

Blue Planet Update November 2020



GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
- raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.

Projects and Working Groups

Global Eutrophication Monitoring Project

- 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!
 - 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.
 - The recording of the 2020 Earth Observation for the Sustainable Development Goals Awards is available [here](#).
 - An overview of the 2020 winners are available [here](#).
- The [Chlorophyll Hub](#) site has been launched. Additional data and information will be added over the coming months. Test countries will be brought in to provide feedback.
- GEO Blue Planet and [CEOS COAST](#) are beginning capacity development efforts related to national and regional data processing of eutrophication.

Fisheries Working Group

session 2 focused on challenges for sustainable fisheries management. Presentations, recordings, and the schedule for future sessions are on the [workshop website](#).

Oceanscape Project

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). There are now 97 organizations on Oceanscape, with 1 entry added since October. [More information about how to add your organization can be found here!](#)

- [Empresa de Pesquisa Agropecuária e Extensão Rural de Santa Catarina](#)

Please continue to share the Oceanscape Portal within your user communities and organization.

Sargassum Information Hub

- GEO Blue Planet is working with collaborators in Mexico to develop country-specific pages and translation on the [Sargassum Information Hub](#).

Oil spill monitoring

- Project partners are identifying available data and working on logistics for publishing additional data as web services in collaboration with Esri and AmeriGEO.

Outreach and Engagement

- Executive Director Emily Smail, along with Dany Ghafari (UN Environment Programme) and Keith VanGraafeiland (Esri) presented the methodology for SDG 14.1.1a - Index of Coastal Eutrophication - at the Esri Ocean, Weather and Climate GIS forum.
- Executive Director Emily Smail was a panelist at the [Ocean Decade Virtual Series for the Western Tropical Atlantic](#) to discuss capacity development needs at the regional level.

Upcoming Events

- [UN Environment Programme 4th webinar: Sargassum challenges, responses and collaboration in the Caribbean](#). 30 November. Online.
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Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at leah.segui@noaa.gov.

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GEO Blue Planet Update September/October 2020



GEO Blue Planet's Mission

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Secretariat Update

Kwame Adu Agyekum is the new Steering Committee co-chair

- Kwame has replaced Sophie Seeyave as Steering Committee co-chair. Sophie will stay on as co-chair through November. 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!

Linwood Pendleton is the new Chair of the Advisory Board

- Linwood is the Senior Vice President for Science at the Center for the 4th Industrial Revolution - Ocean and a Member of the Executive Planning Group for the UN Decade of Ocean Science. He was previously the Global Oceans Lead Scientist for World Wildlife Fund and the Chief Economist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Welcome Linwood!
- Linwood will be working to engage the Advisory Board in providing strategic direction for GEO Blue Planet activities including those related to the Decade

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

- Audrey is the GEO Blue Planet action coordinator for the European Commission FPI (Foreign Policy Instruments) EU4OCEANOBS project entrusted to Mercator Ocean International. She is a physical oceanographer specialized in the study of water masses using satellite-borne, situ observations and numerical simulations. Welcome Audrey!
- The Terms of Reference of the Mercator Ocean International GEO Blue Planet European office is attached to this email.

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Litter Working Group

- IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society organized a working group to discuss best practices in observing marine litter at the [IOC Ocean Best Practices System IV workshop titled "Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices"](#). Discussion topics included global frameworks for selecting priority indicators and variables for monitoring, standard sampling protocols, best practices for remote sensing of marine debris, best practices for citizen science monitoring, ocean modelling, and UNEP's global multi-stakeholder platform on marine litter
- René Garello has produced a video titled "Plastic Pete: the journey of a plastic bottle". You can view the video [here](#).

Eutrophication Working Group

- The working group has submitted updates to the the Global Manual on Ocean Statistics to UN Environment Programme who are working on the final publication. This document provides countries a step-by-step guide to implementing three SDG 14 indicators (14.1.1a, 14.1.1b, 14.2.1) and track progress against the delivery of SDG 14.
- Using the methodology, Esri has delivered statistics for the global indicators to the UN which will be included in the included in 2021 UN SDG report.
- GEO Blue Planet and Committee on Earth Observations Satellites Coastal Observations and Applications Study Team (CEOS COAST) met with scientists from Argentina to discuss using Argentina as a demonstration area to evaluate satellite detection of eutrophication and turbidity.

Fisheries Working Group

- Deimos shared the first version of a fisheries-scape hosted in the NextGEOSS catalog. The fisheries-scape provides information on fisheries services, including a description, metadata, a map of its spatial extent, and contact information.
- The working group is finalizing the agenda and inviting speakers for the upcoming Earth Observations for Tuna Fisheries workshop series starting in

tuna fisheries

- Sustainable fisheries management of tuna: challenges and solutions
- Earth observations data for detection and monitoring of vessel activities to reduce IUU fishing
- Earth observations for habitat mapping and an operation forecasting system for tuna

Oceanscape Project

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). There are now 96 organizations on Oceanscape, with 3 entries added in September. [More information about how to add your organization can be found here!](#)

- [Institut français de recherche pour l’exploitation de la mer](#)
- [Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System](#)
- [The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution – Ocean](#)

Please continue to share the Oceanscape Portal within your user communities and organization.

Sargassum Monitoring

- GEO Blue Planet, IOCARIBE, and UWI-CERMES hosted a working group to discuss best practices for Sargassum at the [IOC Ocean Best Practices System IV workshop titled "Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices](#). Discussion topics included science and technology, monitoring and forecasting, and management. Workshop participants were also encouraged to attend UN Environment's Sargassum webinar focused on the West African regional perspective.
- GEO Blue Planet met with a representative from IOCAFRICA to discuss how to share information on sargassum throughout the Tropical Atlantic. GEO Blue Planet will schedule another meeting to connect the two UN sub-commissions, IOCARIBE and IOCAFRICA, both with member states requesting assistance with sargassum issues.

Oil Spill Monitoring

- GEO Blue Planet is working with AmeriGEO and Esri to put together a beta version of an oil spill information service for the Wider Caribbean. The group is discussing focusing on data near Trinidad and Tobago due to the risk of an [oil tanker sinking in the region](#).
- GEO Blue Planet is working with IOC-UNESCO IOCARIBE to identify oil-related datasets and contacts in the Caribbean.

Outreach and Engagement

- GEO Blue Planet met with World Bank ProBlue representatives to discuss the use of satellite data for Bangladesh fisheries.
- Members of GEO Blue Planet participated in the [IOC Ocean Best Practices System IV workshop](#) titled "Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices".
- GEO Blue Planet Policy Fellow Leah Mupas Segui presented GEO Blue Planet's work on Sargassum and Oil Spill monitoring at the NOAA in the Caribbean meeting.
- Executive Director Emily Smail represented GEO Blue Planet at the All-Atlantic Summit session on International Collaborations moderated by GEO Blue Planet Policy Fellow Leah Mupas Segui.

Upcoming Events

- [GEO Week](#). 2-6 November 2020. Online.
- [Esri Ocean, Weather, and Climate GIS Forum](#). 4-5 November. Online.
- [Blue Tech Week - AquaOptimism™, BlueTech & SDGs](#). 16 - 20 November. Online.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at leah.segui@noaa.gov.

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GEO Blue Planet Update July/August 2020



GEO Blue Planet's Mission

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Secretariat and Leadership

New Steering Committee Co-chair

Sophie Seeyave is scheduled to rotate off as Steering Committee co-chair this year. The new co-chair will be announced at the September Steering Committee meeting.

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Litter Working Group

- The [IOC Ocean Best Practices System IV workshop titled "Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices"](#) will take place 17 - 30 September 2020. IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society will organize a Community Consultation Working Group to discuss best practices in observing marine litter.

Global Eutrophication Working Group

- Previously limited to a project to support UN Environment's work on SDG indicator 14.1.1a (index of coastal eutrophication), the group is expanding into a broader global eutrophication working group. The working group description

- The working group is working with Esri to process and visualize global chlorophyll-a data products in support of SDG indicator 14.1.1a (index of coastal eutrophication). The information will be hosted on an Esri hub site that will explain the use of chlorophyll-a as a proxy for eutrophication to help users understand the context and methodology for SDG 14.1 sub-indicators based on satellite-derived chlorophyll-a.
- In collaboration with [CEOS COAST](#), the working group is creating an inventory of satellite requirements for SDG 14.1 to support national sub-indicators. This inventory will be used to develop training modules for countries and identify satellite product gaps related to eutrophication monitoring.

Fisheries Working Group

- The working group is developing an upcoming capacity development virtual workshop series on Earth observations for tuna fisheries.
- The working group is working to update metadata standards for a fisheries-scale of ocean observation-based information products for fisheries and aquaculture. Demois will be hosting the platform and is currently piloting the effort with FAO data. It is planned that this activity will contribute to the GEO Knowledge Hub.

Oceanscape Project

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- [Centro de Investigacion Cientifica de Education Superior en Ensenada, Baja California \(CICESE\)](#)
- [Department of Fisheries Sciences, University of Ghana](#)
- [First Institute of Oceanography, MNR](#)
- [Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic](#)
- [Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services](#)
- [British Antarctic Survey](#)

Please continue to share the Oceanscape Portal within your user communities and organization. Every month, [@GEOBluePlanet](#) will post an #OceanscapeShoutOut on its Twitter account to highlight newly registered organizations.

Sargassum Monitoring

- The [Sargassum Information Hub](#) has been launched.

- GEO Blue Planet is working with IOC-UNESCO's OceanExpert to create a registration for sargassum experts for the hub.
- GEO Blue Planet, IOCARIBE, and University of West Indies will host a working group to discuss best practices for Sargassum at the upcoming [IOC Ocean Best Practices System IV workshop titled "Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices"](#).

Oil Spill Monitoring

- Participants of the AmeriGEO Oil Spill Information System workshop are sharing available information and identifying points of contact for response agencies throughout the Caribbean.
- The working group is in discussion with AmeriGEO to host and visualize data on the AmeriGEO platform.

Outreach and Engagement

- The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) hosted a session at the recent [GEO BON virtual Open Science Conference & All Hands](#) meeting 6-10 July 2020 focused on building a global community of practice for the collection, curation, and analysis of marine biodiversity data. MBON and Freshwater BON held a joint workshop on Darwin Core and OBIS and are committed to collaborate to improve global capacity in aquatic biodiversity monitoring and operationalizing Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) in aquatic ecosystems across the world.
- GEO Blue Planet had a meeting with Microsoft's AI for Good program to discuss the possibility of integrating diverse datasets with the use of AI to support activities on SDG 14.1. The next step is a meeting with Microsoft's AI for Earth program which specializes in environmental-focused computing challenges.
- GEO Blue Planet Fellow Leah Mupas Segui presented the Sargassum Information Hub at the [Air Centre Networking Fridays webinar on 31 July](#). The webinar was moderated by GEO Blue Planet Executive Director Emily Smail. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).
- Recently recorded GEO Blue Planet webinars are now hosted on the GEO YouTube channel under the [GEO Blue Planet Playlist](#).
- GEO Blue Planet had a meeting with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to identify potential areas for collaboration.
- GEO Blue Planet had a meeting with World Bank ProBlue program to identify shared interests in fisheries projects in Bangladesh.
- GEO Blue Planet is in discussions with the UNFCCC about creating a guide on data and digital tools for Small Island States.
- GEO Blue Planet hosted a webinar for the [Moana Project](#) on 6 August. The webinar focused coastal information New Zealand that supports sustainable

and the potential for other research and commercial opportunities.

Upcoming Events

- [EUMETSAT short courses on data discovery for weather, oceanography, air quality and climate](#). September - December. Online.
 - [IOC Ocean Best Practices System \(OBPS\) Workshop IV: Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices](#) 17 - 30 September. Online.
 - Science of Sargassum: [West Africa Region Perspective](#) 22 September. Online.
 - [American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting](#) 7- 11 December. Online.
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at leah.segui@noaa.gov.

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GEO Blue Planet Update June 2020



GEO Blue Planet's Mission

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Secretariat updates

New job alert: Head of the GEO Blue Planet European Office

Mercator Ocean International is hiring a head of the GEO Blue Planet European office to strengthen the European Commission visibility and influence in the GEO Blue Planet initiative. Read the full job advertisement [here](#).

Dan Takaki no longer with GEO Blue Planet

Dan's has left GEO Blue Planet after supporting the Secretariat for 1.5 years. He started as a Policy Fellow through the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program in 2019 and transitioned as a Policy Consultant this year. Best of luck on your next steps, Dan!

COVID-19 Impacts on the Ocean Observing System

GOOS has prepared a [briefing note on the impacts of COVID-19 on the ocean observing system](#). Please distribute widely!

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Litter Working Group

- The working group will develop an online registry for experts working in the monitoring and modeling of marine litter.

Global Eutrophication Monitoring

- Working group members are drafting text for the Chlorophyll-a hub by Esri in support of SDG indicator 14.1.1a (coastal eutrophication).
- The working group will create a matrix of available Earth observation products to be included in a SDG 14.1.1 toolkit.
- The working group is in discussions with Microsoft AI for good on a potential collaboration.

Fisheries Working Group

- The working group is in discussions with Demois on metadata standards for a "fisheries-scape" of ocean observation-based information products for fisheries and aquaculture.
- The working group is in discussions with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to find a potential collaboration on the use of Earth observations to support the integration of environmental information with stock assessments.

Oceanscape Project

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- [GEO AquaWatch](#)
- [Ocean Data Foundation](#)
- [REV Ocean](#)
- [Global Fishing Watch](#)
- [WWF Ocean Practice](#)
- [Ocean Assets Institute](#)
- [Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association \(WIOMSA\)](#)
- [Consortium for Ocean Leadership](#)
- [Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies](#)
- [Iodysseus](#)
- [Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research](#)
- [Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia \(PEMSEA\)](#)
- [TechWorks Marine Ltd.](#)

Sargassum Information Hub

- GEO Blue Planet and partners are preparing for the initial launch of the Sargassum Information Hub website.

Oil Spill Monitoring

- GEO Blue Planet organized a two-day virtual workshop to discuss the development of an AmeriGEO oil spill information system for the wider Caribbean.
- Day 1 focused on user needs with presentations from RAC-REMPEITC Caribe, OSRL, AREL, and AmeriGEO, followed by a discussion on user needs for industry and other stakeholders.
- Day 2 focused on oil spill surveillance and GIS capabilities with presentations from NOAA, AmeriGEO/USGS, Esri, followed by a discussion on next steps.
- Workshop agenda, notes, and presentations will be available on the GEO Blue Planet website later this month.

Outreach and Engagement

- GEO Blue Planet participated in the recent [Virtual GEO Symposium](#) 15 - 19 June 2020. All presentations are recorded on the Symposium website.
- Co-chair Sophie Seeyave gave a presentation on [Capacity development approaches in GEO Blue Planet and coordination across the ocean observing community](#).
- Steering committee member Pierre-Yves Le Traon presented on [Mobilizing European resources to strengthen the development of the GEO Blue Planet Initiative](#).
- Policy Fellow Leah Mupas Segui presented on the [Integration of ocean and coastal data in support of the Sendai Framework and 2030 Agenda](#).
- Executive Director Emily Smail is serving as an observer in the Cartagena Convention/SPAW Sargassum working group.

Upcoming Events

- [SAMTOOL: observing and predicting Sargassum landings in the tropical Atlantic webinar](#) (2 July 2020).
 - [TMA Blue Tech Global Connect webinar](#) (16 July 2020).
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GEO Blue Planet Update May 2020



GEO Blue Planet's Mission

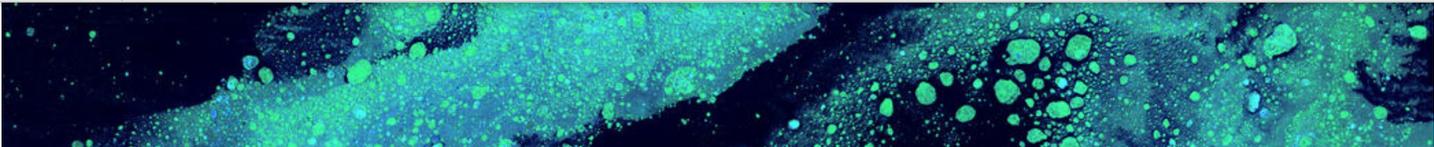
- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
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Save the Date! GEO Virtual Symposium 2020

The 1st GEO Virtual Symposium will take place 15-19 June 2020.

In response to the covid-19 pandemic, Group on Earth Observations will remotely host a series of interactive webinars that will provide in-depth discussions from experts on a range of relevant issues to the GEO Work Programme Flagships, Initiatives and Activities. GEO Blue Planet will present at the sessions on Resource Mobilization and Integrating Water and Coastal Datasets.

More information and pre-registration [here](#).

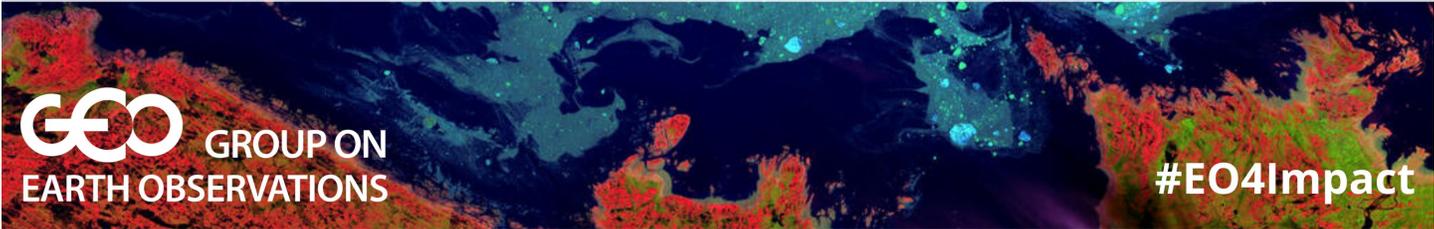


Interactive webinars and virtual discussions

GEO VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2020

15-19 JUNE 2020

www.earthobservations.org/symposium2020



GEO GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

#EO4Impact

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Litter Working Group

- The GEO Blue Planet Marine Litter Working Group is in the process of identifying potential projects for the work period 2020 - 2022.
- Working group members are discussing a virtual workshop on marine litter in lieu of workshops previously scheduled to take place prior to the UN Ocean meeting in Lisbon.

Global Eutrophication Monitoring Project

- GEO Blue Planet and Esri are working collaboratively to monitor global eutrophication in support [SDG target 14.1](#) - "prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution".
- Processing for the level 1 global chlorophyll-a sub-indicator for SDG 14.1.1a is underway.

Fisheries Working Group

- The Working Group is in discussions with Demois to host a "fisheries-scape" of ocean observation-based information products for fisheries and aquaculture.

Oceanscape Project

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). [More information](#)

- [General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans \(GEBCO\)](#)
- [Pilot National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology \(QNLN\)](#)
- [Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology \(IMarEST\)](#)
- [SOFAR Ocean Technologies](#)

Please continue to share the Oceanscape Portal within your user communities and organization.

Sargassum Information Hub

- GEO Blue Planet and partners are preparing for the initial launch of the Sargassum Information Hub website.
- GEO Blue Planet and partners discussed partnering with the Ocean Best Practices System to register best practices for sargassum monitoring and management in the system. In addition, GEO Blue Planet will be working with IOCARIBE of IOC and other partners to put together a review of best practices for sargassum management.

Oil Spill Monitoring

- GEO Blue Planet is planning a virtual workshop to discuss oil spill monitoring and alerts and stakeholder needs in the wider Caribbean.
- GEO Blue Planet is continuing discussions with AmeriGEO about collaborations toward an AmeriGEO oil spill information service that would address stakeholder needs.

Outreach and Engagement

- GEO Blue Planet co-chair Paul DiGiacomo served on a panel to discuss NOAA's Satellite Climatology and Oceanography Division contributions to NOAA CoastWatch during the annual Coast Watch science meeting.
- Additionally, GEO Blue Planet Executive Director Emily Smail and policy consultant Dan Takaki presented GEO Blue Planet's collaborations with NOAA CoastWatch at the meeting.
- In response to the request for feedback on the zero draft Implementation Plan for the Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, GEO Blue Planet organized feedback from the GEO Community.

Upcoming Events

- [TMA Blue Tech Global Connect webinar](#) (21 May 2020).
- [Sargassum in the Caribbean and West Africa: Key Challenges, Responses and Collaboration webinar](#) (26 May 2020).
- 5th GEO Blue Planet Symposium postponed to 2021.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at leah.segui@noaa.gov.

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GEO Blue Planet Update April 2020



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Save the Date! GEO Blue Planet Symposium

The 5th GEO Blue Planet Symposium is tentatively scheduled for 28 - 30 October, 2020 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Symposium organizers are monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and virtual meeting options are being explored as a potential alternative.

Save the Date



5th GEO Blue Planet Symposium

Port Elizabeth, South Africa

symposium.geoblueplanet.org

October 28 – 30, 2020

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Litter Working Group

- The GEO Blue Planet Marine Litter Working Group has developed a terms of reference and is in the process of identifying potential projects for the group to focus on in 2020.
- Working group members are discussing a virtual workshop on marine litter in lieu of workshops previously scheduled to take place prior to the UN Ocean meeting in Lisbon.

Global Eutrophication Monitoring Project

- GEO Blue Planet and ESRI are working collaboratively to monitor global eutrophication in support [SDG target 14.1](#) - "prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution".
- Keith VanGraafeiland at ESRI has created a [draft portal for sub-indicator 1](#) which identifies changes in chlorophyll-a within Exclusive Economic Zones using freely available global satellite data.
- Please send feedback on the portal to leah.segui@noaa.gov.

Fisheries Working Group

- The GEO Blue Planet Fisheries Working Group is currently finalizing a terms of reference for the group.
- The Working Group is exploring options for software to create a "fisheries-scape" of ocean observation information products for fisheries and aquaculture.

Oceanscape Project

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

with 19 entries added since January 2020:

- [Mercator Ocean International](#)
- [Cyan Planet](#)
- [Hakono Hararanga Incorporated](#)
- [Irish Ocean Literacy Network](#)
- [terraSolutions marine environment research](#)
- [Met Office](#)
- [MetOcean Solutions](#)
- [GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel](#)
- [International Quiet Ocean Experiment](#)
- [Worldrise ONLUS](#)
- [Scottish Association for Marine Science](#)
- [National Oceanography Centre](#)
- [Marine Biodiversity Observation Network](#)
- [Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology](#)
- [Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras “José Benito Vives de Andrés” \(INVEMAR\)](#)
- [Korea Institute of Ocean Science & Technology](#)
- [Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences](#)
- [Caribbean Marine Atlas](#)
- [International Hydrographic Organisation](#)

Please continue to share the Oceanscape Portal within your user communities and organization.

Sargassum Information Hub

- Collaborators at the AIR Centre have contracted [Scite](#), a science communications marketing agency in Lisbon, to design version 1 of the *Sargassum* Information Hub.
- GEO Blue Planet and partners are moving forward with developing a guide on best management practices for *Sargassum* in coastal environments as requested by the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE).
- GEO Blue Planet will work with [Ocean Best Practices System](#) to archive existing *Sargassum* management and monitoring practices and publish community endorsed best practices.

Oil Spill Monitoring

- GEO Blue Planet is discussing the prospect of having AmeriGEO host oil spill information for the Wider Caribbean and will be working with AmeriGEO and the [Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Caribe](#) to plan a virtual workshop to discuss details.

Outreach and Engagement

- GEO Blue Planet co-chair Paul Digiacocono convened the CEOS-Strategic Implementation Team (SIT) 35 meeting to discuss ocean and coastal pilot projects. Participants identified the following four

annotated bibliography to serve as a resource for pilot project development.

- Steering Committee member Samy Djavidnia arranged a meeting between the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat and Alexandre Pinho from Microsoft AI for Good program to discuss the potential of artificial intelligence to process and integrate earth observations from land to open ocean.

Upcoming Events

- [The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030: Western Tropical Atlantic Regional Workshop](#) online (28-29 April 2020).
- [Technical webinar on Atlantic Sargassum Belt](#) online (4 November 2020).

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- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
- raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.

Save the Date! GEO Blue Planet Symposium

The 5th GEO Blue Planet Symposium has been tentatively scheduled for 28 - 30 October, 2020 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa!

More details soon to follow.

Save the Date



5th GEO Blue Planet Symposium

Port Elizabeth, South Africa

symposium.geoblueplanet.org

October 28 – 30, 2020

Projects and Working Groups

- At the 2020 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, GEO Blue Planet, IEEE and the UN Environment will host a workshop to discuss the marine litter white paper, "[A Global Platform for Monitoring Marine Litter and Informing Action.](#)"
- IBM, the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum, and the UN Environment hosted a workshop to develop the details for the "first marine litter digital observatory and solutions centre." The marine litter white paper that members of the Working Group have written was presented and discussed heavily at the meeting.
- Read the most [recent draft of the marine litter white paper here](#) and please provide [comments on the paper here](#).

Fisheries Working Group

- The GEO Blue Planet Fisheries Working Group has developed a terms of reference for the group and is in the process of developing various projects for the group.

Sargassum Information Hub

- GEO Blue Planet is partnering with web developers from the AIR Centre as part of an effort to build and create content for the new [Sargassumhub.org](#) website. This site is an information based site to with help from collaborators in the Caribbean and adjacent region as well as the vast Atlantic basin.

Oceanscape Project

The Oceanscape portal, launched in Sept 2019, continues to grow as new organisations are being added. Last month, the following new organisations have been added:

- [UK Met Office](#) (meteorological agency)
- [MetOcean Solutions](#) (company/business)
- [GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel](#) (research/academic institution)
- [International Quiet Ocean Experiment](#) (programme)
- [Worldrise ONLUS](#) (NGO).

If you would like to add an organisation or suggest relevant additions, please [follow this link](#) for further information and contact details.

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail and Samy Djavidnia attended a meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency Environmental Laboratories in Monaco to share what GEO Blue Planet is doing with marine litter and SDG 14 during the week of March 9-13.

Observatory and Solution Center on March 9 and 10. The meeting was hosted by the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment in collaboration with IBM.

- Many members of the GEO Blue Planet Community attended the Ocean Sciences Conference in San Diego, CA the week of February 17th.
- The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat attended the 2020 Esri Federal GIS Conference in Washington, DC on February 11 and 12.

Upcoming Events

- [52nd Liège Colloquium on Ocean Dynamics – Towards understanding and assessing human impacts on coastal marine environments](#), Liège, Belgium (25-29 May 2020)
- [The 3rd Workshop on “Linking Data to Actions on Marine Debris for the Ocean Decade”](#), Cascais, Portugal (29-30 May 2020)
- [2020 UN Ocean Conference](#), Lisbon, Portugal (2-6 June 2020)
- [2020 GEO Aquawatch Meeting](#), Delft, Netherlands (16-18 September 2020)
- [Our Coastal Futures Conference](#), Queensland, Australia (19-22 October 2020)
- 12th Annual BlueTech Week in San Diego, CA (16-20 November 2020)

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at leah.segui@noaa.gov

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GEO Blue Planet Update February 2020



GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
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 - raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.
-

Secretariat Update

GEO Blue Planet is excited to announce the start of this year's Knauss SeaGrant Policy Fellow, Dr. Leah Mupas Segui! Leah will be working with the Secretariat office in College Park, MD.

Leah is the 2020 Knauss Executive Fellow in the NOAA Satellite Oceanography and Climatology Division as part of the GEO Blue Planet team. She received her B.S. in Biology from San Diego State University and Ph.D. in Zoology from Oregon State University. Her research focused on bridging the gap between empirical and theoretical ecology to understand how species interactions affect marine and freshwater ecological communities. She is passionate about community building and social justice and has led efforts to support diverse and inclusive communities in STEM.

Welcome, Leah!



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More details soon to follow.

Save the Date



5th GEO Blue Planet Symposium

Port Elizabeth, South Africa
symposium.geoblueplanet.org

October 28 – 30, 2020

Projects and Working Groups

Water-Associated Diseases Working Group

- Members of the Water-Associated Diseases Working Group recently published an article titled “[Environmental Reservoirs of *Vibrio cholerae*: Challenges and Opportunities for Ocean-Color Remote Sensing](#)” in *Remote Sensing*.
- The article focuses on the use of ocean-color remote-sensing data, in conjunction with information on the ecology of the pathogen, to map its distribution and forecast risk of disease occurrence. It assesses how satellite-based information on cholera may help support the Sustainable Development Goals and targets on Health (Goal 3), Water Quality (Goal 6), Climate (Goal 13), and Life Below Water (Goal 14).

GEO Blue Planet Website

- The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat updated and created pages for the following projects and working groups:
 - [Fisheries Working Group](#)
 - [Marine Debris Working Group](#)
 - [Global Eutrophication Monitoring Project](#)
 - [WaveFoRCE Project](#)
- If you would like to make changes or comments to the pages, or join one of the projects or working groups, please email emily.smail@noaa.gov, daniel.takaki@noaa.gov, and leah.segui@noaa.gov.

Sargassum Information Hub

- GEO Blue Planet acquired the domain for "sargassumhub.org" and the Secretariat is currently developing the initial draft website for the information based site with help from collaborators in the Caribbean and adjacent region as well as the vast Atlantic basin.

Marine Litter Working Group

- At the 2020 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, GEO Blue Planet, IEEA and the UN Environment will host a workshop to discuss the marine litter white paper, "[A Global Platform for Monitoring Marine Litter and Informing Action](#)."
- Members of the Marine Litter Working Group met with the United Nations North America to discuss potential pilot projects for debris tracking along the Mississippi River in the United States.

Fisheries Working Group

- The working group will partner with Esri to develop a fisheries service information portal and is exploring a tech transfer project between the University of Ghana and Bangladesh for SMS alerts of ocean state and potential fishing zones.
- If you are interested in joining in the conversation, please contact Emily Smail and Sophie Seeyave.

Oceanscape Project

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[Check out the portal here!](#)

[More information about how to add your organization can be found here!](#)

Please continue to share the Oceanscape Portal within your user communities and organization.

Outreach and Engagement

- GEO Blue Planet Steering Committee and Management Committee Member Louis Celliers worked with the INNOVA Project to host a Workshop on Earth Observations and Coastal Climate Services for Small Island States. Read the outcome of that workshop [here!](#)

- The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat is working with the GEO Secretariat to explore ad hoc accreditation for GEO to participate in the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon.
-

Upcoming Events

- [Ocean Sciences Meeting](#) in San Diego, CA (16 – 21 February 2020)
 - [Ocean Obs RCN Annual Meeting \(Oceans Sciences Side Meeting\)](#), San Diego, CA (16 February 2020)
 - [52nd Liège Colloquium on Ocean Dynamics – Towards understanding and assessing human impacts on coastal marine environments](#), Liège, Belgium (25th - 29th May 2020)
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GEO Blue Planet Update January 2020

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New Logo for GEO Blue Planet

GEO Blue Planet worked with the GEO Secretariat to make a new logo for our organization. We're excited to unveil it here! For an image file to replace and prior logos, please see in our [basecamp folder](#).



Projects and Working Groups

SDG 14.1.1 Working Group on Coastal Eutrophication Monitoring

- Esri is working with GEO Blue Planet and UN Environment on a draft of tabular data for reporting country level statistics for satellite chlorophyll a as a proxy for eutrophication as well as visualization tools and options for reporting on areas beyond national jurisdiction.

International Sargassum Network

- GEO Blue Planet has joined forces with AtlantOS, the AIRCentre and other partners to expand the Caribbean sargassum monitoring and forecasting project into a basin wide "International Sargassum Network". The team is currently working to put together an online platform to share information about monitoring, forecasting and mitigating the impacts of sargassum across the Tropical Atlantic.

Marine Litter Working Group

- IEEE OES hosted a marine litter workshop in Brest this past December as a follow up to previous workshops. This workshop was titled "Marine Debris Indicators: What's Next?". Read more [here](#).
- At the 2020 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, GEO Blue Planet, IEEE and the UN Environment will host a workshop to discuss the marine litter white paper, "[A Global Platform for Monitoring Marine Litter and Informing Action](#)."

Fisheries Working Group

- The Fisheries Working Group of GEO Blue Planet had it's first official meeting in December.
- The working group will be working with Esri to develop a fisheries service information portal and is exploring a tech transfer project between the University of Ghana and Bangladesh for SMS alerts of ocean state and potential fishing zones.
- If you are interested in joining in the conversation, please contact [Emily Smail](#) and [Sophie Seeyave](#).

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Please continue to share the Oceanscape Portal within your user communities and organization.

Outreach and Engagement

- GEO Blue Planet Management & Steering Committee member Samy Djauidnia chaired the session on “Earth Observation for Sustainable Development” at the “Linking Earth Observation data and Sustainable Development across the Atlantic” workshop which took place in Estoril, Portugal (3-5 December 2019). Information on the workshop is available here: <https://eo4sd-atlantic-workshop.weebly.com>.

- On behalf of GEO Blue Planet, [NOAA Coral Reef Watch \(CRW\)](#) Senior Scientist, Dr. William Skirving attended a workshop on Coastal Climate and Earth Observation Services for Small Island States (13-15 November, Memorial ACTe Museum, Point-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, French West Indies. The workshop was organized by the Innovation in Climate Services Provision (INNOVA), the Joint Programming Initiative “Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe” (JPI Climate), Hamburg, Germany. During the workshop, Dr. Skirving presented a 90 minute session entitled: “Monitoring and Predicting the marine Environment” in which he first explained environmental satellite data products, including an explanation of spatial and temporal resolution and the various errors that are associated with environmental satellite data. He then divided the SIDS coasts into Deep Water, Coral Reefs, the Lagoon, and Coasts/Land. Dr. Skirving presented the Wave-driven Flood-forecasting on Reef-lined Coasts Early warning system (WaveFoRCE), as an example of a coastal product.
 - The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat is working with the GEO Secretariat to explore ad hoc accreditation for GEO to participate in the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon.
-

Upcoming Events

- [Arctic Frontiers: The Copernicus Marine Service Side-Event](#), Tromso, Norway (28 January 2020)
 - [Ocean Sciences Meeting](#) in San Diego, CA (16 – 21 February 2020)
 - [Ocean Obs RCN Annual Meeting \(Oceans Sciences Side Meeting\)](#), San Diego, CA (16 February 2020)
 - [GEO Data and Knowledge Week](#) in Beijing, China (17 – 22 February 2020)
 - [2020 UN Ocean Conference](#) in Lisbon, Portugal (2-6 June 2020)
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GEO Blue Planet Update November 2019

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- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
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Steering Committee Updates

We are excited to announce that Jeremy Gault has been appointed as a Steering Committee Co-Chair! He will be joining Paul DiGiacomo and Sophie Seeyave as Co-Chairs.

Jeremy has over twenty years' experience in marine and coastal management research and is the coordinator for Coastal and Marine Systems in the MaREI Centre - the Science Foundation Ireland national centre for Climate, Energy and Marine. Jeremy is based in the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) in University College in Ireland where he is the Beaufort Operations Manager and has considerable experience and knowledge of how

scientific data is collected, collated and subsequently utilised. This, coupled with his world-wide experience of running stakeholder engagement events, means that he has gained an international insight into coastal and marine management, science policy and practice.

GEO Week Ministerial Summit

- **Congratulations to GEO Blue Planet Co-Chair Paul DiGiacomo who was awarded a GEO Individual Excellence Award! The GEO Individual Excellence Awards award recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated exceptional personal commitment to GEO and whose work is making a real impact in the community. [Read more about the award and all winners here!](#)**
 - Several GEO Blue Planet Members attended the GEO Week Ministerial Summit in Canberra in early November and presented at a number of side events and breakout sessions covering topics including:
 - GEO and the Pacific
 - Citizen Science
 - Pacific Islands
 - Water For Life - Water Quality
 - Sustainable Development Goals
 - Biodiversity
 - Disaster Risk reduction
 - Ocean best practices
 - The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat helped to organize a side event on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
 - As a follow up item, GEO Blue Planet submitted formal recommendations to the IOC of UNESCO about Scientific Priorities and about how GEO proposes to contribute to the Decade: [Find the Recommendations here](#)
 - Find more about GEO Week [here!](#)
-

Projects and Working Groups

SDG 14.1.1 Working Group on Coastal Eutrophication Monitoring

The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat (Emily Smail and Daniel Takaki) worked with Paul DiGiacomo and members of the NOAA Satellite Oceanography and Climatology Division and UN Environment to develop the methodology for SDG Indicator 14.1.1. As a result, the methodology for SDG indicator 14.1.1 was submitted to the UN Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators and was upgraded from a [Tier III to Tier II](#) indicator in November.

In the methodology accepted by the UN, indicator 14.1.1 was separated into 14.1.1a (Index of Coastal Eutrophication) and 14.1.1b (Floating plastic debris density). This indicator was broken into sub-indicators organized around three levels:

Level 1: Global Indicators

Level 2: National Indicators

Level 3: Supplementary indicators

The methodology for the global indicators for 14.1.1a uses satellite chlorophyll-a products (the ESA Ocean Colour CCI project and the SOCD VIIRS chlorophyll-a anomaly and anomaly ratio products) as a proxies for eutrophication. GEO Blue Planet and SOCD are working in collaboration with Esri to extract the required statistics for reporting on the global indicators for 14.1.1 and to generate visualization tools for UN countries.

Marine Litter Working Group

Emily Smail has been appointed to serve on the Plastics Data Challenge Advisory Council.

The Plastics Data Challenge by the Incubation Network is a global innovation challenge that will source, support, and scale innovative technologies and working prototypes that address the lack of reliable data in plastic waste management and

recycling across South and Southeast Asia. The challenge opens for applications on **December 19th, 2019**.

Semifinalists will be selected by and receive support from the program's Advisory Council which includes representatives from: The World Bank, SAP, Unilever, Microsoft, Accenture, GEO Blue Planet Initiative, McKinsey.org, and the Ocean Conservancy, among others.

To get involved email: DataChallenge@secondmuse.com // [Learn more here..](#)

[Watch the launch video here.](#)

Fisheries Working Group

The Fisheries Working Group of GEO Blue Planet will be working to formalize goals and identify activities in the coming months. If you are interested in being a part of these initial discussions, please contact [Emily Smail](#) and [Sophie Seeyave](#).

Oceanscape Portal Project

GEO Blue Planet and the Partnership for Ocean Global Observing (POGO) are excited to announce the launch of [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).

The [Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean](#) (POGO), a founding member of GEO Blue Planet, is leading the development of the Oceanscape portal. This portal, to be launched during Ocean Obs’19 in September 2019, is a community effort that aims to serve a variety of stakeholders:

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[Check out the portal here!](#)

[More information about how to add your organization can be found here!](#)

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail attended the 12th AOGEO Symposium on behalf of GEO Blue Planet
 - Samy Djavidnia attended the 3rd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics in Bangkok on behalf of the GEO Blue Planet initiative where a draft of work on the Marine Litter white paper "A Global Data Platform for Monitoring Marine Litter and Informing Action"
-

Upcoming Events

- [Marine Debris Indicators: What's Next? Workshop](#) in Brest, France (16 - 18 December 2019)
 - [Ocean Sciences Meeting](#) in San Diego, CA (16 - 21 February)
 - [GEO Data and Knowledge Week](#) in Beijing, China (17 - 22 February)
-

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GEO Blue Planet Update October 2019

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Projects and Working Groups

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Marine Litter Working Group

- The OCEANS 2019 Meeting was held in late October in Seattle, hosted by IEEE OES, where a Marine Debris Town Hall was led by Blue Planet Steering Committee Member, René Garello. Dr. Emily Smail spoke during one of the panel sessions on the information needs for marine plastics and other debris in the scope of SDG 14.1.1 Indicators

After the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society Workshop on "Technologies for Observing and Monitoring Plastics in the Oceans" held on Nov. 26-27, 2018, in Brest, France, the next workshop will focus on observations and science of marine debris with the goal to make progress toward quantifying indicators in support of decision making. **This workshop will take place on Dec. 16-18, 2019 again in Brest and the theme for this year will be dedicated to “Marine Debris Indicators: What’s Next?”**

The objective for this conference is to assess the potential observation and monitoring platforms for marine debris and plastics. The conference will propose a refined road map and recommendations to major institutions and funding agencies for future technology initiatives.

Details on the workshop are available at https://www.gstss.org/2019_Brest

Oceanscape Portal Project

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is making a real impact in the community. [Read more about the award and all winners here!](#)

- More highlights from GEO Week '19 to come!

EO4DSG Collaboration

- As a follow-up action to an August meeting, the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat has started to work with the EO4SDG Initiative to develop a concept note for the framework of a federated approach to the SDGs. The aim is to identify and further develop the way EO4SDG works with thematic activities across GEO to maximize the use of datasets for the SDGs. If you have interest in helping out with this note, please contact Dan Takaki (daniel.takaki@noaa.gov).

Multi-hazard Information and Forecasting System for the Wider Caribbean

- Project partners attended the "[Sarg'Expo](#)" meeting in Guadeloupe in October. The Conference concluded with a declaration, primarily drafted by the Guadeloupean government and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), that called for a collaborative effort from the 25 members of the ACS to share data and protocols on how to both manage, forecast, and use sargassum to create a circular economy.

Outreach and Engagement

- Dr. Emily Smail attended the Marine Debris Town Hall at the OCEANS 2019 Conference in Seattle
- GEO Blue Planet had a strong presence at GEO WEEK '19 in Canberra in early November, more details to follow

November Events

- The 11th annual **BlueTech Week** will take place Nov. 18-22, 2019 in San Diego. To learn more, visit www.bluetechweek.org.
 - Samy Djavidnia will represent GEO Blue Planet at the 3rd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics Nov 18-22, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
-

Have an update for next month?

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GEO Blue Planet Update

September 2019

GEO Blue Planet's Mission

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- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
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OceanObs'19 Highlights and Outcomes

- OceanObs'19, a once in a Decade conference, was held this past September in Honolulu, HI with over 1,500 participants from the Ocean Observing Community, including a number of GEO Blue Planet members who organized, spoke during, and attended various side events and breakout sessions.
- The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat helped to organize a session on the role of Ocean Observing and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Discussions and interactions from this session led to the following outcomes: **1)** Increase capacity building for students and early career professionals to understand the 2030 Agenda; **2)** Increase the capacity of developing countries to produce continued observations; **3)** Enforce national and international efforts to connect scientists and statistical offices.
- The Oceanscape Portal, a collaborative effort between GEO Blue Planet and POGO was launched at the event! For more information, read below.

- Blue Planet had representation across dozens of sessions and events covering a wide range of topics including (but not limited to) capacity development, marine debris, ocean, weather and climate forecasting, community building, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, integrated ocean observing, and ocean best practices.
 - For more information on outcomes and presentations, see the [OceanObs'19 Website Archives](#)
-

Call for Host of 5th GEO Blue Planet Symposium

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Blue Planet Initiative invites government agencies, research institutions and NGOs to submit an expression of interest to host the 5th GEO Blue Planet Symposium.

Submission Deadline: November 1, 2019

[Host Proposal Submission Form](#)

Symposium Host Responsibilities

- Coordinate with the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat on development of the program
- Provide local organizing support
- Support linkages with local stakeholders

Selection Criteria

- Geographic location (Africa or Asia preferred)
- Capacity to provide local organizing staff support.
- Ability to provide funds for the venue, logistics and speaker travel or to seek and manage funding from financial sponsors.

Expressions of interest should be sent to info@geoblueplanet.org by November 1, 2019.

Oceanscape Portal Project

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Projects and Working Groups

2020 - 2022 Implementation Plan

- The GEO Program Board favorable reviewed the GEO Blue Planet 2020 - 2022 implementation plan. Recommendations from the GEO Programme Board included a recommendation for GEO Blue Planet to consider becoming a Flagship, considering the accomplishments to date and the engagement with governments and policy setting institutions such as UNEP on SDG 14.1. The Secretariat has requested additional information on requirements for flagship status.
- [Click here](#) to view the most up to date draft of the 2020 - 2022 GEO Blue Planet Implementation Plan. Please provide feedback to the current version to emily.smail@noaa.gov.

SDG 14.1.1 Working Group on Coastal Eutrophication Monitoring

- GEO Blue Planet has been working with NOAA CoastWatch, OceanWatch and Esri to develop a methodology for identifying coastal eutrophication on a global scale and presented a case study example at OceanObs'19

Multi-hazard Information and Forecasting System for the Wider Caribbean

- Project partners will be attending an upcoming "[Sarg'Expo](#)" in Guadeloupe in October.
- The Sargassum project will begin collaborating with AtlantOS on developing a basin wide scale of this project and discuss the future implementation of an informational service and project website.

GEO Week Ministerial Summit

- GEO Blue Planet has been selected to host a side event at the upcoming GEO Week Ministerial Summit in Canberra, Australia on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. We will be working with GEO Aquawatch, GEO BON, EO4SDGs, Afri-GEO, and GEO ECO on the Side Event. Any other individuals or groups interested in the event planning or attendance, please contact [Emily Smail](#) or [Daniel Takaki](#).

Outreach and Engagement

- The 11th annual **BlueTech Week** will take place Nov. 18-22, 2019 in San Diego. The theme is “*UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Clusters & the Triple Helix*” with emphasis on SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation), SDG 14 (Life below Water) and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals). **BTW2019** is expecting 700+ attendees across 7 events over 5 days from 18-20 countries including representatives of 14-18 clusters and clusters-in-formation and 160+ companies. Tuesday, Nov. 19 co-hosted by SIO and **TMA BlueTech** (formerly The Maritime Alliance) is “*The UN Decade of Ocean Science: Promoting Academic, Government and Industry Collaboration*”. To learn more, visit www.bluetechweek.org.
- The [Workshop on Coastal Climate and Earth Observation Services for Small Island States](#) will take place Nov 13-15, 2019. This workshop will focus on the following areas: Have the climate and observation service developers focusing on the unique challenges faced by the small islands; Co-identify the gaps and needs for coastal climate and observation services for small island states; Co-develop strategies in response to the needs of coastal climate and observation services for adaptation of small island communities; Co-establish a platform or networks for the development and sharing of coastal climate and observation services for small island states.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to daniel.takaki@noaa.gov.



[Blue Planet website](#)

info@geoblueplanet.com



[GEOBluePlanet](#)

GEO Blue Planet Update

August 2019

GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
- raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.

Projects and Working Groups

2020 - 2022 Implementation Plan

- The GEO Program Board favorable reviewed the GEO Blue Planet 2020 - 2022 implementation plan. Recommendations from the GEO Programme Board included a recommendation for GEO Blue Planet to consider becoming a Flagship, considering the accomplishments to date and the engagement with governments and policy setting institutions such as UNEP on SDG 14.1. The Secretariat has requested additional information on requirements for flagship status.
- [Click here](#) to view the current version of the implementation plan. Please provide feedback to the current version to emily.smail@noaa.gov.

Early Warning System for Marine Flooding of Reef-lined Islands

- The WaveFORCE Project demonstrated a functional and accurate hind-cast model demonstration of a 2008 flooding event on the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Multi-hazard Information and Forecasting System for the Wider Caribbean

- Project partners will be attending an upcoming "[Sarg'Expo](#)" in Guadeloupe in October.
- The Sargassum project will begin collaborating with AtlantOS on developing a basin wide scale of this project and discuss the future implementation of an informational service and project website.

GEO Week Ministerial Summit

- GEO Blue Planet has been selected to host a side event at the upcoming GEO Week Ministerial Summit in Canberra, Australia on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. We will be working with GEO Aquawatch, GEO BON, E4SDGs, Afri-GEO, and GEO ECO on the Side Event. Any other individuals or groups interested in the event planning or attendance, please contact [Emily Smail](#) or [Daniel Takaki](#).

Ocean Accounting "Blue Paper" for High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

- Blue Planet is contributing to drafting the High Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy (<http://oceanpanel.org>) Blue Paper on National Accounting for the Ocean & Ocean Economy. The High Level Panel (HLP) brings together leaders of 14 countries committed to catalyzing bold, pragmatic solutions for Ocean health and wealth that support the Sustainable Development Goals and build a better future for people and planet. The Blue Paper will be an integral part of the HLP final Report, to be completed in 2020, which will highlight how the protection and sustainable use of the Ocean will generate higher value creation that will help meet some of humanity's most urgent needs.

Supplemental Issue

- The [introductory paper on GEO Blue Planet](#) for the Supplemental Issue in the Journal of Operational Oceanography is now available online.
 - The full supplemental issue is in press.
-

Outreach and Engagement

- The 11th annual **BlueTech Week** will take place Nov. 18-22, 2019 in San Diego. The theme is “*UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Clusters & the Triple Helix*” with emphasis on SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation), SDG 14 (Life below Water) and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals). **BTW2019** is expecting 700+ attendees across 7 events over 5 days from 18-20 countries including representatives of 14-18 clusters and clusters-in-formation and 160+ companies. Tuesday, Nov. 19 co-hosted by SIO and **TMA BlueTech** (formerly The Maritime Alliance) is “*The UN Decade of Ocean Science: Promoting Academic, Government and Industry Collaboration*”. To learn more, visit www.bluetechweek.org.
 - Daniel Takaki spoke on at the EO4SDG Side Meeting at the Ninth Session of the UN-GGIM August 5th about the role GEO Blue Planet is playing in the UN SDGs, specifically SDG 14.1.1
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to daniel.takaki@noaa.gov.

 [Blue Planet website](#)

info@geoblueplanet.com

 [GEOBluePlanet](#)

GEO Blue Planet Update

July 2019

GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
- raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.

New GEO Blue Planet Steering Committee Members Announced!

- **Kwame Adu Agyekum**, University of Ghana
- **Elham Ali**, Department of Environmental Sciences. Suez University
- **Eric Chassignet**, Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies, Florida State University
- **Bart De Lathouwer**, Open Geospatial Consortium
- **Anton Ellenbroek**, FAO
- **Aimee Gonzales**, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
- **Michael B. Jones**, The Maritime Alliance
- **Andiswa Mlisa**, South African National Space Agency
- **Martin Visbeck**, GEOMAR
- **Christo Rautenbach**, South African Weather Service
- **Christoph Waldmann**, University of Bremen/MARUM

More information about the new steering committee members will be provided in a future newsletter!

Upcoming Workshop: Coastal Climate and Earth Observation Services for Small Island States

The workshop forms part of the ERA4CS funded INNOVA project, co-funded from the European Commission.

The workshop intends to bring together the **climate services (long time-scale)** and **observational services (earth and ocean observation communities)**. The two different scientific communities can support science-based information services to support adaptation on small islands. Local adaptation needs a combination of social, environmental and economic data and information; as well as: historic, current and projection data and information. We are also promoting the expanded use of a “services approach” applied to observation data and information. This workshop offers an opportunity to promote cross-domain learning and capacity building.

The workshop will invite individuals that has a professional focus on: i) technical expertise of providing climate change and earth observation data (e.g. service providers); ii) coastal and local area management; iii) and adaptation management from all relevant levels of government. This include: coastal, and adaptation managers from small island states, NGOs, climate data and service providers, small island state ministries responsible for with climate change adaptation.

The three-day workshop, co-hosted by HZG (GERICS) and several other partners, will be held at the Memorial ACTe Museum in Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe from 13-15 November 2019.

For more details please contact Louis Celliers (louis.celliers@gerics.de)

Projects and Working Groups

2020 - 2022 Implementation Plan

- The GEO Program Board favorable reviewed the GEO Blue Planet 2020 - 2022 implementation plan. Recommendations from the GEO Programme Board included a recommendation for GEO Blue Planet to consider becoming a Flagship, considering the accomplishments to date and the engagement with governments and policy setting institutions such as UNEP on SDG 14.1. The Secretariat has requested additional information on requirements for flagship status.
- [Click here](#) to view the current version of the implementation plan.

Capacity Development

- As part of AANChOR (an EU-funded project promoting the implementation of an All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance), POGO, and the GEO BluePlanet Initiative, we're looking for synergies to enhance cooperation and better utilize resources. The goal of this survey is to identify existing ocean-related capacity development programs. Please tell us about your capacity development initiatives in [this survey here!](#)

Early Warning System for Marine Flooding of Reef-lined Islands

- The WaveFORCE Project received a letter support from the Director/Meteorologist in Charge at the Weather Service Office from the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Multi-hazard Information and Forecasting System for the Wider Caribbean

- Project partners will be attending an upcoming "[Sarg'Expo](#)" in Guadeloupe in October.
- A "Coastal Hazards Information Platform for the Wider Caribbean" website is in development.

- GEO Blue Planet is discussing potential collaborations with AmeriGEO, the GEOSS Platform and IOOS for the project

OceanObs'19

- At OceanObs'19, please consider attending the "Best Practices Breakout Session" on Thursday Afternoon of OceanObs week (September 19th). Join the session to discuss how we engage the community in using the Ocean Best Practices System to ensure the benefits of best practices are available across the ocean community.
- "Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices" is survey designed to better understand your current and future needs for ocean observing best practices. The results will be available at the OceanObs'19 conference as part of our community discussions of needs for the next decade. If you have not completed the short survey, it is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OBPS-Survey>. Your contribution is appreciated!
- GEO Blue Planet is involved in a number of other breakout sessions and side events for you to consider attending including a **Marine Debris debris side event** on Monday September 16, the **Community Building and Dialogue Breakout Session** on Wednesday, the **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Breakout Session** on Wednesday, and the **UN Sustainable Development Goals Breakout Session** on Thursday

Resource Mobilization

- GEO Blue Planet has been working with the GEO Secretariat on BluePlanet's resource mobilization strategy, both in terms of messaging and communications. The GEO Secretariat is working on a resource mobilization strategy for the GEO Work Programme and are using GEO Blue Planet as one of the pilot tests. GEO Blue Planet is using the WaveFORCE Project and Marine Pollution Monitoring in Support of Sustainable Development Goal 14 as focus points of the effort.

SDG 14.1.1 Support

- GEO Blue Planet and Esri efforts to support the development of the methodology for eutrophication monitoring in support of SDG 14.1.1 will be presented as a case study at the SDG side event at OceanObs'19
- IEEEOES and the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat are continuing to develop a white paper on a "Global data platform for monitoring marine litter and information action". This paper will be used as a starting point for the development of the platform. UN Environment currently has ~\$200,000 to support implementation of the platform.

Supplemental Issue

- The [introductory paper on GEO Blue Planet](#) for the Supplemental Issue in the Journal of Operational Oceanography is now available online.
 - The full supplemental issue is in press.
-

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail attended and presented on behalf of GEO Blue Planet at the EuroGEOSS Workshop in Lisbon from 3-5 July. The aim was to look for synergies across projects, initiatives, to offer networking opportunities to the participants and to discuss how Europe can contribute to the international effort.
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to daniel.takaki@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Planet Update

June 2019

GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
- raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.

Projects and Working Groups

SDG 14.1.1 Coastal Eutrophication Support

GEO Blue Planet is working with UN Environment and NOAA CoastWatch/OceanWatch to support the development of methods and data products that use globally available satellite remote sensing products that can be used as proxy indicators for coastal eutrophication.

Multi-hazard Information and Forecasting System for the Wider Caribbean

The project team met this past month to discuss the future of this project based on the resolutions from IOCARIBE-XV. On the oil spill side of the project, discussions of interest for collaboration and training with the NOAA Oil Spill Monitoring Desk and RAC/REMPEITC group in Curacao are beginning to develop. There is interest in creating both a monitoring system for the wider Caribbean region and also to

generate a GIS based database for past oil spill events in the region.

On the sargassum side, GEO Blue Planet is creating a database to compile on going sargassum related products/projects. The project group is also working on a guide for best management practices for sargassum events in the coastal environment. NOAA CoastWatch is developing an app to collect in situ sargassum observation information and is also developing sargassum drift models and forecasting models for the region.

[Link to sargassum database submission survey](#)

Early Warning System for Marine Flooding of Reef-lined Islands

The WaveFORCE Project received a letter support from the island nation of Samoa and the Ministry of Natural Resources, expressing the need for such an early warning and forecasting system to help enable the safety of both lives and property, as well as provide authorities with the proper knowledge and foresight to evacuate before floods and minimize the amount of damage these events can cause.

GEO Blue Planet Resource Mobilization

GEO Blue Planet has been working with the GEO Secretariat on Blue Planet's resource mobilization strategy, both in terms of messaging and communications. The GEO Secretariat is working on a resource mobilization strategy for the GEO Work Programme and are using GEO Blue Planet as one of the pilot tests. GEO BluePlanet is using the WaveFORCE Project and Marine Pollution Monitoring in Support of Sustainable Development Goal 14 as focus points of the effort.

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail, Daniel Takaki and Paul DiGiacomo attended the First International Operational Satellite Oceanography Symposium in College Park, MD. This meeting brought together both data providers and end users to help boost the visibility of the vitality and importance of operational satellite oceanography. The meeting was hosted by the NESDIS line office of NOAA and EUMETSAT.
 - Emily Smail presented on behalf of GEO Blue Planet to the World Bank Group in Washington, DC about resource mobilization opportunities.
-

Have an update for next month?

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GEO Blue Planet Update

May 2019

GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
- raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Litter & SDG 14.1.1 Support

- GEO Blue Planet is collecting information on existing marine litter databases and published datasets to support the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and Target 14.1 "by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds (...)."
- Information in this survey will be used for a white paper on the concept and feasibility of a global platform for monitoring marine litter and informing action being developed by GEO Blue Planet, WWF, IEEEOES and other partners.
- **Please circulate the survey to your contacts:** [Link to Survey](#)

Multi-hazard Information and Forecasting System for the Wider Caribbean

- The Fifteenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE-XV) met in May in Oranjestad Aruba, where Emily Smail presented on behalf of GEO Blue Planet.
- The recommendations included request that GEO Blue Planet, IOCARIBE-GOOS, and other partners continue our efforts of (i) developing an operational region-wide information and forecasting system for sargassum and oil spills; and (ii) develop a guide on best management practices for sargassum events in the coastal environment.

Early Warning System for Marine Flooding of Reef-lined Islands

- The Wave-driven Flood Forecast of Reef-lined Coasts Early Warning System (WaveFORCE) methodology has been successfully tested in a case study at Roi-Namur, Kwajalein Atoll, RMI.
- The WaveFORCE team have therefore demonstrated methodology and are able to implement the Early Warning System globally pending availability of funding.

Oceanscape Project

- The Oceanscape portal will provide information on the many international, regional and national-level organisations working in ocean observing and related fields, and how they are connected to one another.
- The interface is currently being tested and a graphic designer is working on the website branding and visual aspects.
- The aim is to launch this officially at the Ocean Obs'19 conference in September. Further developments and improvements will continue to be made after the launch, particularly working on the visualization of connections between organisations.

OceanObs'19

- GEO Blue Planet will be part of the planning teams for breakout sessions at OceanObs'19 on SDGs and Ocean Observing, Community Building and Dialogue, and Ocean Best Practices

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail attended the MBON all hands meeting and presented on GEOBlue Planet.
 - Emily Smail and Daniel Takaki attended the 2019 GEO Symposium in May in Geneva, Switzerland and presented on GEO Blue Planet and also about the pilot test of the Early Warning System for marine flooding of reef-lined islands.
 - Sophie Seeyave represented POGO and GEO Blue Planet at the UN Decade Planning Meeting and participated in a Panel on “Capacity Development and Transfer of Marine Technology”, where she talked about the need for different groups working on capacity development to coordinate their activities, and share best practices, some advances on which have been made through the GEO Blue Planet WG.
 - Sophie Seeyave represented POGO and GEO Blue Planet at the AtlantOS Symposium in Paris in March, where she participated in a Panel on “The added value of integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing to science, policy and society”. The Symposium marked the end of the funded project, aimed to bring together scientists, policy makers, users, funders and other stakeholders to discuss the project’s results and plan for the continuation of AtlantOS. Sophie’s intervention focused particularly on capacity development and the need to involve the next generation in the future development of AtlantOS. She highlighted that GEO Blue Planet works to promote and support international activities related to the three pillars of sustainable development – environment, society and economy. A variety of different priorities had been highlighted, from pollution and algal blooms to biodiversity, coastal dynamics and fisheries. There had been however a strong consensus on the need for information rather than data, and that the information should be as simple as possible.
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to daniel.takaki@noaa.gov.

[View this email in your browser](#)

GEO Blue Planet Update

April 2019

GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
- raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.

Projects and Working Groups

Multi-hazard Information and Forecasting System for the Wider Caribbean

- GEO Blue Planet is working to develop a website for the project that will highlight existing projects, organizations and research efforts in the Wider Caribbean for sargassum and oil spills (with information about other hazards down the line).
- Project partner CLS is working with stakeholders in the region to get feedback on a prototype operational system for sargassum monitoring and forecasting for the Wider Caribbean.

- Project partners are continuing to develop an in situ database for the project and recommended protocols for collection of submission to the database.
- Efforts to encourage existing efforts to collaborate towards an integrated and operational system are underway.

Marine Plastics & SDG 14.1.1 Support

- The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat, IEEEOES and the WWF are continuing working to develop a white paper for UN Environment titled "A Global Platform for Monitoring Marine Litter and Informing Action".
- GEO Blue Planet, NOAA and ESRI are working with UN Environment to develop a methodology for a sub-indicator on satellite-based chlorophyll-a for SDG indicator 14.1.1 - Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density.

Ocean Accounts

- Steering Committee member Samy Djavidnia is leading efforts to organize GEO Blue Planet contributions to a document being prepared by UN ESCAP titled "Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting for Sustainable Development"

Outreach and Engagement

- Steering Committee Co-chair Paul DiGiacomo attended the GEO Data Technology Workshop in Vienna, Austria, 23 - 25 April 2019.
- Emily Smail and Daniel Takaki attended the USGEO meeting in Washington, D.C., 29 - 30 April, 2019.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at daniel.takaki@noaa.gov.



[Blue Planet website](#)

info@geoblueplanet.com



[GEOBluePlanet](#)

GEO Blue Planet Update

March 2019

GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
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Secretariat

OceanObs'19 Support

- The Secretariat supported the planning team for OceanObs'19 in reviewing applications for travel support from students, under represented country representatives and early career scientists.

Secretariat Staff

- Xiaofan Zhang from the School of Economics at the Ocean University of China has arrived at the University of Maryland's Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center (ESSIC). Xiaofan will be working with the principal Secretariat office (hosted by UMD-NOAA) to support GEO Blue Planet activities related to socio-economics for one year with support from the Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC).

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Plastics & SDG 14.1.1 Support

- IEEE/OES, WWF and the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat are working to produce a white paper on technologies for observing and monitoring plastics in the ocean. The paper will be an outcome from the IEEE/OES November [workshop on Plastics in the Ocean](#) and will support UN Environment's request for a paper on the vision/need/potential structure of a global marine litter monitoring platform.
- GEO Blue Planet is working in collaboration with the GEO AquaWatch Initiative, NOAA satellite data experts and Esri to develop a data and visualization platform for satellite chlorophyll-a (as a sub-indicator/proxy for eutrophication) for the SDG indicator 14.1.1. The platform will be developed in collaboration with users (from a few select countries) as a pilot with a goal of producing a platform that can be expanded to the global level and further developed to include information for other sub-indicators.

Multi-hazard Information and Forecasting System for the Wider Caribbean

- A website for the project is under development in collaboration with project partners.
- The project will be presented by Emily Smail at the upcoming IOCARIBE XV meeting in Aruba.

Ocean Accounting for Sustainable Development

- The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) is leading the effort to draft the 1st Edition UN Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting for Sustainable Development. As mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), the Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting document will provide input to the revision of the System of Environmental Accounting (SEEA) Ecosystem Accounting for 2020. Within this context, and based on the contribution to

the 1st Asia and Pacific Regional Expert workshop on Ocean Accounts held in Bangkok (Thailand) in August 2018, UN-ESCAP has invited GEO Blue Planet to contribute as lead author for the “Ocean Data Sources” chapter of the Technical Guidance. Anyone interested in contributing to this effort should contact the GEO Blue Planet secretariat.

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail attended the Expert Consultation on Marine Litter National Source Inventories held from 25-26 March at the UN Environment HQ in Nairobi.
 - Paul DiGiacomo attended the CEOS-SIT meeting and has gathered interest for a collaboration between GEO Blue Planet and CEOS for a coastal task team potentially focusing on marine debris and litter.
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to daniel.takaki@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Planet Update January & February 2019

GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
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Secretariat

Principal Secretariat Office

- Daniel Takaki has joined the principal office of the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat. Dan will be with us for one year as part of the [Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship](#). Welcome Dan!



Dan recently graduated from the University of Minnesota - Duluth with an M.S degree in Water Resources Science and is representing Minnesota Sea Grant. His thesis project focused on developing a

sediment bioreactor to treat sulfate contamination in fresh water, encompassing microbial ecology and environmental engineering. He also studied chemical engineering at Villanova University where he developed a passion for environmental justice and worked as a member of Engineers Without Borders

Development of Secretariat Nodes

GEO Blue Planet is working to develop regional and thematic nodes. The Steering Committee will discuss the progress on these nodes during the March Steering Committee meeting. Formal announcements will be made once arrangements are finalized.

The European Node

- The European Commission has made substantial progress on the development of the European Secretariat node. The node, once approved and finalized, will be located at Mercator Ocean.

Additional Potential Nodes

- The Atlantic International Research Centre has submitted an expression of interest to host a node in the Azores.

2020 - 2022 Implementation Plan

- The 2020 - 2022 Implementation Plan was been submitted to the GEO programme board for review. To access the implementation plan draft - [click here](#). To view the schedule for the development of the 2020 - 2022 GEO work programme - [click here](#).

Resource Mobilization

Support from the GEO Secretariat

- Project team members attended AGU and presented posters on the project.
- The project was recently featured as a news item on phys.org: <https://phys.org/news/2018-12-early-vulnerable-islands.html>

Fiscal Sponsorship

- The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat is developing an MoU with the [Meridian Institute](#) for a fiscal sponsorship relationship.

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Plastics & SDG 14.1.1 Support

- IEEEOES and the WWF are working to develop a GEO Blue Planet working group on marine debris. Currently, the working group is in the process of developing a mission statement and are open to broad participation. Those interested should contact Hans-Peter Plag, René Garello, and Linwood Pendleton.
- GEO Blue Planet, ESRI and UN Environment are discussing a potential project to provide satellite chlorophyll-a information, as a proxy for eutrophication, in support of SDG 14.1.1.

Fisheries, Biodiversity and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop in Cape Verde

- The workshop on “[Ocean and Coastal Information in Support of Marine Resources and Biodiversity in the Macaronesia, Sao Tome and Principe region](#)” will be taking place on March 14 & 15 in Cape Verde.

The Ocean SeaScape Project

- Jonathan Hodge, Sophie Seeyave and collaborating organizations are testing the prototype of the oceanscape project. This oceanscape project will be an interactive web-based interface to display information about ocean observing organizations.

Multi-hazard Information and Alert System for the Wider Caribbean

- The NOAA CoastWatch Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico Regional Node are working to develop an in-situ validation database to support ground truthing of sargassum and oil spill monitoring in the Wider Caribbean. Project partners are working to develop recommended protocols for collection of the data and information and submission to the database.
-

Outreach and Engagement

- The Secretariat had a virtual meeting with the new director of Future Earth Coasts. The collaboration between GEO Blue Planet and Future Earth Coasts will be developed further over the coming months.
 - Emily Smail and Advisory Board Chair Monica Grasso attended a Natural Capital Protocol for the Ocean Workshop, hosted by Conservation International.
 - Paul DiGiacomo will be attending the upcoming CEOS SIT meeting and is working to develop collaborations between GEO Blue Planet and CEOS on coastal issues.
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.



[Blue Planet website](#)



info@geoblueplanet.com



[GEOBluePlanet](#)

GEO Blue Planet Update

November & December 2018

GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
- raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.

Secretariat

- An updated version of the website has been released. Please check out the new version - <https://geoblueplanet.org/> - and contact Emily Smail with any issues or requested updates.
- The call for Secretariat nodes is live on the website. The call has been released on twitter and will be circulated on the GEO Blue Planet mailing list in early January. The deadline for expressions of interest is February 28, 2019.
- The Secretariat is working with GEO Blue Planet Steering Committee members and other stakeholders to develop potential consortia to submit proposals for the [Belmont Forum Call on Transdisciplinary Research for Ocean Sustainability](#).

Projects and Working Groups

The Early Warning System for Reef-lined Islands Project

- Project team members attended AGU and presented posters on the project.
- The project was recently featured as a news item on [phys.org](https://phys.org/news/2018-12-early-vulnerable-islands.html): <https://phys.org/news/2018-12-early-vulnerable-islands.html>

Marine Plastics & SDG 14.1.1 Support

- A Workshop on Technologies for Observing and Monitoring Plastics in the Oceans was held from November 26 - 27, 2018. For additional information, see: http://www.gstss.org/2018_Brest.
- UN Environment has consulted with Emily Smail about recommendations for consultants to develop a white paper on the vision/need/potential structure of a global marine litter monitoring platform. Based on these conversations, Blue Planet Steering Committee members René Garello, Hans-Peter Plag and Linwood Pendleton have been invited to produce this white paper.
- René Garello and GODAE OceanView co-chair Eric Chassignet represented the GEO Blue Planet network at the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics in Geneva, Switzerland from 3 - 7 December 2018. As a result, Eric Chassignet is working to produce a summary of existing modeling efforts related to marine plastic and the general state for ocean modeling in support of UN Environment.
- **The GEO Blue Planet Steering Committee is discussing bringing these efforts together under a GEO Blue Planet working group on marine plastic to coordinate and develop these activities.**

Aquaculture, Fisheries and Biodiversity Workshop in Cape Verde

- The workshop on “Ocean and Coastal Information in Support of Marine Resources and Biodiversity in the Macaronesia, Sao Tome and Principe region” is planned for February 27 - 28, 2019. Workshop planning is in progress.

The Ocean SeaScape Project

- Jonathan Hodge and Sophie Seeyave are working to produce an updated prototype of the seascape project - an interactive web-based interface to display information about ocean observing organizations. The updated prototype, funded by POGO, will be presented at the upcoming POGO meeting in January.

IOCARIBE Multi-hazard Information and Alert System

- The project focused on developing a monitoring, forecasting and alert system for sargassum and oil spills in the Caribbean and adjacent regions has been re-branded as the "IOCARIBE Multi-hazard Information and Alert System". While the project is first working to develop sargassum and oil spill information and alerts, the goal is to include additional hazards (as identified by local stakeholders as priorities) in the system down the line.
- Project partner CLS has received funding from the French government to produce a prototype service for monitoring and forecasting sargassum in the Caribbean. This one year project will be used as a building block for the overall information and alert system.
- Project partners from Texas A&M - Galveston are collaborating with the French on research to improve sargassum detection and forecasting. They are working with French collaborators to plan a workshop in Marseille this spring.
- The NOAA CoastWatch Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico Regional Node is planning to integrate existing efforts, starting with the French/US collaborations, into the CoastWatch OceanViewer platform. NOAA CoastWatch is also planning to build a database to support the system.

Outreach and Engagement

- Steering Committee member Ralph Rayner participated in and chaired sessions at [BlueTech week](#) in San Diego, CA. Emily Smail also attended and discussed linkages with ocean observations with participants.

Companies that are working on the development of new ocean observing sensors, such as Swift Engineering, expressed an interest in being provided required specifications for sensors and information about desirable products from the observing and research communities.

- Emily Smail and Advisory Board Chair Monica Grasso attended a Natural Capital Protocol for the Ocean Workshop, hosted by Conservation International.
- Emily Smail presented at a World Bank meeting on Disruptive Technology on Pollution Management. The World Bank expressed interest in collaborating with GEO Blue Planet on marine debris efforts. Follow up with the World Bank will be done in January.
- Several Steering Committee members attended the OceanObs RCN meeting and AGU in Washington, DC.
- The Secretariat and Management Committee has been engaging with the new GEO Director and Work Programme manager regarding the Director's vision for GEO and the desired focus and outputs of GEO Initiatives. Conversations with the GEO Secretariat will continue as we prepare the 2020-2022 GEO Blue Planet Implementation Plan.
- Emily Smail and Sophie Seeyave discussed potential collaborations with Dawn Wright of ESRI. ESRI is interested in supporting GEO Blue Planet projects. Emily Smail and Sophie Seeyave will be follow up with project leads and the Steering Committee to discuss potential collaborations with ESRI.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Planet Monthly Update

October 2018

Projects

Blue Planet Symposium

- The [4th Blue Planet Symposium Report](#) is now available on the website.

Blue Planet Website Update

- The website update is in progress. To view the (in progress) draft of the updated website - visit <https://geobpstaging.wpengine.com/>.
- If you have recommendations for related activities to be listed within the [cross-cutting and thematic areas](#) - **please send them to Emily Smail (preferably with a 200 x 200 pixel logo) by November 26th.**

SDG 14.1.1 Support

- Blue Planet is continuing to engage with UN Environment on support for the methodology development for SDG indicator 14.1.1.
- Blue Planet Steering Committee Co-chair Paul DiGiacomo will be attending the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics in Geneva, Switzerland from 3 - 7 December 2018.
- Blue Planet Steering Committee members René Garelo and Hans-Peter Plag are hosting a workshop on Plastics in the Ocean in Brest, France. The workshop, sponsored by IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society, will take place from November 26 - 27, 2018. For additional information, see: http://www.gstss.org/2018_Brest.

Aquaculture, Fisheries and Biodiversity Workshop in Cape Verde

- A workshop on “Ocean and Coastal Information in Support of Marine Resources and Biodiversity in the Macaronesia, Sao Tome and Principe region” is planned for the last week of February in Cape Verde. The organization of the workshop is being led by the AIR Centre and Blue Planet. The organizing committee includes participants from Future Earth Coasts, MBON, ESA, UNOOSA, the Cape Verde Ministry of Education, the Cape Verde Ministry of Maritime Economy and representatives from local marine research organizations.

Secretariat

- We are pleased to announce that [Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow](#) Daniel Takaki will be joining the Blue Planet Secretariat office in College Park, Maryland in February for a one year fellowship! Dan has a background in Water Resources Science, Chemical Engineering and environmental justice.
- The European Commission has identified a possible path to follow for funding of a European node of the Blue Planet Secretariat at Mercator Ocean International. A formal answer will be delivered next Spring.
- A call for additional Secretariat nodes will be distributed by early December.

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail is organizing and contributing to a chapter (Ocean Observations to Underpin Policy: Examples of Ocean Observations in Support of the Sendai Framework, UNFCCC, and Sustainable Development Goal 14) for an AGU volume Earth Observation Applications and Global Policy Frameworks. Steering Committee member Louis Celliers is also a contributor to this chapter.
- Articles for the Blue Planet Journal of Operational Oceanography supplemental issue are being released online as the papers are accepted. The compiled issue will be published and printed upon acceptance of all papers in the issue.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Planet Monthly Update

September 2018

Projects

SDG 14 Support

- Emily Smail attended the Experts Workshop on Marine Pollution Indicators under Sustainable Development Goal Target 14.1.1 (index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density) at IOC-UNESCO on September 12 & 13.
- It was agreed at the workshop that GEO would work with partners in the GEO network to develop a recommended methodology for UN Environment for the satellite portion of the methodology and will produce implementation examples for the March 2019 [IAEG-SDG](#) meeting. The goal will be to have SDG 14.1.1 upgraded from a Tier III indicator to a Tier II indicator. Additional information to follow.

Caribbean ocean observing pilot project

- Working groups and working group co-chairs are in the process of being finalized.
- Working groups will be meeting in October to discuss the best way to support integration of existing efforts (e.g. working being done by CLS, NOAA CoastWatch, USF, INVEMAR, etc.) to monitor sargassum and oil spills in the region.

Working Groups

Reorganization of cross-cutting working groups

- The chairs of the cross-cutting working groups have decided to group stakeholder engagement, stakeholder service development and societal awareness under one working group. Capacity building will now be a standalone working group. The newly organized working groups will be:
 - Data Discovery, Access and Utilization
 - Services and Societal Awareness
 - Capacity Building

Data Discovery, Access and Utilization Working Group

- The Data Discovery, Access and Utilization Working Group had a preliminary discussion with AOGEOSS about potential support for the [GEOSS Asia Pacific Ocean Data Networking System](#). The working group is exploring potential support of this effort and other metadata efforts.
-

Secretariat

Secretariat

- Based on feedback from the Steering Committee, the Secretariat has modified the Terms of Reference to allow for a clearer description of how Blue Planet advocates for and supports external efforts by colleagues in the Blue Planet network. The updated TOR will be discussed at the September Steering Committee meeting.
- A major overhaul of the GEO Blue Planet website is underway. A draft of the updated website will be presented and discussed at the September Steering Committee meeting.
- Discussions are continuing on how to best expand the Secretariat.
 - Mercator has been working to identify funding for a Secretariat staff member for Europe. DG GROW and DG RTD have identified a possible funding mechanism and are exploring the approval process.

- Discussions with MBON are underway for a thematic Secretariat node that would focus on marine biodiversity. The concept of thematic nodes and potential additional regional nodes (such as a node in Asia) will be discussed at the September Steering Committee meeting.
 - The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat and US MBON leadership (Gabrielle Canonico) are submitting applications to host [Knauss fellows](#) in 2019. If successful, the Knauss fellow(s) would support the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat and MBON.
-

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail, Paul DiGiacomo and Samy Djavidnia met with Conservation International to discuss collaboration. Several areas for potential collaboration were identified including Blue Planet support of data sets for the Blue Carbon Initiative and Conservation International support of local outreach through their 25 country field offices. In addition, Conservation International is now hosting the Secretariat for the EO4SDG Initiative. An additional meeting will be held between Blue Planet and Conservation International in October to discuss collaborations between Blue Planet and the EO4SDG Initiative.
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Planet Monthly Update

August 2018

Caribbean Oil Spill and Sargassum Project

- The workshop report is completed and available [here](#).
- Emily Smail, Samy Djavidnia and Gianulca Luraschi of GEO Blue Planet are working with [IOCARIBE of IOC](#), workshop participants and other stakeholders in the region to develop an implementation plan for the project.
- Emily Smail is working with IOCARIBE of IOC to produce a brochure for the project which will be used for outreach to relevant stakeholders and potential funders.

SDG 14 Support

- The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat and Steering Committee members have been working with UN Environment to support their efforts to develop a methodology and information for countries for SDG 14.1 - Coastal Eutrophication and Marine Pollution.
 - Emily Smail be attending a meeting for the expert group on SDG 14.1 at IOC-UNESCO's headquarters in Paris on September 12 and 13 along with partners from the GEO AquaWatch Initiative and the GEO EO4SDG Initiative.
-

Working Groups

Water-associated Diseases Working Group

- The water-related infections diseases working group is planning an in person scoping meeting in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, UK on 30 and

31 August 2018. For additional information, see the [working group's web page](#).

Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness

- The Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness working group is working on the development of the ocean observing "seascope" project. The project is aiming to develop a web interface that shows what various organizations are doing in relation to ocean observing (e.g. capacity building, data management, coordination of observations, user engagement, etc.). POGO is providing support for Hodge Environmental to support the web development and interface design. NOAA is providing in kind programming support from NOAA/STAR/SOCD staff member Kaden Weaver.

Users and Networks Working Group

- The Users and Networks working group has submitted their contribution to the OceanObs'19 white paper on stakeholder engagement.
- Emily Smail and Louis Celliers are working with co-authors Katherina Schoo, Kirsten Isensee, Laura Fridrich, Bernardo Aliga, Laura Lorenzoni and Frank Muller Karger on a chapter titled "Ocean Observations to Underpin Policy: Examples of Ocean Observations in Support of the Sendai Framework, UNFCCC, and Sustainable Development Goal 14" for an AGU Monograph Series Book on Earth Observation Applications and Global Policy Frameworks.

Data Discovery, Access and Utilization Working Group

- The Data Discovery, Access and Utilization Working Group is considering a project to develop a metadata inventory for major sources of oceanographic data to support data discovery.

Secretariat and Business

Secretariat

- The Secretariat is working with the Management Committee to put together a draft of the call for Secretariat nodes. The call will be discussed at the September Steering Committee meeting.
- An updated terms of reference was recently reviewed by the Steering Committee. Emily Smail is working to incorporate input provided by the Steering Committee and will provide an updated version of the terms of reference as well as a corresponding updated version of the website for Steering Committee review at the September Steering Committee meeting.

Business

- Emily Smail is discussing the possibility of securing and routing funding for a UFORIC working group meeting in 2019 through the Ocean Foundation. This would allow GEO Blue Planet to set up the fiscal sponsorship arrangement with the Ocean Foundation. NASA is envisioned as a potential funder of the workshop.

Outreach and Engagement

- Samy Djavidnia and Andy Steven attended the Asia and the [Pacific Regional Expert Workshop on Ocean Accounts](#) in Bangkok, Thailand. Samy Djavidnia gave a presentation at the meeting on [Global Data Availability](#) on behalf of GEO Blue Planet.
- The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) scheduled a meeting with Samy Djavidnia and Emily Smail as a result of interactions at the Ocean Accounts meeting. IIED is interested in collaborating with GEO Blue Planet. Potential projects to collaborate on include:
 - Mainstreaming small scale fisheries values into national accounts in partnership with UN ESCAP

- Understanding ecological connectivity between high seas and coastal communities to support LDCs in the UN ABNJ/BBNJ negotiations (in collaboration with University of Southampton)
 - Designing incentive-based systems and inclusive policies for fisheries management and marine conservation (in partnership with WorldFish Centre, Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh, University of Yangon, and Bangladesh Centre of Advanced Studies)
 - Exploring fiscal reforms and their distributional implications regarding marginalised and vulnerable groups in fisheries (in collaboration with University of British Columbia in Canada)
 - Piloting a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework for SDG 14 targets
- Milton Kampbell of INPE gave a presentation on behalf of GEO Blue Planet during the 2018 AmeriGEOSS meeting in Brazil. AmeriGEOSS is interested in having GEO Blue Planet support the input of oceanographic data into their [DataHub](#).
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Planet Monthly Update

July 2018

Projects

The 4th GEO Blue Planet Symposium

- The 4th Blue Planet Symposium was held from July 4 – 6, 2018 in Toulouse, France. The symposium was successful with 300 attendees and fruitful discussions.
- The main recommendations from the symposium are:
 - Blue Planet should play a coordinating role, creating linkages and identifying linkages between existing networks and organizations
 - Blue Planet should share best practices between regions (for sharing new services, user engagement, capacity building & ocean literacy etc.)
 - Completing the “ocean observing seascape” project should be a priority
 - Blue Planet should facilitate user discover of data and products
 - Blue Planet should put together success stories for the utilization of ocean observations for decision making
 - Blue Planet needs additional Secretariat support and should put out a call for interest in hosting a Secretariat node

A special thanks to Mercator Ocean for a job well done hosting the symposium!

Caribbean Oil Spill and Sargassum Project

- The Blue Planet Secretariat is working with colleagues that attended the workshop to produce an implementation plan for the sargassum and oil spill project.
- A workshop report will be distributed by the end of the month.

Working Groups

Water-associated Diseases Working Group

- The water-related infections diseases working group is planning an in person meeting in the UK for August 30 – 31. They have received funding for the workshop from POGO.

Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness

- The Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness working group is put together a draft of the seascape display and survey that was presented at the symposium. The working group is proceeding with updates to the survey and producing a prototype of the seascape.

Users and Networks Working Group

- The Users and Networks working group is putting together a draft of a white paper for OceanObs'19 on user engagement.

Advisory Board

Recommendations from June/July 2018 Advisory Board Meetings

- The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat needs additional staff. GEO Blue Planet could:
 - Lobby space agencies for secondments
 - Put out a call for organizations interested in hosting a Secretariat node
 - Establish a patrons group/have membership dues
- The Secretariat should compile and circulate a list of individuals/organizations in the GEO Blue Planet network
- The Terms of Reference should be updated to outline a procedure for review of working groups, working group terms and the expected contribution of the Secretariat to partnership activities
- GEO Blue Planet should make connections with the following stakeholders:
 - Henrik Oksfeldt Enevoldsen from IOC for work to support SDG 14.1.1 and the water-associated diseases working group
 - NGOs including Conservation International's Pacific Oceanscape Program and the Nature Conservancy
 - The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
 - The JCOMM CIFDP
 - USAID
- GEO Blue Planet should have more bilateral discussions with the Advisory Board to discuss how our organizations can collaborate.

- GEO Blue Planet should consider doing advocacy for government action on ocean health.
 - GEO Blue Planet should play an active role in the Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and should work with IOC-UNESCO to outline the best way for the initiative to contribute.
 - GEO Blue Planet should outline their role in supporting the SDGs (SDG 14 and other applicable SDGs).
-

Secretariat and Business

Secretariat

- The European Commission and Mercator Ocean are working to secure funding for a European node for the Secretariat.
- At the symposium, the Steering Committee agreed to put out a call for expression of interest for hosting a Secretariat node (potentially in Asia).

Business

- Discussions about fiscal sponsorship with the Ocean Foundation are ongoing and will be discussed in this month's Steering Committee meeting.
 - The Secretariat and Management Committee have produced an updated draft of the terms of reference which will be presented to the Steering Committee for review.
-

Outreach and Engagement

- Blue Planet has been continuing to support linkages with UN Environment and experts in coastal eutrophication and plastic debris monitoring.
 - A quarterly Blue Planet newsletter will be circulated by the end of the month. If you have items to be included in the newsletter please send them to the Secretariat at emily.smil@noaa.gov.
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smil@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Plant Monthly Update

May 2018

Projects

Caribbean Oil Spill and Sargassum project

- 40 experts from 15 countries representing government agencies, regional entities, UN agencies, academia and industry met in Mexico City from May 2 -3, 2018.
- A plan for the development of a region-wide operational system for oil spill and sargassum monitoring and forecasting was developed. Further information will be provided in the workshop report.

The 4th Blue Planet Symposium

- The agenda for the 4th Blue Planet Symposium is almost finalized and is now available on the symposium website - <https://symposium.geoblueplanet.org/>.
- The deadline to submit abstracts is now **May 17th**.

Working Groups

Water-related Disease Working Group

- The water-related infections diseases working group is planning an in person meeting in the UK for August 30 – 31.
- The working group has been invited to participate in an IOC meeting on Ciguatera taking place in September in Panama.

Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness

- The Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness working group is putting together a survey to circulate to organizations for the ocean and coastal observing community “seascape” project. The group is aiming to have a draft of the project to present at the symposium in July.

Users and Networks

- The abstract submitted for an OceanObs'19 white paper was accepted as part of a group of papers on stakeholder engagement. The working group will begin compiling the paper in the coming weeks.

Outreach and Engagement

Meetings

- Blue Planet hosted a meeting between UN Environment and relevant GEO groups (GEO AquaWatch, EO4SDGs, and GEO Blue Planet) took place to discuss the effort to develop an Index for Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP) for SDG indicator 14.1.1 and connections between SDG 14 and SDG 6 water quality efforts. Next steps will be discussed at the May Steering Committee meeting.
- Samy Djavidnia attended a workshop in Cape Verde
- Emily Smail and Paul DiGiacomo met with representatives from SANSA as part of a bilateral SANSA-NOAA meeting. SANSA expressed interest in collaborating with GEO Blue Planet.

Webinars

- A GEO Blue Planet webinar series started in April with a presentation from Michael Bordt from ESCAP. Click [here](#) for a recording of the webinar and additional information about the ESCAP Ocean Accounts effort.

Newsletters

- A quarterly newsletter for the GEO Blue Planet mailing list was kicked off this month. The next newsletter will be circulated in July.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Plant Monthly Update

April 2018

Projects

Caribbean Oil Spill and Sargassum project

- The kick off workshop for the project is taking place May 2 – 4 in Mexico City. The workshop is being convened by IOCARIBE of IOC and GEO Blue Planet and will be hosted by the Ministry of Education of Mexico and Mexico National Council of Sciences.
- Visit the workshop website for additional information.

The 4th Blue Planet Symposium

- The agenda for the 4th Blue Planet Symposium is almost finalized and is now available on the symposium website - <https://symposium.geoblueplanet.org/>.
- Abstract submissions for the poster are now open through April 30th. Click here to submit an abstract.

Supplemental Issue

- Papers have been submitted for the GEO Blue Planet supplemental issue and the review process has started. Papers will be available online as they are accepted. The expected publication date for the finalized supplemental issue is September 2018.

Working Groups

UFORIC Working Group

- The Understanding Flooding on Reef-lined Island Coasts (UFORIC) working has been approved by the Steering Committee.

Water-related Infections Disease Working Group

- The water-related infections diseases working group has been approved by the Steering Committee. The working group is planning an in person kick of meeting in September.

Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness

- The Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness working group is putting together a survey to circulate to organizations for the ocean and coastal observing community “seascape” project. The group is aiming to have a draft of the project to present at the symposium in July.

Outreach and Engagement

Meetings

- Emily Smail met with Christopher Cox from UN Environment to discuss the effort to develop an Index for Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP) for SDG indicator 14.1.1. Emily will be setting up a follow up meeting with Chris Cox, his collaborators on the project, GEO Blue Planet representatives and representatives from other relevant GEO groups. If you are interested in participating, please let Emily know.
- Samy Djavidnia and Emily Smail met with Michael Bordt from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to discuss his work on the development of Statistical Guidance for Ocean Accounts. Michael Bordt is interested in GEO Blue Planet participation in the planning of an upcoming workshop in Bangkok.

Webinars

- A GEO Blue Planet webinar series started in April with a presentation from Michael Bordt from ESCAP. Click [here](#) to for a recording of the webinar and additional information about the ESCAP Ocean Accounts effort.

Newsletters

- A quarterly newsletter for the GEO Blue Planet mailing list was kicked off this month. The next newsletter will be circulated in July.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Planet Monthly Update

March 2018

Projects and Working Groups

Caribbean Oil Spill and Sargassum project

- Working groups are being finalized for the project.
- A kick off meeting for the project (funded by IODE) is being planned for May in Mexico City.

The 4th Blue Planet Symposium

- The 4th Blue Planet Symposium program committee is working to finalize the program. Abstract submissions for posters and registration will be announced through the GEO Blue Planet mailing list by the end of the month.
- Check the symposium website, <https://symposium.geoblueplanet.org/>, for additional information.

Proposed new projects/working groups

- GEO Blue Planet has received two new proposals for working groups. These working groups will be discussed at the March 15th Steering Committee meeting.
 - 1) Working Group on Understanding Flooding on Reef-lined Island Coasts (UFORIC)
 - 2) Working Group on Earth Observations for Surveillance and Prevention of Water-related Diseases.
- The Atlantic International Research (AIR Center) has expressed interest in collaborating with GEO Blue Planet. Sophie Seeyave, Monica Grasso, Samy Djavidnia and Emily Smail will be meeting with the Portuguese Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education about this collaboration on May 20th.
- The AIR Center has proposed doing a joint workshop with GEO Blue Planet in Cape Verde in September. Logistics and funding for this workshop are currently under development.

Outreach and Engagement

Meetings

- Samy Djavidnia, Sophie Seeyave and Samy Djavidnia spoke with representatives from the Atlantic International Research Center (AIR) about potential collaborations with GEO Blue Planet.
- Emily Smail presented about GEO Blue Planet at a GEO town hall at the 2018 Ocean Meeting in Portland, OR.
- Emily Smail and Paul DiGiacomo presented about GEO Blue Planet to a delegation visiting NOAA from BMKG in Indonesia.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Planet Monthly Update

January 2018

Projects

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines SDG Workshop

- The workshop took place from January 17 - 19 in St. Vincent. The program committee is working on the workshop report and white paper. Hans-Peter Plag will provide a brief about the workshop outcomes during the March 15th Steering Committee meeting. Workshop presentations are available for download [here](#).

The 4th Blue Planet Symposium

- The 4th Blue Planet Symposium program committee is working to finalize the program. Abstract submissions for posters and registration will be announced through the GEO Blue Planet mailing list.
- Check the symposium website, <https://symposium.geoblueplanet.org/>, for additional information.

Caribbean Oil Spill and Sargassum project

- GEO Blue Planet, IOC, IOCARIBE-GOOS and UNDP Barbados and the OECS are developing a pilot project for sargassum and oil spill monitoring and forecasting.
- The project will stress end-to-end system development directed at providing observation- and model-based products developed by and for local practitioners and decision-makers.
- IODE is providing \$45,000 for a workshop to kick start the project.
- A working group for the project is being formed and currently has Representative from various ministries in the region, the Caribbean Environmental program, NOAA's CoastWatch/OceanWatch program and IMO.

SDG 14 Support

- The GEO Blue Planet Management Committee has provided feedback and information about data sources to UN Environment for their Global

Manual on Ocean Statistics. The Global Manual on Ocean Statistics provides guidance for national governments and national institutions to support the country-level implementation of SDG Indicators 14.1.1, 14.2.1 and 14.5.1.

- The GEO Blue Planet Management Committee plans to reach out to other SDG 14 custodian agencies to identify ways to support their SDG 14 efforts. If you are interested in contributing to this work, please contact Emily Smail (emily.smail@noaa.gov).
-

Working Groups

Users and Networks

- This working group is working to identify target user groups and the focus of working group activities.
-

Outreach and Engagement

Meetings

- Samy Djavidnia had a meeting with representatives from the Atlantic Innovation Research (AIR). The AIR center is interested in signing an MoU for collaboration with GEO Blue Planet and has requested that GEO Blue Planet facilitate contact with, inter-alia, GEO Secretariat, CMEMS, CEOS, EuroGOOS and AtlantOS.
- The AIR Center has requested representatives from GEO Blue Planet meet to discuss collaborations in March of 2018.

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Plant Monthly Update

December 2017

Projects

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines SDG Workshop

- The workshop, to take place January 17 - 29, is in the finale planning stages. Visit the workshop [website](#) for additional information.

The 4th Blue Planet Symposium

- The 4th Blue Planet Symposium is planned for July 4 - 6 in Toulouse, France.
- The tagline for the Symposium is “Our Future is Blue: Linking Ocean and Coastal Information with Societal Needs”.
- The symposium website, <https://symposium.geoblueplanet.org/>, will be launched on January 5th.

4M Project

- The 4M project team is looking for partners for the development of a pilot project for an oil spill monitoring and improved and centralized sargassum monitoring service for the Caribbean.
- IOCARIBE-GOOS may have funds to support a startup meeting for the project.

Working Groups

Users and Networks

- This working group is proceeding with updating the working group description and identifying individuals to recruit for the working group.
- A regular schedule for working group meetings will be discussed at the next meeting.

Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness

- This working group completed a guide/template for writing a Communications Strategy. The resulting document has been published on OceanDocs. To download, please visit: <https://www.oceandocs.org/handle/1834/10736>.
-

Advisory Board

Guidance and Recommendations

- The Secretariat and Steering Committee co-chairs conducted meetings with the Advisory Board members in October and November.
- A summary of recent Advisory Board guidance can be found [here](#).

Membership Updates

- Monica Grasso has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Advisory Board.
 - James Movick, Director General of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, has joined the Advisory Board.
 - Alex Held (CSIRO) will be replacing Steve Volz as the CEOS representative on the Advisory Board.
-

Outreach and Engagement

Presentations

- Sophie Seeyave represented GEO Blue Planet on a panel discussing SDG 14 at the OECD meeting "[Greening the Ocean Economy](#)".

Meetings

- Samy Djavidnia, Paul DiGiacomo and Emily Smail met with staff from UN Environment to discuss SDG 14. The role of GEO Blue Planet in SDG 14 and outreach to other custodian agencies (e.g. IOC-UNESCO and FAO) will be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- Emily Smail and Paul DiGiacomo met with Conservation International in Arlington, VA, USA. They expressed interest in working with GEO Blue Planet.
- Samy Djavidnia, Sophie Seeyave and Paul DiGiacomo met with Andrei Polejack (general coordinator of Oceans, the Antarctica and Geosciences of the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications of Brazil) to discuss potential collaborations between Brazil and GEO Blue Planet. He is discussing options for collaboration with colleagues in Brazil.
- The Atlantic Innovation Research (AIR) Center Implementation Board has expressed interest in GEO Blue Planet's involvement in the AIR Center. Samy Djavidnia will be attending a meeting in January with the AIR Center Implementation Board Members (Prof Antonio Sarmiento - President; Dr Frank Neumann, CEO, and; Jose Luiz Moutinho - Business Developer).

Website

- The GEO Blue Planet home page has been updated.
 - The default url for the website has been updated to www.geoblueplanet.org and the default email address has been updated to info@geoblueplanet.org.
-

Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.

GEO Blue Plant Update

November 2017

Projects

Supplemental Issue

Abstracts have been selected for the supplemental issue for the journal of operational oceanography. The list of accepted abstracts can be found [here](#).

4M Project

The 4M project team is looking for partners for the development of an oil spill monitoring service for the Caribbean and an improved and centralized sargassum monitoring service for the Caribbean

The 4th Blue Planet Symposium

The 4th Blue Planet Symposium is planned for July 4 - 6 in Toulouse France. The program committee currently consists of Cecile Thomas-Courcoux (local organizer - Mercator), Pierre-Yves Le Traon, Li Zhang, Christine Pequignet, René Garello, Shubha Sathyendranath, Douglas Cripe, Ralph Rayner, Francisco Chavez, Sophie Seeyave, Nadia Pinaridi, Elva Escobar-Briones, Paul DiGiacomo, Samuel Djavidnia and Emily Smail. The most popular tagline from the Steering Committee vote was "Ocean Information for Societal Benefit". However, during the program committee had an initial meeting on November 9th it was agreed that this was not attractive enough and the program committee is working to identify an updated tagline and description that can be used to produce a flyer for the symposium to by the end of November.

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines SDG Workshop

The workshop committee is working to finalize session co-chairs and the program. The venue is booked and registration is open on the [website](#).

Working Groups

Users and Networks

This working group had an initial meeting with Louis Celliers, Linwood Pendleton and Hans-Peter Plag. Current tasks include updating the working group description, identifying individuals to recruit for working group membership and consideration of initial projects & scope.

Developing Capacity and Societal Awareness

An working group team of Sophie Seeyave, Christine Pequignet, Samy Djavidnia, Paul DiGiacomo, Glenn Nolan, Ralph Rayner and Pierre-Yves Le Traon produced a brochure on the products and services of ocean observations. This document will be reviewed and discussed at the Steering Committee meeting on November 16th.

Outreach and Engagement

Presentations

- The GEO Plenary took place October 23 - 27th. Click [here](#) to watch a recording of the GEO Blue Planet side event.
- Sophie Seeyave will be representing GEO Blue Planet on a panel discussing SDG 14 at the upcoming OECD meeting "[Greening the Ocean Economy](#)".
- Vivian Lutz will be giving a presentation about GEO Blue Planet at [Colmar 2017](#).

Meetings

- Samy Djavidnia, Sophie Seeyave and Emily Smail met with staff from UN Environment that are working on the methodology for SDG 14 and representatives from the EO4SDG Initiative. They have connected Blue Planet with a consultant they hired. This will be discussed at the November 16 Steering Committee meeting.

- Emily Smail attended the JCOMM meeting and met individuals who are interested in GEO Blue Planet from Fiji and potentially Indonesia. JCOMM representatives expressed interest in GEO Blue Planet assisting with the production of use cases or "success stories".
 - The Secretariat and Co-Chairs have had discussions with Advisory Board members in recent weeks. A summary of their advice will be circulated after an upcoming conversation with Margaret Leinen.
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Have an update for next month?

Send your update to the Secretariat at emily.smail@noaa.gov.