

Great Lakes Fish Monitoring and Surveillance Program Data Release Policy

Overview

The Great Lakes Fish Monitoring and Surveillance Program (GLFMSP) data is generated by cooperative agreement between U.S.EPA and an academic institution selected through the competitive process. The Principal Investigator (PI) is the head researcher and acts as a representative of the academic institution. PIs are defined collectively as the PI and the co-PIs. *Preliminary data* are defined as data that have not been verified by the GLFMSP manager. *Preliminary data* become *verified data* after the GLFMSP manager has approved the data as qualified and ready for submittal into the Great Lakes Environmental Database (GLENDa). Verified data are simultaneously the property of the PIs and the U.S.EPA. The verified data will become *final data* once they are available in GLENDa. Data will be considered final either two years after the data have been verified, once the specific data have been accepted for publication or six months have passed beyond the project and budget end dates, whichever occurs first. U.S. EPA is the owner of final data.

The PI(s) and U.S.EPA have similar but independent interests in the data. The PI(s) are given time to publish data prior to general availability. If a data request is made to EPA for preliminary data, the request is redirected to the PIs for consideration. Data requests that are submitted for verified data are subject to approval of EPA and the PIs. The U.S.EPA is required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to provide government-generated data to the public upon request. These requests will be filled and all appropriate disclaimers will be provided with any data released through the FOIA process.

PI(s) have the right of intellectual property to the data and can use the data for their own purposes (student theses, journal publications, etc.).

PIs will be responsible for updating relevant trend graphics to incorporate verified data for public access via EPA request or posting to the GLFMSP website within six months of the data verification. Trend graphics will incorporate individual lakes and chemicals, as determined by U.S. EPA and the PIs; Total PCBs, Total DDT, Total Chlordane, Dieldrin, Total Toxaphene, Total PBDE, Mirex, Mercury, and emerging contaminants (as identified by the PI(s)).

Data Release Request

All data requests must be in writing and contain the following statement: *The requester agrees that the GLFMSP data shall not be used for profit or commercial ventures. In addition the data will not be shared with anyone without consent from U.S. EPA and the academic institution. The PIs will have the right of co-authorship for all publications prepared with this data before it is available in GLENDa.*

Preliminary Data Release

Preliminary data may be released, upon request, at any time by agreement of the PI(s). A disclaimer should accompany the *preliminary data* whenever it is presented by the requester as

follows: *Although this data generation and analysis effort has been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through cooperative agreement #GLXXXXXXX to The Academic Institution, the data has not been subjected to Agency quality control review and should therefore be considered draft.*

Verified Data Release

Verified data may be released, upon request, at any time with the approval of PI(s) and U.S. EPA. The following disclaimer should accompany the *verified data* whenever it is presented by the requester: *This data generation and analysis effort has been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through cooperative agreement # GLXXXXXXX to The Academic Institution.* If the data release is in the form of a publication the PI(s) must be given the right of co-authorship before submission.

EPA Use of Verified Data

Data produced by this project is simultaneously owned by the PI(s) and the U.S. EPA. U.S. EPA may use *verified data* for required reporting as appropriate. Additionally, U.S. EPA is entitled to use *verified data* for presentations and decision making as appropriate with the proper citation.

Data Publication

PI(s) are encouraged to publish *verified data* in a timely manner. U.S. EPA will be provided manuscripts for comment prior to submission to scientific journals. U.S. EPA will have no influence over the content, opinions or conclusion presented in the manuscript unless U.S. EPA is listed as a co-author and has provided significant contribution to the manuscript. However, proper acknowledgement should be provided. Any publication of data should include the following disclaimer: *Although this data generation and analysis effort has been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through cooperative agreement # GLXXXXXXX to The Academic Institution, the text has not been subjected to Agency peer review. Therefore, it does not necessarily reflect the views of the Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred.* U.S. EPA recognizes that the PI(s) have an in house data verification process and that data used in a publication may be based upon only this level of verification. In the event that published GLFMSP data varies from final data, the published data will be recorded as such in GLEND. PIs are encouraged to submit the final report for the project in the form of a peer reviewed journal article or articles.

The GLFMSP requests that the following citation be included in all publications and reports of GLFMSP data: *The Great Lakes Fish Monitoring and Surveillance Program was established in 1970 and is currently operated through a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA and The Academic Institution. This program serves to monitor progress set by Annex 12 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.*

GLFMSP Website:

GLFMPS information will be available on the website, <https://epa.gov/great-lakes-monitoring/great-lakes-fish-monitoring-and-surveillance>. PI(s) will routinely review the information on the website and provide comments. PI(s) are responsible for providing appropriate trend graphs / information for public use, according to the timeline identified above. Proper citation will be provided to the PI(s) as the source of the data and information will be provided on how to contact PI(s) to request data use or propose collaborative work.