

FAQs for the NPS Bat Acoustic Database, version 1.7

What data and information should be entered into the database?

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Is there a place to add software settings in the database? Are any standardized settings required?

What is the Night column on the detection data input screen and where does it come from?

Can I upload detection data from more than one analysis of a single deployment?

If detection data from more than one classifier package (e.g. Sonobat and Kaleidoscope) are uploaded to the database, can the database report on discrepancies between the classifiers or manual IDs if also included?

Are there any limits on the number of records that can be uploaded in a batch or handled by the database?

Which species ID columns in the data are used to determine species occurrence when using the Basic Summary Report to summarize detections by night?

Are there field data forms available that coincide with the database?

How do I upload data to Data Store?

When should data be uploaded to Data Store?

Should I upload a NEW database instance each season, or a cumulative database?

What is the accessibility of the data in Data Store and how are sensitive locations (e.g. threatened or endangered species) protected from public access?

Are there courses offered on acoustic analysis of bat call files, data processing, etc?

What data should be entered into the database?

The database is designed to take species detection data as output from call analysis packages (e.g. Sonobat, Kaleidoscope, etc.). Raw, unanalyzed call files are NOT supported. Information associated with each deployment or survey is entered into fields provided under the menu tabs in the user interface. There are a handful of required fields and all others are optional. However, more information about the settings and conditions of the deployment is valuable in evaluating data quality, comparability and assessing factors that may influence species detections.

Is there a section for physical capture data in this database?

No, this database was designed for acoustic data only. Databases for other types of bat data (colony counts, captures etc.) have been developed by some I&M networks and may be useful, but at the moment there is no NPS-service wide database tool or format for data collection.

Can I use this database for purposes other than NABat monitoring?

Yes! This database was designed to be flexible and useful for a variety of purposes and protocols. This could range from park-specific questions such as species inventories or habitat-use surveys to contribution to broader-scale monitoring programs like NABat. This is not an NABat specific database, but does allow for easy integration into the NABat database. Any bat acoustic data that has been collected is potentially useful for broader-scale analyses and may be entered into the database. Some of the fields, such as percent clutter or detector settings, have been included to help assess the quality and comparability of the data for broader-scale analyses.

What data formats meet the reporting requirements for NPS WNS-funded projects?

Use of the Access database is preferred because it allows for better compilation and comparisons of data sets. However, other formats (e.g. spreadsheet of species detection data) that meet minimum data requirements are acceptable if use of the database is not feasible. This information including minimum data requirements are posted with the database in IRMA, [2230347](#).

We've entered our data into previous versions of the database. Can this data be used with version 1.7?

Back-end database files from previous versions will not automatically work with the front-end file for version 1.7, but can be re-formatted to be compatible if the time and effort is worth it to you. However, back-end files from previous versions can be uploaded to NPS Data Store and be combined centrally with back-end files from version 1.7.

Can there be more than one selection under broad habitat?

Only one Broad Habitat can be selected for a Study Area. More fine-scale, specific habitat descriptions can be included in the "Local Habitat" field or "Site description" box for each deployment or survey location.

What time zone should be used for recording time (e.g. time of deployment)?

Time should be local time for the location of the deployment or mobile survey.

Is there a place to add software settings in the database? Are any standardized settings required?

Settings for the detector and call analysis software can be entered into the data fields under the Stationary Deployments or Mobile Survey menus. There are currently no standardized settings or requirements associated with this database. Some recommended settings are included in "Guidance for Conducting Acoustic Surveys for Bats, Version 1" available in IRMA, [2231984](#).

What is the Night column on the detection data input screen and where does it come from?

The Night field is the date (pre-midnight) for the call file. This field was added because it is required for generating the Basic Summary Report about species detected per night over a specified time interval. Since the different software packages handle dates differently, the Night column is something that you need to add manually to the output file from the call analysis software (e.g. Kaleidoscope, Sonobat, etc).

It is not automatically included. This column can be added using a variety of methods, such as formulas in Excel to pull out the Night (pre-midnight date) from the date column included in the output file. Each software program treats the Date information differently so the method or formula you use will depend on the software program you are using for call file analysis.

Can I upload detection data from more than one analysis of a single deployment?

Yes, results from multiple analyses of data from a single deployment can be uploaded into the database. You can toggle between the different software packages in the Detection Inputs Tab and import different output data for each software package that you used to classify calls.

If detection data from more than one classifier package (e.g. Sonobat and Kaleidoscope) are uploaded to the database, can the database report on discrepancies between the classifiers or manual IDs if also included?

No, this level of analysis is not currently built into this database.

Are there any limits on the number of records that can be uploaded in a batch or handled by the database?

Access databases have a maximum capacity for data storage. Additional back-end files can be created to store more data if need.

Which species ID columns in the data are used to determine species occurrence when using the Basic Summary Report to summarize detections by night?

The report will pull from all columns with species codes. If you want more specific control, you can select just the ManualID spp columns to summarize. Since these columns are manually populated, you can choose what data you want included in these columns (e.g. manually vetted calls, Consensus ID)

Are there field data forms available that coincide with the database?

No. Field data forms have not been created because a standard protocol doesn't exist for bat acoustic monitoring. These resources may be available in the future through national programs, such as NABat.

How do I upload data to Data Store?

Step by step instructions for uploading data sets (back-end database files) to NPS Data Store are posted within the IRMA reference for the database, [2230347](#). Instructions include keywords and cross-reference information to more easily track and find the data sets in Data Store.

When should data be uploaded to Data Store?

This will ultimately depend on the time schedule of the project or monitoring program, but in general, we recommend uploading annual datasets to Data Store. Acoustic data collected using NPS WNS-funds have specific recording requirements and deadlines, see "WNS Bat Acoustical Monitoring Data Requirements" located within the IRMA reference for the database, [2230347](#).

Should I upload a NEW database instance each season, or a cumulative database?

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To prevent duplicate data entries, it would be best to upload a NEW database file for each project/season/year - whatever makes sense for your monitoring plan.

What is the accessibility of the data in Data Store and how are sensitive locations (e.g. threatened or endangered species) protected from public access?

Datasets uploaded to Data Store are not accessible to the public. The record of the data can be viewed but the actual file cannot be viewed or downloaded. Sharing of data in Data Store with other programs, such as NABat, will follow data sharing agreements to ensure protection of any sensitive location or contact information.

Are there courses offered on acoustic analysis of bat call files, data processing, etc.?

There are a number of courses offered through different organizations for bat acoustic monitoring and data analysis, such as Bat Conservation and Management (BCM) and Bat Survey Solutions, LLC. These courses are valuable and provide a good start, but additional practice, training and mentorship is often needed.