

NOTE ON MAJOR REVISIONS DONE TO THE CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHING GEOTRACES PROCESS STUDIES:

In **July 2015**, the cruise criteria were revised for first time since its publication in order to include under criteria 6 a) the requirement of submitting the completed pre-cruise metadata form.

In **April 2017**, the criteria were revised again. Main changes included:

- Change the second introductory paragraph to relax the requirement that project leaders must request approval in advance of submitting the proposal to a funding agency but clarifying that in any case the process study application must occur prior to the fieldwork taking place.
- Clarification that "metadata for all datasets, including ancillary data" must be submitted along with the data.
- Inclusion of the [process study request form](#).
- Clarification on what "mention GEOTRACES in the proposal" meant in former criteria number 1 which was also split into two criteria.

In **June 2018**, the following changes were also made:

- Clarification of the process to request GEOTRACES process study status
- Removal of the requirement of submitting the pre-cruise metadata form.

In **March 2020**, the following exception was added:

- *An exception can be made for time series studies for which an application can also be submitted even if a few cruises have already taken place, but it is strongly encouraged to apply as early as feasible.*

In **March 2025**, the criteria revised in order to:

- Clarify the process for registering and submitting ancillary data and downcast profiles to GDAC.
- Add the recommendation to collect cruise bathymetry data using the ship's single-beam or multi-beam echo sounder (as agreed at the 2024 SSC meeting).
- Add links to the IDP and the cruise chief scientist's flowcharts.