

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Use of Council Products Guidelines

November 2022

About these Guidelines

The following guidelines provide guidance to staff, Council members, and the public regarding the use of images, documents, creative works, and contracted products. Because the Council is federally funded, most products developed by the Council are public in nature and copyright-free. However, some restrictions do apply. In cases when permission must be sought to use a Council product, the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Administrative Officer, or Public Information Officer may authorize use of Council products. The following is a list of exceptions to the opensource use of Council products:

Logo

The Council logo may not be used without permission to endorse products, ideas, campaigns, or the work of other organizations. However, use of Council products containing the logo is permitted as a way to credit the organization for its works.

Images/Video

Images produced by the Council itself are public in nature and copyright-free. However, not all images used by the Council are government work. For example, photographs that are purchased or shared by members of the public may not be used freely. In many cases, content may be protected as intellectual property used by the Council with the rights holder's permission, so the public should contact the Council before using images or video published by the Council to ensure that they are Council property.¹

Council Documents/Products

Documents and creative works produced by the Council itself are public in nature and copyright-free. Documents produced by the Council should be cited appropriately and incorporated in the list of references with a hyperlink to the Gulf Council website.¹

Contracted Products

Documents and deliverables prepared for the Council by independent contractors are Council property and should be cited as such. Every publication of material based on or developed by a contractor must contain specific verbiage as required by the terms of the Council's funding award and as stated within the work contract. In general, if publications occur after completed work, the contractor should provide a draft to the Executive Director and Council Chair for review prior to publishing.

Data Citations

Publications that are based on data or products developed by, or funded by the Council, must cite the data using unambiguous labels. Additionally, data and products derived from such data that are used to support conclusions of a peer-reviewed publication must be made available in a form that permits verification and reproducibility of all results.²

1. DOC. 2020. Department of Commerce financial assistance standard terms and conditions. DOC, Washington D.C. 53 pp.
2. NOAA. 2019. Special award conditions, grant# NA20NMF4410007. NOAA, Silver Spring, Maryland. 3 pp.