

FROM: http://seabass.gsfc.nasa.gov/seabass_access.html

Currently, access to the full bio-optical data set is limited to SIMBIOS and MODIS Science Team members, NASA-funded researchers, and other approved individuals (such as members of other ocean color instrument teams and voluntary data contributors) for advanced algorithm development and data product validation. Data are released to the general public 3 years after their collection date. All users incorporating SeaBASS data into their research are expected to acknowledge their data sources and abide by the *SeaBASS Access Policy* and *SeaBASS Account Regulations*.

SeaBASS Access Policy

From *SeaWiFS Postlaunch Technical Report Vol. 12* (2001)

Addendum: SeaWiFS Project In Situ Data Policy

This policy provides the guidelines for data collected under the NASA Research Announcement (NRA) Biological Oceanography Program and SeaWiFS Project field collaborations for inclusion in the calibration and validation database. The in situ data is to be submitted to the SeaWiFS Bio-optical Archive and Storage System (SeaBASS) (Hooker et al. 1994c, Fargion and Mueller 2000, and Fargion and McClain 2001). Note that all citations given in this addendum are listed in their entirety in the References section of this Technical Memorandum. The SeaBASS database is co-managed by the Sensor Intercomparison and Merger for Biological and Interdisciplinary Oceanic Studies (SIMBIOS) and SeaWiFS Projects at Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC).

The purpose of SeaBASS is to ensure that a user-friendly, searchable database of in situ and airborne bio-optical measurements is readily available to the NASA Ocean Color Science Team members and to other approved individuals (members of other ocean color instrument teams, voluntary data contributors, etc.) for advanced algorithm development and data product validation purposes. In addition, SeaBASS contains a variety of data collected using different methods (e.g., subsurface and above-surface reflectance, high performance liquid chromatography, and fluorometric chl a) which are useful for measurement protocol evaluation purposes (Mueller and Austin 1995, Hooker et al. 1999b, and Fargion and Mueller 2000). This policy supercedes the SeaWiFS Project 1991 policy (Appendix A in Hooker et al. 1993b).

Submission: Ocean color algorithm development is essentially observation limited, and rapid turnaround and access to such data are crucial for progress. Principal Investigators (PIs) supported under the SIMBIOS and SeaWiFS Programs must meet a 6-month data submission deadline. Bio-optical data collected under funding from the NASA Ocean Biology Program, however, must be submitted within 1 year. International Science Team members and members of other ocean color instrument teams who are making suitable observations for algorithm development and validation are encouraged to provide their data as well, to foster collaboration.

Formats and Metadata: Data should be provided in the currently agreed-upon format, along with relevant information describing collection conditions, instrument specifications, instrument performance and calibration, and statements of data accuracy. The currently used data format specifications and examples are posted on the SeaBASS Web site. The provider should use FCHECK, which is an automated format checker program, to test the format validity of SeaBASS data files via return e-mail. Appropriate instrument information, cruise reports, and calibration histories are expected from each data provider. For data providers supported by the SeaWiFS Project Office, submission of the above information is mandatory. Data values shall be in appropriate units (e.g., providing volts together with conversion coefficients and drift data

is unacceptable). High level data sets, such as normalized water-leaving radiance spectra, are encouraged together with descriptions or citations of the procedures used to derive the values. Descriptions of data should be segmented into logical groupings, e.g., by station, date, parameter, etc. Data quality, calibration traceability and history, instrument drift, and sampling protocols may be in text format. Future recommended format modifications may be proposed during NASA Ocean Color Science Team meetings and then discussed for approval and implementation.

Data Delivery and Access: Researchers, who are supported by the SeaWiFS Project Office, will be required to deliver data to the SeaWiFS Project Office within six months of data collection. For a period of three years following data collection, access to the digital data will be limited to the NASA Ocean Color Science Team and other approved users as agreed upon by the SeaWiFS Project Office and data providers unless earlier access is granted by individual data providers. Data providers can declare their data sets available for open access anytime prior to the three-year anniversary. The SeaWiFS and SIMBIOS Project Offices will grant access to international science team members on a case-by-case basis according to ongoing collaboration efforts. Other investigators from the ocean color community will be able to query SeaBASS for information about the data (i.e., parameters, locations, dates, and investigators), but will not have access to the data itself. If the investigators are interested in obtaining the data, they will be referred to the appropriate provider. After the third-year anniversary of data collection, all restricted data will change to an open status, and a copy of the data will be given to the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) for distribution. Exceptions to this plan may be made with the approval of the Ocean Color Science Team. For example, some special data sets for algorithm development may be made available to the research community without restrictions.

Use Conditions: Prior to the three-year data collection anniversary, users of data will be required to provide proper credit and acknowledgment of the provider. A citation should also be made of the data archive. Users of data are encouraged to discuss relevant findings with the provider early in the research. The user is required to give all providers of the data being used a copy of any manuscript resulting from use of the data prior to the initial submission for publication, thus giving the data provider an opportunity to comment on the paper. The provider(s) shall have the right to be named as a co-author. All users and providers are requested to report possible data errors or mislabeling found in the database, to the SeaBASS administration.

Updates and Corrections: A major purpose of the SeaBASS database is to facilitate comparisons between in situ observations (regionally, temporally, by technique, by investigator, etc.), as well as between in situ and remotely sensed observations. Updates and corrections to submitted data sets are encouraged. Records will be maintained of updates and corrections; summaries of updates will be posted on a database board, and users shall be notified of the updates. It will be the provider's responsibility to ensure that the current data in the archive is identical to the data used in the provider's most recent publications or current research. When an investigator has determined that the data sets are final, a written certification of data quality is mandatory.

Distribution: After receiving the final data, the SeaWiFS Project Office will forward the data at the appropriate time to NODC for open distribution. A courtesy citation, naming the provider and the funding agency, will accompany the data. The SeaWiFS Project will not be held responsible for any data errors or misuse.

SeaBASS Account Regulations

ELIGIBILITY

Active Principal Investigators (PI's) of the following organizations are eligible for access to the SeaBASS data archive:

- The SIMBIOS Science Team (current NRA)
- Affiliated NASA-sponsored Science Teams (e.g. SeaWiFS, MODIS)
- International Space Agencies regularly contributing ocean color satellite products to the SIMBIOS Project
- Other regular contributors of *in situ* data (granted access to SeaBASS on a case by case basis)

Periodic and substantial submission of *in situ* or satellite data sets is required for consideration as a 'regular contributor'. Renewal of regular contributor status will be reviewed annually.

DATABASE ACCESSIBILITY

Each PI is eligible for a single account and a limited number of IP addresses from which SeaBASS may be accessed. The number of IP addresses allowed per PI is defined as follows:

- 2 IP addresses per funded SIMBIOS PI or NASA sponsored Science Team member
- 3-5 IP addresses per International PI or Space Agency

The latter depends on the size of the organization and number of co-PI's named in SIMBIOS proposal (e.g. 3 for small, 5 for large, defined at the discretion of the SIMBIOS Project Office).

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (US AND INTERNATIONAL) RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of each PI to:

- apply for access to SeaBASS
- distribute their login name and password to the appropriate members of their staff and co-PI's
- inform the SeaBASS Administrator of changes in IP address or need for a new password
- inform the SeaBASS Administrator of staff/co-PI changes

Data accessed from SeaBASS is NOT to be distributed to unauthorized personnel!

SPACE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the Calibration/Validation Manager or appropriate manager in the organization to:

- apply for access to SeaBASS
- distribute their login name and password to the appropriate members of their staff and co-PI's
- inform the SIMBIOS Project of staff/co-PIs that will be accessing SeaBASS
- inform the SIMBIOS Project of staff/co-PI changes
- inform the SeaBASS administrator of changes in IP address or need for a new password

Data accessed from SeaBASS is NOT to be distributed to unauthorized personnel!

THE SEABASS ADMINISTRATOR

Reserves the right to:

- ° monitor accounts, IP addresses and passwords
- ° implement new security measurements as necessary