



EUROGEO WORKSHOP MARINE AND COASTAL ACTION GROUP SESSION REPORT

Technical Session (Parallel 4) on October 14th, 2025
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Notetaker: Netherlands Space Office

1. Session overview

- Parallel session: Marine and Coastal Action Group
- Session title: Technical Sessions
- Speaker & Moderator: Ghada El Serafy (Deltares)

Scope and goals

This session introduced the concept of an EuroGEO Marine and Coastal Action Group (MC-AG), in the process of being established, and outlined its draft strategy, activities, and opportunities for collaboration. The session aimed to:

- Present the initial vision and structure of the new Action Group;
- Highlight existing European GEO activities relevant to the marine and coastal domain;
- Gather input on strategy priorities and identify missing components and key partners;
- Encourage participants to join and co-design the initiative.

The structure included two introductory presentations to set the scene, followed by a short strategy discussion and interactive input round using Slido.

Part 2 – Discussions

1.1 GEO AquaWatch – European Activities

Dr El Serafy presented ongoing AquaWatch Europe efforts as a key contributor for the new Marine and Coastal Action Group.

- Aim: Advance water-quality monitoring from inland to coastal environments.
- Approach: Integrate four components – in situ observations, modelling, satellite EO, and citizen science.
- Data-to-Knowledge Pathway: Transform raw data into actionable knowledge to support management and policy decisions.
- Synergies: Builds on knowledge from previous EU projects such as MONOCLE, CERTO, DANUBIUS-RI, DOORS (Black Sea), Water-FORCE, PRIMEWATER, and EO4UKWATER.
- Open challenge: How to fill existing data and capacity gaps to support operational services.

1.2 GEO Blue Planet – European Node

- The European component of GEO Blue Planet (EU4OceanObs Horizon Project) was presented as a key contributor for the Action Group.
- Objective: Bridge the gap between marine data and societal needs by converting ocean data into actionable information.
- Secretariat: Shared between Korea, the United States, and Europe.
- Topics covered: marine litter, sargassum blooms, coastal change, eutrophication, and climate adaptation.
- Core activities:
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Cooperation and co-design (e.g. Sargassum Information Hub, IMDOS).
 - Capacity development

1.3 Draft Strategy Discussion

Participants reviewed the draft Marine and Coastal Action Group Strategy (2024–2030) around three main pillars:

- Mapping: Ensure policies are informed by marine information databases that deliver actionable insights to decision-makers.
- Engagement: Strengthen collaboration with aligned EU projects and promote co-design processes supporting data to actionable knowledge for decision making.
- Sustainability Guidelines: Develop practical guidance for sustaining data, tools, and knowledge frameworks, and measuring impact.

Using Slido, participants discussed priorities and missing elements:

- Need for a clear operational implementation plan toward 2028–2030.
- Strong interest from early-career participants to contribute.
- Greater emphasis on wetlands and marine–coastal biodiversity, linking to other Action Groups.
- Inclusion of social sciences to understand human–environment interactions.
- Vision for an integrated Earth Intelligence System that mobilises data and knowledge to solve real-world problems.

Key actors and projects proposed for inclusion:

- AquaWatch Australia, JMP-EUNOSAT, DG INTPA Oceans, DEIMOS / Indra, NECCTON (Horizon project), Copernicus Marine Service & Coastal Hub, HELCOM, OSPAR, EMODnet, among others.

Examples of relevant ongoing activities:

- SDG 14.1.1a — satellite-derived coastal eutrophication indicators.
- COCLICO (Horizon project) — tool to manage and plan responses to sea-level rise.
- EU4OceanObs / GEO Blue Planet EU Office — Sargassum Information Hub developed with Caribbean partners for monitoring and forecasting.

1.4 Discussion Outcomes

- The Action Group’s mission was endorsed as a needed bridge between the marine, coastal, and societal domains.
- Participants emphasised that integration across observation systems and disciplines (including social sciences) is essential to link environmental change to human impact.
- There was strong support for maintaining the open, inclusive, and user-driven approach that characterises GEO Blue Planet and GEO AquaWatch.
- Students and early-career professionals expressed enthusiasm to contribute, underlining the importance of capacity development.

Part 3 – Specific recommendations to EuroGEO

1. Support establishment and consolidation of the Marine and Coastal Action Group
 - Formally recognise MC-AG as part of EuroGEO’s coordinated contribution to GEO’s ocean agenda.
 - Provide a clear operational roadmap toward 2030.
2. Promote integration across domains and disciplines
 - Link marine and coastal data streams with inland, biodiversity, and climate initiatives.

- Embed social-science expertise to connect EO information with societal impacts and policy needs.
- 3. Foster collaboration and co-design
 - Engage European and international partners (e.g. Copernicus Marine Service, NECCTON, EMODnet, HELCOM, OSPAR) in shared pilots and data-information-knowledge frameworks.
- 4. Build capacity and inclusiveness
 - Continue supporting stakeholder engagement, citizen science, and early-career involvement to ensure long-term sustainability.
- 5. Ensure data sustainability and transparency
 - Develop practical sustainability guidelines for marine and coastal EO tools, ensuring open access and measurable impact.