



Fourth Quarter 2020 Newsletter

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Secretariat Updates



Audrey Hasson is the new Head of the GEO Blue Planet European Office

- [Audrey Hasson](#) is a physical oceanographer. She holds a Ph.D. in Physical Oceanography from the University of Toulouse and worked as a post-doctoral researcher for the American, French and European space agencies (NASA, CNES and ESA). She specialises in the study of water

founded the Ocean Plastic Webinars, a monthly meeting for researchers involved in the understanding plastic pollution at sea. She has also led several science outreach projects such as a lecture series adapted for the blind and visually impaired or a series of awareness-raising books for children.

- Audrey is the head of the GEO Blue Planet European Office and the action coordinator for the European Commission EU4OCEANOBS project entrusted to Mercator International. You can learn more about the EU4OCEANOBS project under the Collaborator Spotlight below.

Welcome Audrey!



Kwame Adu Agyekum is the new Steering Committee co-chair

- Kwame has replaced Sophie Seeyave as Steering Committee co-chair. Thank you Sophie for all your work!
 - Kwame is a Lecturer & Earth Observation Scientist in the Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences at the University of Ghana. His current projects include mapping potential fishing zone in the Gulf of Guinea and using satellite AIS tracking of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing in West Africa. Welcome Kwame!
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EU4OceanObs

EU4OceanObs' main objective is to increase the EU's visibility as a leading global actor, and increase its influence in international decision-making bodies related to the collection and use of global ocean observations. To this end, the project will jointly strengthen EU contributions and achievements in two overarching international programmes: Global Earth Observation (GEO) through its ocean component GEO Blue Planet, and the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) through its G7 coordination centre. The project will also play a catalytic role towards the development of sustainable practices for marine and maritime applications, adding value to the [Copernicus Marine Service](#) and contributing to the [United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals](#) and [international ocean governance](#).

A new team has been set up, fully integrated at MOi, to pilot the EU4OceanObs project and over the next two years work side by side with the European Commission, the G7 Coordination Centre and the GEO Blue Planet Secretary. The project taskforce, headed by the MOi Scientific Director, Pierre Yves Le Traon, includes a new GEO Blue Planet European Office and a G7/GOOS European Office. The GEO Blue Planet Office will contribute to international initiatives for sustained oceans and on behalf of the European Commission, further integrate and promote European activities in this domain.

Project and Working Group Updates

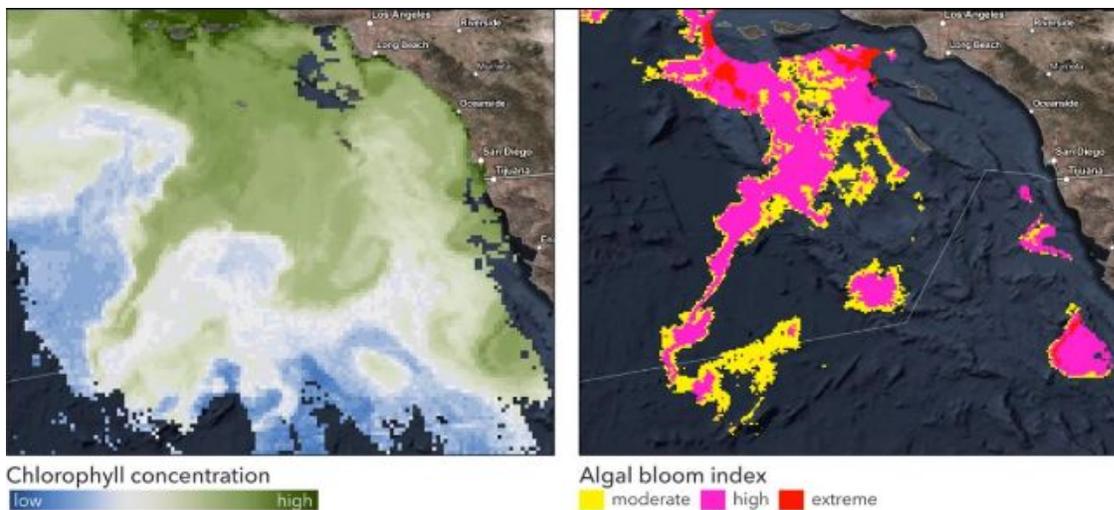


GEO Blue Planet and Esri received the 2020 Sustainable Development Goals award in the special category: Collaboration at GEOWeek for their work on the Coastal Eutrophication product. Congratulations!

[Click here](#) to read about their award-winning partnership.

The GEO SDG Awards Program, led by the [EO4SDG](#) initiative, recognizes institutions, organizations and countries that are applying Earth observations towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. You can read more about the 2020 winners [here](#) and view a recording of the 2020 Earth Observation for the Sustainable Development Goals Awards [here](#).

In other news, the [Chlorophyll Hub](#) site has been launched. Additional data and information will be added over the coming months and we will have test countries provide feedback on Hub. Esri has also produced a [story map](#) of the project.



Multi-hazard Information and Forecasting System for the Wider Caribbean

GEO Blue Planet and partners are working on the [Sargassum Information Hub](#) to develop country-specific pages, translate the website into multiple languages and create a *Sargassum* community on IOC OceanExpert.



Additionally, GEO Blue Planet is working with AmeriGEO and Esri to create a beta version of an oil spill information service for the Wider Caribbean. Read more about the collaboration [here](#).

Fisheries Working Group

GEO Blue Planet hosted a workshop series on Earth observations for tuna fisheries management. Sessions covered:

- socio-ecological impacts of climate change on tuna fisheries
- challenges for sustainable fisheries management
- sustainable tuna management and biodiversity conservation through EO data
- EO data for detection and monitoring of vessel activities to reduce IUU fishing
- EO for habitat mapping and operational forecasting systems for tuna

Presentations and recordings are on the [workshop website](#).

BLUE PLANET

Session 1: Current knowledge and understanding of climate change impacts on tuna fisheries



Francis Marsac,
IRD



Hassan Moustahfid,
NOAA



Maite Erauskin-
Extramiana,
AZTI



Johann Bell,
Conservation
International

GEO Blue Planet is also working with Deimos and other partners to develop a fisheries-scape to provide information on fisheries services. The fisheries-scape will be hosted in the NextGEOSS catalog.

Marine Litter Working Group

René Garelo has produced a video titled "Plastic Pete: the journey of a plastic bottle". You can view the video [here](#).



Oceanscape

Oceanscape is an effort of the [GEO Blue Planet Initiative](#) to identify the numerous organisations (including projects, programmes, and other structures) working in the “ocean space”, and to clarify the connections between them (as well as identifying opportunities to make connections where none exist).

Congratulations to the [Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative](#), the 100th entry on Oceanscape! There are now **101 organizations**. [Find out how to add your organization here](#).



The screenshot displays the Oceanscape website interface. At the top, the logo reads "oceanSCAPE" with the tagline "Identifying and connecting ocean organisations". Below the logo is a world map with numerous colored pins representing different organizations. A "Network view" button is visible in the top right corner of the map area. Below the map, there is a "Filter by:" section with four dropdown menus: "Organisation types" (Nothing selected), "Geographical scope" (Nothing selected), "Specific areas of operation" (Nothing selected), and "Text search" (Type to search...). A search icon and a close icon are also present.

Upcoming Events

- [13th AOGEO Symposium](#). February 2021. Tokyo, Japan and Online.
 - [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Kick Off Conference](#). 31 May - 2 June 2021. Berlin, Germany.
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Have an announcement for our next Newsletter?
Send your update to Leah.Segui@noaa.gov



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