

Marine Geological Samples Laboratory (GSO/URI) Institutional Sample Distribution Policy

The Marine Geological Samples Laboratory at the Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO), University of Rhode Island serves as the repository for geological samples collected by faculty, students and staff of the GSO. In addition, the MGSL is a designated Institutional Repository for Sediment and Rock Samples by the National Science Foundation and receives funding for curatorial activities from the Marine Geology and Geophysics (MGG) Program. All marine geological samples collected with funding from the NSF must be placed in a MGG-approved repository.

The MGSL primarily serves as a repository for GSO/URI investigators, but if space is available the MGSL will curate samples from outside investigators. The rapid growth in the size of our collection, along with the increased variety of specialized analytical techniques by which they may be studied, makes it more desirable than ever to encourage utilization of the collection by the marine geological community.

Samples may be requested from qualified investigators as described below. We also welcome requests for material for museum displays or educational purposes. Each request will be considered on its own merits, but normally such requests will be filled from material that is especially abundant in supply, or from material that for a variety of reasons may be of relatively little intrinsic scientific interest.

A. Curation of Samples

Samples submitted to the MGSL for curation that were collected with funding from NSF (NSF-OCE-MGG) must conform to stipulations defined in the Division of Ocean Sciences Sample and Data Policy statement. These include:

1. Samples must be made publicly available within 2 years of collection (i.e., no later than).
2. P.I.s submitting samples to MGSL must submit sample metadata within 60 days post cruise to the appropriate National Data Center and to Integrated Earth Data Applications (IEDA) as specified in the Division of Ocean Sciences Sample and Data Policy Statement (Appendix I and II)
3. P.I.s must also submit completed NCEI Excel metadata files to the curator within 60 days for submission to NOAA's Index to Marine Geological and Lacustrine Samples (IMGLS) national database.
4. Any variation from the above requirements can only be approved by the cognizant NSF program officer.
5. It is recommended that P.I.s contact the curator to confirm there is sufficient space to curate their collected samples.

A. Proprietary Rights of the Collector

1. Access to samples will generally be restricted for two years from the date of sample collection, in order that those persons directly involved with the collection will have adequate time to complete their work on the material.
2. Permission for the release of samples during this two-year period will be at the discretion of the curator.
3. The collector may, with the approval of the curator, impose special conditions on the distribution of samples in order to ensure effective utilization of the material. Such special conditions would include the storage of samples in either refrigerated or frozen space.

B. Procedures for Requesting Samples

1. Requests for samples may be sent directly to the curator of the Marine Geological Samples Laboratory:

Dr. Katherine Kelley or Dr. Rebecca Robinson
Graduate School of Oceanography
University of Rhode Island
South Ferry Rd.
Narragansett, R. I. 02882
kelley@uri.edu rebecca_r@uri.edu

2. A request for samples should include a brief summary of the type of research to be undertaken, the nature of the laboratory facilities available, and the source of financial support available for the work. The names of associated investigators should be given, and the nature of their research, facilities, and funding should be indicated if different from the applicant.

3. If the material requested is within the two-year period of proprietary access, sample requests will be considered by the curator.

4. The curator and MGSL staff will advise on the availability of material and on any other conditions that may be appropriate to ensure effective utilization of the material.

C. Responsibilities of Persons Receiving Samples

1. The original, alpha-numeric sample label and the IGSN should be used in published papers. Any departure from this scheme should be clearly equated with the original labeling system in published papers or data summaries. This labeling system will be explained in the information supplied with the samples.

2. Published papers should acknowledge the source of samples and the appropriate grant or funding agency that supported the cruise recovering the samples. This information will be supplied at the time the samples are sent. These papers should also acknowledge the financial support responsible for maintaining the GSO geological samples.

3. Copies of all published papers, reports, or data summaries utilizing GSO samples should be sent to the GSO curator.

4. Any unused portions of samples should be returned in a timely fashion to the curator's office.