# Ocean Data* to support Global Sustainable Fisheries Management

## - Workshop Concept Note -

## 21-22 April 2026, NEAFC, London

**Ocean Data*:** It includes Ocean environmental observations, from satellites and in-situ, and modelling.

**Background:** Fisheries are crucial for global food security and economies, but overfishing, IUU fishing, and environmental degradation threaten the sustainability of the ecosystems and thus fishing activities. The FAO's Blue Transformation Roadmap highlights the need for data-driven decision-making to protect these resources. Ocean Data offers powerful information **enabling large-scale monitoring and forecasting of the marine environment, providing insights on stressors** affecting fishing activities, and marine ecosystem health in the context of climate change and ever-increasing pollution.

In capture fisheries, ocean data can help identify and characterize fishing areas, enabling the determination of the most productive zones or those best suited for sustainable practices. This information can support fish provenance grading, ecolabeling, and enhance fisheries monitoring. Globally available **Ocean Data represents a valuable resource for Regional Fisheries Bodies**, including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), to **inform decision-making** and support the development of guidelines for sustainable fisheries management. Beyond fisheries management, Ocean Data can provide critical insights to protect populations, species, ecosystems, and habitats associated with fisheries, while supporting the sustainable use of living marine resources. It can inform the design of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), further advancing biodiversity conservation. In aquaculture, Ocean Data can help boost production, improve product quality, and minimize environmental impacts. It supports site risk assessments, optimizes site selection, and ensures compliance with environmental regulations. The integration of Ocean Data with traditional methods can further inform sustainable practices in both capture fisheries and aquaculture and help them adapt to a changing environment.

**Goals and Objectives of the Workshop:** The workshop goals are 1/ **to promote the use of Ocean Data** to support long-term sustainability of global fisheries and their adaptation to climate change and 2/ **to strengthen collaboration** among stakeholders through the GEO Blue Planet Fisheries Working Group platform.

The key objectives include:

1. Showcasing and Knowledge Transfer: To synthesize and present the latest advancements in State-of-the-art Ocean Data applications (observation, modeling, and derived products) that directly inform sustainable fisheries management and climate change adaptation strategies.
2. Needs Assessment: To identify and prioritize the critical barriers, gaps, and capacity needs faced by diverse Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and Management Organizations in the practical acquisition, utilization, and integration of Ocean Data into their decision-making frameworks.
3. Collaborative Action and Roadmap Development: To develop a set of concrete recommendations and an initial collaborative roadmap to enhance coordination, resource sharing, and co-design of fit-for-purpose Ocean Data solutions, particularly focusing on mechanisms for effective capacity building across organizations with varied resource levels.

4. Platform for Stakeholder Engagement: Discuss GEO Blue Planet Fisheries Working Group as the recognized platform for sustained cross-sector dialogue, information exchange, and the future development/deployment of Ocean Data tools and best practices among technical experts and decision-makers.

**Scope and Expected Outcomes:** Building on the 2021 *Earth Observations for Tuna Fisheries Management Workshop*, this event will expand discussions to global sustainable fisheries management. The workshop will focus on:

1. State-of-the-art Ocean Data applications: Present the latest advancements in Ocean environmental observation and modelling for fisheries and showcase inspiring examples of their use for sustainable management and decision-making.
2. Barriers and gaps: Identify challenges and needs in utilizing Ocean Data and discuss the co-design of fit-for-purpose solutions.
3. Collaborative actions: Provide recommendations to enhance coordination and cooperation among stakeholders for Ocean Data adoption in fisheries management, including capacity building.

**Audience:**
The workshop will engage both technical and non-technical participants, including experts, scientists, managers, policymakers, and experts from international organizations such as the FAO, Regional Fisheries Bodies and private companies (data and service providers for fisheries management).

**Format:**
This will be a 1,5 day event featuring short plenary sessions, and interactive discussions (eg. breakout groups). Participants will share experiences, identify challenges, and collaborate on solutions for incorporating Ocean Data into fisheries management.