

Animal Tracking Facility

Recommended guidelines for using data from the IMOS Acoustic Animal Tracking Database

For use of the contents of the [IMOS Acoustic Animal Tracking Database](#), the [IMOS Animal Tracking Facility \(IMOS ATF\)](#) recommends adhering to the [Vancouver Protocol](#) and *Permission to Publish & Professional Courtesy* guidelines established by the [MOTUS Wildlife Tracking System](#), and detailed in the [MOTUS Collaboration Policy](#).

In summary:

All investigators and other users of IMOS Acoustic Animal Tracking data are expected to exhibit professional courtesy and utilise the data within the bounds of the highest scientific integrity. We expect that many Principal Investigators (PIs) will plan studies that make explicit or implicit use of data from other projects or PIs. When a substantial proportion of the data are expected or reported from acoustic receivers maintained by others, IMOS ATF strongly encourages PIs to discuss details and expectations of the project, as well as issues of authorship and acknowledgement on publications prior to the start of the study.

The following guideline may be used for acknowledgement and co-authorship, but specific details should be worked out between parties beforehand. PIs may wish to consider the proportion of data being used as a result of another PIs infrastructure. As a guideline:

- 0–10% of the data used: acknowledgement optional
- 10–33% of the data used: PI should be acknowledged
- >33% of the data used: co-authorship should be offered (PI can naturally decline)

All contact information for PIs associated with each project is available to users on the IMOS ATF Acoustic Animal Tracking Database webpage. [IMOS ATF Staff](#) can also facilitate communication between investigators.

In the case of the IMOS ATF Acoustic Animal Tracking Database, *data* refers to any tag or receiver metadata and tag detection data accessed through the [database webpage](#) or the [Australian Ocean Data Network \(AODN\) online portal](#). The relevant tag owners should therefore be contacted regarding data sharing and authorship discussions.

Once contact has been made with relevant data owners and an agreement has been met, authorship credit should be based only on substantial contributions to:

- 1) conception and design, or analysis and interpretation of data;
- 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content;
- 3) final approval of the version to be published.

Conditions 1, 2, and 3 must all be met. Participation solely in the acquisition of funding or the collection of data does not justify authorship. General supervision of the research group is not sufficient for authorship.