**Overview of data policy and access**

The UC Davis biotelemetry database, (now called the Pacific Aquatic Telemetry Hub or PATH) contains acoustic biotelemetry records (tagging records, tag detections and associated metadata) of multiple fish species and telemetry technologies. Telemetry data stored in this database are accessible to collaborators once their project is registered within the database. Collaborators can access detections of their tags from any receiver file uploaded to the database. Project leads “own” the data associated with the fish they release and can grant other members/collaborators access to tagging data and subsequent detections of tagged fish. While some data is made publicly available immediately (receiver location and deployment metadata) all animal-specific metadata and detections are protected by a default 2-year embargo (that begins after projected tag battery expiration) before it is made public. While we encourage all collaborators to make their data publicly available, we also recognize that there are reasons to request embargoes on data for different periods of time determined appropriate by said collaborators. A primary goal of the PATH is to facilitate a collaborative data exchange network curated and owned by individual members from a variety of agencies and institutions. The project leads, not PATH administrators, determine who can access their projects’ detailed biological tagging data and subsequent detections of those tagged fish, consistent with their own agency or funding source policy.

**What it means to be an Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) Node**

The mission of the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) is to inform sustainable management of aquatic animals by providing information on their movements, habitats and survival through and international expertise, data warehousing and technological innovation. Becoming an OTN node ensures that data providers will receive the wide range of benefits that come with joining an international animal tracking network. For example, detection data uploaded from the node can be automatically cross-referenced with other tags in the system to help resolve “mystery detections” and provide detection data to taggers in other regions. Additionally, OTN data managers will provide nodes with data quality assurance and control, as well as technical support. Finally, OTN’s database and Data Portal website provide a place for nodes to archive datasets for future use, share with collaborators, and ensure that the public can discover and learn more about each project the node hosts.

**Definitions**

**Collaborators (Array)** parties who deploy, maintain, and retrieve data from receivers and **(Tracking)** parties who over see the tagging of animals and provision of the data

**Database** the instruments and systems that store and make accessible the information kept with in PATH

**Data Manager** the person appointed by PATH to manage PATH data

**Data Use Agreement** the agreement between members of PATH or other persons which sets out the process through which PATH data can be accessed.

**OTN** Ocean Tracking Network

**Project lead** point of contact on each project that will answer all project related questions and approve use of data by any interested party

**Regional Data node** a repository of region-specific data formed on an ad-hoc basis by OTN collaboration

**Restricted Data** data which Tracking and/or Array Collaborators have submitted to the PATH database on the condition that access to that data is restricted in accordance with this policy.

**Unrestricted Data** all PATH data that is not restricted

**Public Data**

Submission:

1. Collaborators agree to ensure data are in accordance with predefined standards as described in the PATH metadata submission forms.
2. Collaborators should inform PATH data managers of any known errors, inaccuracies, or needed updates with respect to the data as soon as possible.
3. Data that will be immediately available unless otherwise embargoed:
   1. Receiver deployment location
   2. Deployment date
   3. Download date
   4. Retrieval date
4. Data that will be made available two years after projected tag battery expiration unless otherwise embargoed
   1. Tagged animal detection data
   2. Tagged animal metadata

Access:

By accessing PATH data, all users agree to:

1. Data users must contact data collaborators if they wish to publish using their data and give proper attribution for all data used in a publication to all collaborators, using their project citations, or otherwise via mutual agreement, and to OTN’s data infrastructure using the pre-formed citation as supplied by the Portal via PATH and OTN metadata reports and/or those found in line with the data records themselves.
2. Inform PATH of publications, data products (e.g. tables, graphs, maps, etc.), and commercial applications resulting from use of the data.
3. Acknowledge that neither OTN nor PATH is liable for inaccuracies in the data.
4. Assume responsibility for investigating and understanding any limitations of the data.
5. Report all problems with respect to the data to (path@ucdavis.edu)

**Restricted Data**

Submission:

1. If data collaborators opt out of public data, access to data uploaded to the PATH database will be restricted to only those submitting data for individual projects, and to collaborators specifically approved by project leads. We ask that project leads consider making their data publicly available as soon as they deem it appropriate. Project leads can do this by specifically opting into public sharing through PATH administrators.
2. We ask that full detection records, including those of animals not tagged by the collaborators’ own projects, be made available for all other users who have tagged animals in the system, along with the collaborators’ project’s receiver deployment metadata. The full detection data for animals tagged by others will be made available to those project leads and collaborators immediately after it is uploaded to the database.

Access:

1. Anyone who wishes to access restricted data must contact the project lead directly for permission. PATH administrators will not determine who can have access to detection data that has not been made public.

Dissemination:

1. We will not disseminate data prior to full public release without direct consent from the project leads.

**Data Exchange Between OTN Partner Nodes**.

OTN will, with the express permission of individual collaborators share remotely matched tags and detections contained within their Project information with other OTN-compatible Partner databases, for the purposes of ensuring each institution may hold the most complete dataset relevant to that project. The process of replicating a Project’s information into a remote database will be referred to as ‘mirroring’ that Project and/or its Project Data. The source database of a mirrored Project will be referred to as its Primary Database.

* For animal detections matched remotely, a record of the source project’s primary database will be kept.
* The data citation policy that applies to the use of those detections will be that of its Primary Database.
* The tag embargo policy will be that of the Primary Database that manages the mirrored Project.
* The publication status of all aspects of the Project being shared between Databases will be determined by the Project’s Primary Database and respected by all other Partner databases.

2. In the case of Partner Databases with strongly divergent data policies that could result in conflicting privacy rules, mirroring will only occur when the collaborators of a project agree to be bound by both this Policy and the Partner policy. Each Database may then execute their responsibilities as per their own data policy. Sharing with partner databases will occur only with direct agreement from project leads.

3. Project-level metadata that have been shared and made available by Partner nodes may be aggregated into global data catalogues to improve discoverability. Only nonrestricted project metadata that is actively being served by the Partner Database will be used in these aggregations, and will only be harvested via the Partner Database’s public data endpoints. Control of what appears at those endpoints is left to the Partner Database.

**Responsibilities of Parties**

Data Collaborators:

1. Report all data in a timely manner *along* *with associated metadata*
   1. Keep complete and full detection data provided to maximize its utility to other future users once data have become publicly available;
   2. Provide detailed manufacturer's specifications for all tags and receivers pertaining to each project; and
   3. Provide high-level information metadata relating to the parameters of the Project and its participants for publication in a registry of Projects.
2. Maintain accurate contact information for project participants, particularly project leads.

**PATH agrees to:**

1. Provide a repository where collaborators may securely access their Project(s’) Restricted Data as well as the aggregated data products generated by the Database;
2. Uphold the embargo period granted to the Restricted Data within a Project, and generally to protect and keep unpublished all Restricted Data;
3. Provide access to Restricted Data only to the approved participants designated by collaborators.
4. Provide all Unrestricted Data publicly in formats that are acceptable to the international community and compatible with all relevant data and metadata standards, with the goal of curating a complete record of the study undertaken and the data collected as part of the Project;
5. Disseminate and curate evolving best practices guidelines and conduct periodic reviews of data management activities in each to ensure that they are consistent with this Policy.