant data confirming many of our 2007 hypotheses. We successfully: (1) located and high-resolution mapped several kilometers of a large, essentially intact, and infilled paleo-river channel east of the Florida Middle Grounds; (2) identified additional buried stream and river channels, some with clearly visible overbank deposits; (3) located and identified more than 100 infilled, stratified sinkhole features with obvious potential for organic and artifact preservation; and (4) mapped nearly 10 km² of intact geomorphological features just inside the Last Glacial Maximum shoreline (over 300 feet deep).

For 2009, we propose intensive investigation of the paleochannel and related karst features discovered in 2008, which are expected to have the greatest likelihood of providing Early Paleoindian Clovis-era or even earlier archaeological sites. The proposed research promises to contribute new and important data to the theoretical ferment which currently convulses the study of early humans in North America.

Expedition Logistics:

The R/V Weatherbird II, July 23 – August 5, 2009, Florida Middle Grounds, Gulf of Mexico

Expedition Objectives:

The principal research objectives for 2009 include, firstly, diver and video examination of shallow shoals and scour features in the Florida Middle Grounds. Secondly, research objectives also include the generation of remote sensing coverage of the area directly adjacent to Sub-Area 1 on its south side. On bathymetric maps, a right angle intersection ("T") of the previously documented paleochannel and what appear to be another river channel can be seen. Similar features have also been identified within Sub-Area 1 and in Sub-Area 2. The proposed examination will, therefore, extend our coverage and should provide the means to interface or connect our data with other extant data sets over the entire Florida Middle Grounds. Thirdly, the proposed research will also include continued examination of the paleochannel identified in 2008. We will continue to follow the paleochannel "upstream" as far as possible from the north side of Sub-Area 1. Near-shore, we will turn around and trace the known Suwannee Channel back into the Gulf as far as feasible. If these channels converge, it will confirm the

tentative identification of the discovered channel as the Paleo-Suwannee. Fourthly, and finally, the proposed research will also include examination of several linear “channel-like” features identified north and west of Sub-Area 1. These features are trending towards the paleochannel and may well represent additional tributaries. They could also be barrier islands. If they are additional ancient river channels, they should intersect with the main paleochannel just north of Sub-Area 1. Once again, we note that based on terrestrial analogues, the confluences of major and minor tributaries afford a high potential for the location of Paleoindian sites.

Expedition Principals for Data Management:

Dr. James Adovasio, Mercyhurst College, Principal Investigator
Susan Gottfried, NCDDC, OER Data Management Coordinator
Frank Cantelas, NOAA OER, Expedition Coordinator
Dr. Nicolas Alvarado, NOAA OER, Web Coordinator/Data Manager

Anticipated Data Submission for Archive:

- Quick Look Report (form to be supplied)
- R/V Weatherbird II navigation and hull-mounted sensor data in non-proprietary format (ASCII text)
- Copies of dive video collected during dive operations (e.g. DVD, MiniDV, digital, etc)
- Highlight image CD, 20-30 high-resolution still images with captions/credits
- Highlight video clips, combined to provide 10-30 minutes of footage, from dive video or from hand-held video capturing the expedition highlights
- Sample logs/spreadsheets
- Dive summary logs (SCUBA diver log)
- Cruise Summary report
- Publications, Journal Articles, etc.

Data Management Plan:

OER has selected Early Human Occupation of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico 2009 (EarlyHumans2009) as a Signature Expedition and as such, and per the Data Management Guidance (Appendix A), OER will provide a Data Manager for the expedition. The Data Manager will document the metadata - the who, what, when, where, why and how of any raw data sets, samples, multimedia files, and products collected, recorded, and/or produced during and after the EarlyHumans2009 expedition. After the EarlyHumans2009 expedition, the Data Manager will enter information into a customized data base application, called the Cruise Information Management System (CIMS) and produce corresponding Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata in the Metadata Enterprise Resource Management Aid (MERMAid), a metadata generation and publishing tool developed and maintained at the National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC). The xml format of these metadata records can be made available to the science team as exported files from MERMAid for use in other metadata tools.

Several types of metadata records are generated for each expedition. The highest-level record is called a Collection-level metadata record and contains the most basic header information about the expedition – title, vessel, chief scientist, mission abstract, dates, geographic region, and keywords or phrases that enhance discovery of the metadata. More detailed metadata records document the raw data sets recorded, samples collected, multimedia images or video recorded, and products generated as a result of the expedition.

The collection-level metadata record enables the archive centers to prepare their systems to receive associated data sets that are their responsibility to archive. The National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) archives oceanographic, biological, chemical, and environmental data sets. The National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) archives geological and geophysical data sets. The NOAA Central Library (NCL) archives physical multimedia, digital multimedia files (such as video highlights and highlight images), and paper and digital products (such as reports, journal articles, publications, etc). See Figure 1 below for an illustration of the flow of data from CIMS to the archive centers.

Metadata Generation and Archive

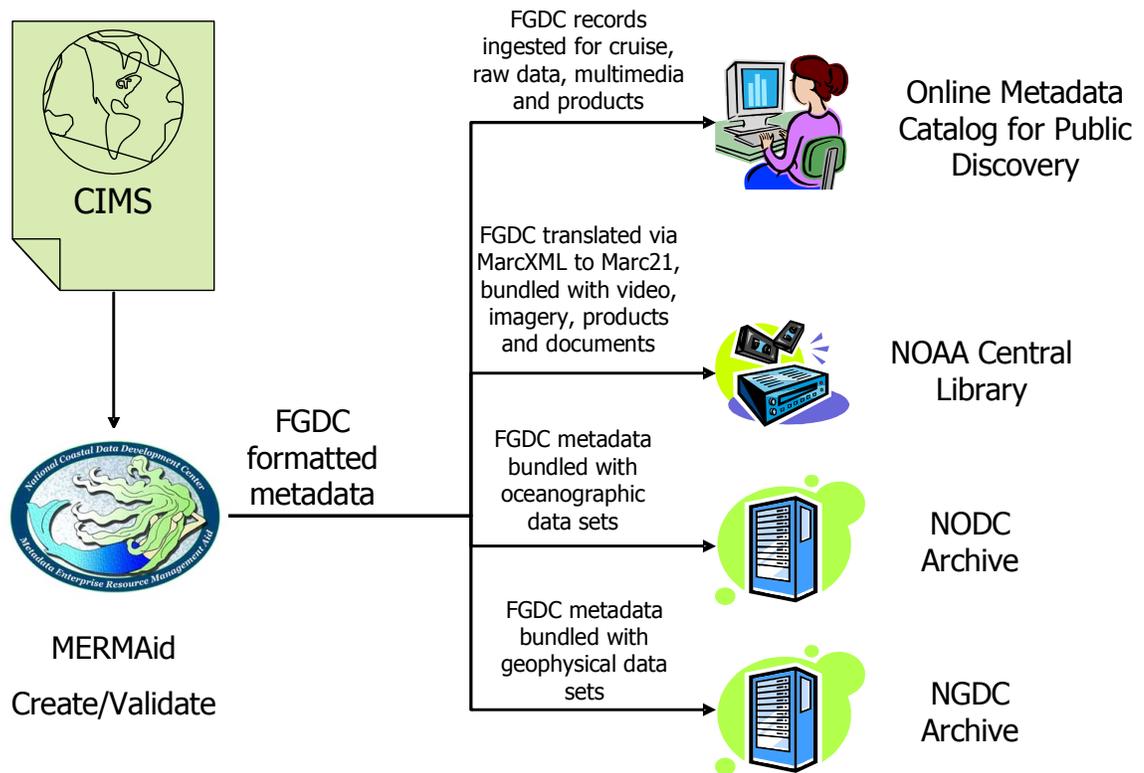


Fig. 1: Metadata Flow of CIMS for Archive, Discovery and Access

Once published in MERMAid, metadata records are harvested by Geospatial One-Stop, the government’s preferred repository for geospatial metadata. MERMAid is also considered a node on the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) clearinghouse and metadata records published from MERMAid will be distributed across this network for increased discoverability through metadata search capabilities.

The Data Manager will document the metadata from SCUBA dive operations, and the science activities that occur either during dive operations or independently (e.g. hull-mounted sensors, net tows). Science activities are defined as the use of some instrument or sensor to record or collect data - samples, multimedia files, or raw data sets. As an example, if a dive video camera records video on

MiniDV, the Data Manager will create a multimedia metadata record within CIMS and associate it with the science activity metadata record detailing the use of the video camera, which will be associated with a dive operation metadata record for the SCUBA ops. Similarly, a non-dive related science activity might be the operation of the shipboard integrated sensor suite, which captures the integrated navigational, oceanographic and meteorological sensors on the Weatherbird II. A raw data metadata record would describe the data output from the sensor suite for the entire expedition.

Within CIMS, metadata can also be captured for shuttling operations, vessel transits, media events, education/outreach events, incidents or accidents, weather events, marine mammal sightings, unscheduled down times, and others. Many of these are useful for the daily Situation Reports (SitRep), an operational document that typically gives the current position of the vessel, the personnel onboard, the operations, activities and events that occurred during the reporting period and a first-person summary of the expedition during the reporting period. SitReps are considered operational documents and are emailed to the OER Expedition Coordinator as well as to any colleague or family member, whose email address has been supplied to the Data Manager.

Geospatial and other Products for Discovery:

NCDDC maintains a Digital Atlas for OER that provides a geographical user interface for data discovery and access to OE-sponsored expeditions. The tool, which can be accessed online at http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/website/google_maps/OE/mapsOE.htm, color codes the expeditions by year and provides filters by year and by exploration theme to affect the display. Clicking on an expedition icon will display a bubble of information. The first screen is a brief summary of the expedition and a link to its web page on <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>, OER's Education and Outreach website. Once the data from the expedition is archived, a 'Data Access' tab will be available with instant access by the user to the location of the expedition's data at each of the archive centers. If an Expedition Education Module (EEM) was created by OER's Education Program for the expedition, a link to the EEM will also be available on this 'Data Access' tab. An 'GIS Tools' tab will be available if the expedition has been included in a more sophisticated Geographic Information System (GIS) application with an Interactive Map Service allowing the user to view information and data from the expedition in relation with other data sources in the same study area. Navigational and underway data from the vessels and submersibles provide the initialization data necessary to be included in the GIS. Once incorporated, other data sets or products can be accessible to the user.

The NOAA Central Library maintains a Video Data Management System (VDMS) of all physical media archived in their climate-controlled storage rooms. Each media unit is catalogued in the library and is accessible for viewing, with the principal investigator's permission, in the Library's Media Room. (see Appendix B)

The NODC assigns Accession numbers to the data sets they receive for their Ocean Archive System (OAS). Visitors to the NODC website are able to discover the data sets archived at NODC through the OAS user interface, accessible through <http://www.nodc.noaa.gov>. (see Appendix B)

The NGDC uses the GEOphysical DATA System (GEODAS), <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/> to archive and provide access to multibeam bathymetry and other geophysical and geological data. (see Appendix B)

Appendix A: Data Management Guidance

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration & Research (OER) is in accord with the 2000 President's Panel on Ocean Exploration call for a Federal program that promotes data management and dissemination to ensure that discoveries can have maximum impacts in the research, commercial, regulatory, and educational realms. OER advocates open scientific communication and expects significant findings from supported research and educational activities to be promptly submitted for publication with authorship that accurately reflects the contributions of those involved. It expects PIs to share with other researchers, at no more than incremental cost and within a reasonable time, the data, samples, physical collections and other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of the work. It also encourages grantees to share software and inventions, once appropriate protection for them has been secured, and otherwise act to make the innovations they embody widely useful and usable. OER will put these principles into practice, in ways appropriate to field and circumstances, through the proposal review process; through award negotiations and conditions; and through appropriate support and incentives for data cleanup, documentation, dissemination, storage and the like. Adjustments and, where essential, exceptions may be allowed to safeguard the rights of individuals and subjects, the validity of results and the integrity of collections, or to accommodate legitimate interests of investigators.

Each applicant should articulate his/her willingness to comply with these principles. The proposal Project Description should outline the plans for preservation, documentation, and sharing of data, samples, physical collections, curricula materials and other related research and education products. Plans for handling of data and other products will be considered in the review process.

Grant recipients are responsible for archiving all acquired data sets and associated products in the appropriate NOAA archive (i.e., National Oceanographic Data Center, National Geophysical Data Center, National Coastal Data Development Center, National Climate Data Center, and the NOAA Central Library) as soon as practical and, in no case, later than two years following the completion of the expedition. Within 60 days of completion of the expedition/field work/etc, grant recipients should provide a collection level metadata record (e.g., number & type of data, and description of the data collected) to the OE Data Manager for submission to the National Data Clearinghouse. This record should be created in compliance with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata (FGDC-STD-001-1998) in accordance with Executive Order 12906, Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure dated April 1994 http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/executive_order.

For continuing observations, data inventories should be submitted periodically if there is a significant change in location, type or frequency of such observations. Archiving of any specific archaeological site information that is considered sensitive material under Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) will not be required to be in compliance with these requirements.

For a subset of funded expeditions, OE will facilitate data collection, management and archival by providing the in-field services of an OE Data Manager. The OE Data Manager will be responsible for documenting all expedition activities (e.g., science, education and outreach, transits, shuttles) in the OE Cruise Information Management System (CIMS). The metadata records contained in the CIMS will be provided to the Science Team for inclusion in required reports, and will be distributed to the appropriate NOAA archive.

To aid in the Census of Marine Life (CoML; <http://www.coml.org>) goal of determining the distribution, abundance and diversity of marine life, all projects are encouraged to maintain their biological species information on-line and linked (either directly or via a Federal data center) to the CoML database, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) (<http://www.iobis.org>). A statement to this effect should be included in the proposal. Biological samples should be registered with the Census of Marine Life's OBIS database (<http://www.iobis.org>) or a Federal database that is linked to OBIS.

Other data or data products may also be requested at the discretion of the OE Director for administrative, scientific, or educational use. All such product requests will be considered in full collaboration with the applicant, and any data sensitivity issues will be handled appropriately. PIs and their institutions are responsible for meeting all legal requirements for submission of data and research results that are imposed by foreign governments as a condition of that government's granting research clearances. Each PI and institution must determine their legal obligations in this respect, with the assistance of the Department of State and NOAA, as necessary.

The applicant is encouraged to consider budgeting appropriate resources for any anticipated costs to comply with these data management principles. This generally includes budgeting for the following types of activities: reports, reprints, page charges or other journal costs (except costs for prior or early publication); necessary illustrations; cleanup, documentation, storage and indexing of data and databases; development, documentation and debugging of software; and storage, preservation, documentation, indexing, etc., of physical specimens, collections or fabricated items. The OE Data Manager, when not otherwise specifically designated in each Grant or Contract award, will be the NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center's OER Liaison Officer (228-688-2936 or toll free 1-866-732-2382).

Appendix B: NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) Expedition Data Submission Instructions

In preparation for your expedition, OER would like to discuss how we may assist you with archiving your expedition data at NOAA, generating associated metadata, and protecting your proprietary and intellectual rights to the data and data products. Archiving the data and publishing the associated metadata will enable OER to be in compliance with government mandates for data management, and we believe it will provide you advantages as well:

- Published metadata will ensure that your research will be discoverable through Internet searches and that it always will be accredited to you.
- Published metadata will never expose the actual data unless that is something that you authorize.
- Archived data will be withheld from public access for a minimum of two years and will be preserved for the long term.
- Archived data that have been made publicly accessible will benefit future research.

OER offers science parties three levels of data management support related to their expeditions:

1. An OER designee accompanies the expedition and performs data management duties using the CIMS.¹
2. OER provides CIMS and trains a science party member as a data manager.¹
3. If CIMS is not used in association with an expedition, OER works with the science party to ensure that a subset of the data and information is archived in the appropriate NOAA data centers.²

¹ When CIMS is used during an expedition, post-cruise procedures provide a metadata generation utility that will programmatically generate FGDC compliant metadata from the information entered into the system. These metadata records are then owned and controlled by the chief scientist through the MERMAid..

²When the CIMS is not utilized, a science party metadata contact must be identified for the expedition. This contact will be given access to the MERMAid in order to create and manage metadata for archived datasets. Metadata and archive staff will be assigned to work with that contact to ensure that metadata requirements are understood and that the metadata is compliant with the appropriate standards.

Regardless of the support level, OER is committed to the process of efficiently and effectively managing data and information derived from all funded projects. In our upcoming pre-cruise data management conference call, we would like to accomplish several goals:

1. Identify the data sets that you will acquire and the subset of NOAA-relevant data sets that you would be willing to archive at the appropriate NOAA data centers.
2. Decide on which level of data management support will be required for your expedition and discuss the next steps.

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3. Discuss proprietary and intellectual rights associated with the data and metadata, time frames for submitting the data and metadata, and time frames for making the data available to the public.
4. Introduce the CIMS tool for documenting data collection activities during the expedition.
5. Introduce the MERMAid tool for metadata creation and publishing and describe how it can be utilized in the process.
6. Introduce the Digital Atlas, an interactive GIS application, through which your expedition may be discoverable in a geospatial environment with other related NOAA and non-NOAA data sets.
7. Introduce the Video Data Management System (VDMS), the NOAA Central Library's application for cataloguing copies of video from your expedition, which can be protected in the library in a climate-controlled, state-of-the-art video archive.
8. Introduce NODC's Ocean Archive System and describe its capabilities and recommended archival data formats.
9. Introduce NGDC's Archive System and describe its capabilities and recommended archival data formats.
10. Discuss any concerns regarding specific archaeological site information that is considered sensitive material under Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) or other concerns about limiting access to sensitive information (e.g., location and type of endangered biological resources).

By the end of our conference call, OER expects a shared understanding of all our data management goals and an agreement between OER and the science party as to the process for data management.

NOAA Central Library (NCL) Video Data Management System (VDMS) and Library Online Catalog (NOAALINC)

Overview:

The NOAA Central Library, located in Silver Spring, Maryland, maintains a Video Data Management System (VDMS) for the OER Data Management effort. The VDMS provides climate-controlled storage for physical media and hard-copy products while the NOAA Library Online Catalog (NOAALINC) is an online tool which provides discoverability and access to the catalogued digital imagery and products within an expedition collection.

The NCL is interested in archival the following types of data sets.

Check If Incl	Proprietary Period	Data Type	Preferred Formats	Acceptable Formats	Unacceptable Formats
		Copy of the original video footage	MiniDV, DVD or DVCAM		
		Video Highlights	MiniDV, DVD or DVCAM (approx. 10-30 min. runtime)		
		Video Annotations	Microsoft Excel, Comma delimited, or Text file format		
		Digital Images	high resolution still images in JPEG and TIFF formats organized into albums/folders	Low resolution still images in JPEG or TIFF formats	
		Digital Image Highlights	high resolution still images in JPEG and TIFF formats including captions and credit lines	Low resolution still images in JPEG or TIFF formats	
		Digital Image/Digital Image Highlights annotations	Microsoft Excel, Word, or PDF document; Include credit line for the entire collection		
		Reports (Cruise Summary, Quick Look Report, Dive Summaries, etc.)	Microsoft Excel, Word, or PDF document		
		Educational lesson	Web applications,		

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		plans	such as HTML, Word, PDF		
		Promotional post- expedition products	CD-ROM, DVD, video tapes, Websites, brochures, posters, etc.		

Additional considerations: _____

NOAA National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) Geophysical Data System (GEODAS)

Overview:

NGDC provides archival service for relevant geologic, seismic, magnetic, gravitational, and/or bathymetric data collected and products generated in association with OER-sponsored expeditions. Metadata accompanying these data are required in order to effectively provide discovery of these data and products to diverse user communities.

NGDC is interested in archival the following types of data sets.

Check If Incl	Proprietary Period	Data Type	Preferred Formats	Acceptable Formats	Unacceptable Formats
		Multibeam Bathymetric Raw Data	1		
		Image Files	2		
		Grid Files	3		
		Gravity, Magnetic, Seismic, or single beam bathymetric data	4		
		Geology Grain Size Analysis			
		Core descriptions & analyses			

If data sets are identified for archival, a more detailed discussion regarding appropriate formatting will follow. An overview regarding currently supported formats by data type is below.

¹NGDC currently accepts raw geophysical data in a variety of formats readable by MBSYSTEM software. At present, formats associated with the following sonars are supported.

- Sea Beam "classic" multibeam sonar
- Hydrosweep DS multibeam sonar
- Hydrosweep DS2 multibeam sonar
- Hydrosweep MD multibeam sonar
- Sea Beam 2000 multibeam sonar
- Sea Beam 2112 and 2136 multibeam sonars
- Sea Beam 2120 multibeam sonars
- Simrad EM12, EM121, EM950, and EM1000 multibeam sonars
- Simrad EM120, EM300, EM302, and EM3000 multibeam sonars
- Simrad Mesotech SM2000 multibeam sonar
- Hawaii MR-1 shallow tow interferometric sonar
- ELAC Bottomchart and Bottomchart MkII shallow water multibeam sonars
- Reson Seabat multibeam sonars (e.g. 9001, 8081, 7125)
- WHOI DSL AMS-120 deep tow interferometric sonar
- Sea Scan sidescan sonar

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- Furuno HS-1 multibeam sonar
- Edgetech sidescan and subbottom profiler sonars

See http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/res/pi/MB-System/html/mbsystem_formats.html for more details.

²Preferred formats are Tagged Image File Format (tiff) and/or Graphic Interchange Format (gif)

³Preferred format is Network Common Data Form (NetCDF). Additional information about NetCDF can be found at <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf>.

⁴Preferred formats are the Marine Geophysical Data (MGD-2000) formats, MGD77, HYD93, ARO88, GRD98, VCT00, and XYZ03. Details about these formats can be found at http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gdas/hg_mgd2000.Html.

Quality Information:

A dataset must include parameters for depth, latitude, and longitude.

Depth should be within the range of 0-11,000 meters and should contain only one sign. The method used to derive depth (sound velocities or 1500 m/sec) should be indicated and if sound velocity profiles exist, they should accompany the data. If tide corrections are applied to the data, these data should also accompany the data.

Latitude and longitude points should be located over areas of water or within the boundaries of a particular body of water. The datums used to determine position should be indicated.

Additional considerations: _____

NOAA National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) Ocean Archive System (OAS)

Overview:

NODC provides archival service for global oceanographic data in order to preserve a historical record of the Earth's changing environment. These archival data may be used for operational applications and ocean climate research. In a collaborative effort with NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER), NODC archives relevant oceanographic, biological, chemical, environmental, and meteorological data and products generated in association with OER-sponsored expeditions. Metadata accompanying these data are required in order to effectively enable discovery of these data and products to diverse user communities.

NODC is interested in archiving the following types of data.

Check if Included	Proprietary Period	Data Type	Preferred Formats	Acceptable Formats	Unacceptable Formats
		Physical Oceanographic Data ¹	comma delimited ASCII, netCDF, HDF5	MS Excel	6
		Chemical Oceanographic Data ²	comma delimited ASCII, netCDF, HDF5	MS Excel	6
		Biological Oceanographic Data ³	Comma Delimited ASCII, netCDF, HDF5	MS Excel	6
		Data Products ⁴	native GIS (.e00), PDF/A, JPEG, mov	PDF, MS Word	6
		Cruise Products ⁵	PDF/A	PDF, MS Word	6

¹ The NODC acquires physical oceanographic data of value for a broad spectrum of secondary users. These include measured values of temperature, salinity, ocean currents, winds and wave spectra, pressure, light transmission, fluorescence, sea level, etc. These measurements are taken from a variety of instruments (e.g. XBT, CTD, and ADCP), sensors (e.g., thermistor, transmissometer, inverted echo sounder), and platforms (e.g., moored current meters, drifting buoys, subsurface floats, tide stations, and earth orbiting satellites).

² The NODC acquires data on naturally-occurring and anthropogenic chemical substances. These data include observations from the water column, biota, and interstitial waters of marine sediments. Principal data parameters of interest include dissolved gases, pH, alkalinity, nutrients, dissolved organic and inorganic matter, particulate organic and inorganic matter, trace metals, and marine pollutants.

³The NODC archives a diverse range of biological data, including geographic and temporal distribution of all groups of marine plant and animal biota, primary organic production, plant pigment concentrations and distributions, and metabolic products in seawater (e.g. ATP and urea). Other parameters of interest include identity, geographic/temporal/vertical distribution, abundance and biomass of marine organisms (all taxonomic groups from virus particles to marine mammals) and population, community and ecosystem surveys and monitoring program collections.

Except when required by special NOAA program interest, NODC does not acquire biological data that are not directly related to ecosystem dynamics (e.g., cell and molecular biology, physiology, fisheries statistics, embryology and development, and morphometry). Data on substratum characteristics are acquired and archived by NODC only when they are included as habitat descriptors of benthic communities or as part of water column related studies.

⁴ The NODC acquires products in many diverse formats that are wholly dependent on the product type. Internationally- or industry-recognized standards are always preferred over locally-created formats. Recommended formats for still and moving image files, GIS maps, and other product types should be discussed in pre-cruise planning meetings to ensure timely inclusion in NODC archival collections.

⁵ The NODC acquires summary products produced as a result of the expedition (e.g. Cruise Summary reports, Dive Summary reports, journal articles, and publications). Summary products should use internationally- or industry-recognized standards, such as Adobe Acrobat PDF/A for documents.

⁶ NODC does not accept many formats that are readable only by proprietary software (e.g., Seabird CTD hex format). Contact NODC.DataOfficer@noaa.gov for more information.

Quality Information:

Data quality and detailed documentation of quality assessment techniques is critical for long-term preservation of irreplaceable observation data. Quality assessment techniques can be documented using MERMAid tools, in external publications that are archived with data holdings, or other mechanisms discussed during pre-cruise planning meetings.

Additional considerations: _____

NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) Geospatial Data Discovery, Visualization, Integration and Analysis Tools

Overview:

A key goal of the OER data management initiative is to integrate exploration data with other NOAA and non-NOAA data to meet NOAA’s mission goals. NCDDC hosts a geospatial data base of coastal and ocean data, and has developed applications to make this data available to the public through geo-web services. Using both Google and ESRI ArcServer technology, NCDDC has developed the Digital Atlas Portal, a map-based index for OER explorations. This data discovery tool is backed by a series of Regional Atlases that offer web-based GIS tools for data visualization, data integration and analysis.

Geospatial data provided to NCDDC will be hosted in the geospatial data base and made accessible to the public through one or more Regional Atlases. In addition, related, geo-referenced data products may be linked to the GIS display. For example, images may be linked to a location on the dive track; similarly, static products such as water column profiles, charts, dive reports and so on may be linked to specific map locations.

NCDDC can assist users in archiving their geospatial data products at the appropriate NOAA Data Center. The NCDDC geo-database is archived periodically at NODC.

NCDDC is interested in hosting the following types of data.

Check if Included	Proprietary Period	Data Type	Preferred Formats	Acceptable Formats	Unacceptable Formats
		Vessel and submersible navigational data	shapefiles, KML	comma delimited ASCII, MS Excel, *.e00, netCDF, HDF5	
		Data Products ¹	(shapefile), KML, PDF, JPEG, GeoTiff, png	MS Word	
		Cruise Products ²	PDF/A	MS Word	

¹ The NCDDC acquires products in many diverse formats that are wholly dependent on the product type. Internationally- or industry-recognized standards are always preferred over locally-created formats. Recommended formats for still and moving image files, GIS maps, and other product types (e.g. geo-referenced charts, plots, etc) should be discussed in pre-cruise planning meetings to ensure timely inclusion in NCDDC archival collections.

² The NCDDC acquires summary products produced as a result of the expedition (e.g. Cruise Summary reports, Dive Summary reports, journal articles, and publications). Summary products should use internationally- or industry-recognized standards, such as Adobe Acrobat PDF/A for documents.

Additional considerations:

1. Organizations that host their own web accessible GIS tools have the option of providing a link to their web site or maps. This information will be referenced from the OER Digital Atlas GIS Tools link.
2. Organizations that use ESRI ArcServer technology have the option of integrating remotely hosted data directly into a Regional Atlas.
3. FGDC metadata is required for geospatial data (e.g. shapefiles) but is not necessarily required for information products (e.g. dive reports, charts, etc)
