



Symposium Scope and Program

Draft – April 27, 2018

Background

We live on a Blue Planet, and Earth's waters benefit many sectors of society. The future of our Blue Planet is increasingly reliant on the services delivered by marine and coastal waters. Maintenance of these services relies on the advancement of effective, evidence-based decisions for sustainable development. Oceans and Society: Blue Planet is an Initiative of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). GEO aims to address global challenges and improve decision making by coordinating and developing the Earth observation efforts among participating governments and organizations.

The goal of the GEO Blue Planet Initiative is to ensure the sustained development and use of ocean and coastal observations for the benefit of society. We do this by promoting collection of continuous ocean and coastal observations, processing of data into information and linking this information with societal needs. The societal needs feed back into ocean and coastal observation requirements and enhancement or modification of the ocean observation strategy. This requires close working relationships between scientists who collect ocean and coastal observations, those who take these observations and extract information as well as forecast future conditions, and those who use the information and forecasts in the management of our living planet. Representatives from these groups are invited to participate in the 4th Planet Symposium.

GEO Blue Planet is a network of ocean and coastal-observers, social scientists and end-user representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups, including international and regional organizations, NGOs, national institutes, universities and government agencies. Our experts have a demonstrated capacity to bridge the gap between data and services to deliver usable information that supports informed decision-making toward reaching sustainable development.

4th GEO Blue Planet Symposium Scope

The 4th GEO Blue Planet Symposium will serve as a forum for discussion of ocean and coastal information needs for sustainable development, Blue Growth and societal awareness. The symposium will bring together producers of ocean and coastal information and current and potential users of ocean and coastal information, who will share their experience with the audience.

The symposium will also be a platform for the participating communities to exchange information on their activities and identify potential pilot and prototype projects for GEO Blue Planet to focus on in the coming years.

Program Description

Session 0: Welcome and Introduction

The welcome and will introduce participants to GEO Blue Planet and the desired outcomes of the symposium.

Session 1: Understanding and Managing the Sustainable use of our Oceans and Coasts

Understanding and managing the economic contributions of the ocean and coasts is crucial for human welfare. Marine or blue economies include industries, such as fishing, shipping, mineral resource extraction and tourism, as well as ecosystem services, such as climate regulation, coastal protection and oxygen production. The blue economy is currently valued at USD 1.5 trillion and is projected to double by 2030.

Through development of a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal explicitly targeted at the ocean (SDG 14), the global community has prioritized the need for concerted action to ensure sustainable growth and management of blue economies across the planet. Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 15 (climate action and life on land), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and regional policies such as the EU Integrated Maritime Policy further recognize that the future of our Blue Planet is increasingly reliant on the services delivered by marine, coastal and inland waters and on the advancement of effective, evidence-based decisions on sustainable development.

In this session, speakers will address the environmental and economic drivers and pressures on our ocean and coasts and policies that address these challenges.

Session 2: Producing and Deriving Coastal and Ocean Information

Ocean and coastal observation is the gathering of physical, chemical and biological information about coastal and open-ocean areas through direct (or “in situ”) measurements and remote-sensing technologies. These data play a vital role for informed decision-making by governments, civil society and the private sector about sustainable development, ecosystem management, food security, ocean-resource utilization and natural disasters. Furthermore, products are now being generated in terms of analyses and forecasts that are essential information for disaster risk reduction and all management issues.

In this session, speakers will an overview of the status of the ocean and coastal observing system, the forecasting and its evolution and the development of information and services.

Session 3: Ocean and Coastal Information in Support of Blue Growth

In order to support the further sustainable growth of the blue economy and ensure the proper management of the ecosystem services the ocean and coasts provide, monitoring and information services are needed.

This session will connect current and potential users to ocean and coastal information that is currently available to support sustainable economic growth. The sessions will also identify information gaps that can be addressed by GEO Blue Planet.

Session 4: Ocean and Coastal Information in Support of Sustainable Development

The global ocean and coastal communities recognize the need for a step change in the way in which they coordinate and “hardwire” the links between technological innovation and sustained observations of the ocean and coasts, the analyses and forecasts, the information and services they jointly provide, and the approach to ocean and coastal policies for sustainability.

This session will connect current and potential users to ocean and coastal information that is currently available to support sustainable development in general, and the SDG monitoring and implementation in particular. The sessions will also identify information gaps that can be addressed by GEO Blue Planet.

Session 5: Societal Awareness of the value of Ocean and Coastal Information

The ocean and coasts are generally not recognized by the vast majority of the world’s population as being an important part of their lives, even though it is a source of food, transport and recreation, a large contributor to the global economy, and sustains livelihoods for millions of people in the poorest parts of the world. If people are not aware of the importance of the ocean and coasts, they are even less likely to understand the impacts that ocean and coastal information can have (and do have) on their everyday lives. We therefore need to work together to explain, in simple and meaningful terms, to a lay audience, what ocean and coastal observations and forecasts are, what types of products and services can be derived from them, and how they are essential for the health, wealth and well-being of humankind.

In this session, speakers will provide examples of successful efforts to engage the public. Session discussions will address how GEO Blue Planet can support societal awareness in relation to ocean and coastal observations, services and information.

Day 1: Wednesday, July 4, 2018

08:00 – 08:30	Registration	
Session 0: Welcome and Introductory Keynotes		
08:30 – 08:45	Welcome and Opening Comments	Toulouse City & Mercator Ocean
08:45 – 09:05	The Group on Earth Observations (GEO)	Douglas Cripe (GEO Secretariat)
09:05 – 09:25	The GEO "Oceans and Society: Blue Planet" Initiative	Sophie Seeyave (POGO)
09:25 – 09:40	The European Union's Role in GEO	TBC
09:40 – 09:55	An Introduction to the Copernicus Programme	TBC
09:55 – 10:00	Opening address by Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean	Peter Thomson (Permanent Representative/Ambassador at Permanent Mission of Fiji to the UN)
10:00 – 10:20	Coffee Break	
Session 1: Understanding and Managing Environmental and Economic Pressures		
10:20 – 10:30	Speaker introduction and overview of session	Douglas Cripe (GEO) & Pierre-Yves Le Traon (Mercator Ocean)
10:30 – 10:50	Keynote (Grand Témoin)	Margaret Leinen (Scripps Institution of Oceanography)
10:50 – 11:10	Economic Drivers and Pressures on the Marine Environment	Claire Jolly (OECD)
11:10 – 11:30	United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development	Emily Smail (NOAA/UMD) on behalf of Vladimir Ryabinin (IOC-UNESCO)
11:30 – 11:40	Ocean, climate change and the conference of parties	Valerie Masson Delmote (IPCC)
11:40 – 12:10	Key global ocean drivers, impacts, and solutions	Jean Pierre Gattuso (CNRS/SU/IDDRI)
12:10 – 12:30	International ocean governance for better management of the marine environment	Stefaan Depypere (EC DG MARE)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Panel Discussion: How to ensure that policies effectively drive the development of sustainable management of our oceans and seas?	
Session 2: Producing and Deriving Coastal and Ocean Information		
14:30 – 14:40	Speaker introduction and overview of session	Nadia Pinardi (Uni. Bologna/CMMC) & Francisco Chavez (MBARI)
14:40 – 15:00	The global ocean observing system and its evolution	Glenn Nolan (EuroGOOS)
15:00 – 15:20	Towards an European Ocean Observing System (EOOS)	Kate Larkin (European Marine Board)
15:20 – 15:40	The role of satellite observations and perspectives for the next decade	Juliette Lambin (CNES)
15:40 – 16:00	Development of information services: example from the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS)	Pierre-Yves Le Traon (Mercator Ocean)

16:00 – 16:20	Ocean forecasting information and its social benefits in China	Xiaolei Yi and Liying Wan (NMEFC)
16:20 – 17:20	Panel Discussion: The role of coastal and ocean information for the sustainable management of our oceans and seas: status, gaps and perspectives.	
17:20 – 17:30	Kostas Nittis Medal Award Ceremony	
17:20 – 18:30	Poster Session	

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Day 2: Thursday, July 5, 2018

08:30 – 9:00	Registration	
Session 3: Ocean and Coastal Information in Support of Blue Growth		
09:00 – 09:10	Speaker introduction and overview of session	Ralph Rayner (NOAA & London School of Economics), Cecile Thomas Courcoux (Mercator Ocean), Samuel Djavidnia (EMSA)
09:10 – 9:20	Keynote (Grand Temoin)	Stefaan Depypere (EC DG Mare)
09:20 – 09:40	From ocean observation to end-users of the Blue Economy : a virtuous value chain	Pierre Bahurel (Mercator Ocean)
09:40 – 10:00	Marine renewable energy: overview of industry and ocean information needs	Rémi Gruet (Ocean Energy Europe)
10:00 – 10:20	Ocean information for marine renewable energy: status and perspectives	Laurence Crosnier (Mercator Ocean)
10:20 – 10:40	Coffee Break	
10:40 – 11:10	Panel Discussion	
11:10 – 11:30	Maritime transport: overview of industry and ocean information needs	MAERSK - TBC
11:30 – 11:50	Ocean information for maritime transport: status and perspectives	Gilles Larnicol (CLS)
11:50 – 12:20	Panel Discussion	
12:20 – 13:45	Lunch	
13:45 – 14:05	From ocean observation to end-users of the Blue Economy: the private sector perspective	Marie Colton (Harris)
14:05 – 14:25	Offshore oil and gas: overview of industry and ocean information needs	Mark Calverley (IMarEST Operational Oceanography Special Interest Group)
14:25 – 14:55	Ocean information for offshore oil and gas: status and perspectives	Ed Steele and Caroline Acton (UK Met Office)
14:55 – 15:25	Panel Discussion	
15:25 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 16:05	Aquaculture: Overview of Industry and Ocean Information Needs	TBC
16:05 – 16:25	Ocean Information for Aquaculture: Status and Perspectives	Andy Steven (CSIRO)
16:25 – 16:55	Panel Discussion	
17:00 – 18:30	Poster Session	
17:00 – 18:00	GEO Blue Planet Steering Committee Meeting	

Day 3: Friday, July, 2018

08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
Session 4: Ocean and Coastal Information in Support of Sustainable Development		
09:00 – 09:10	Speaker introduction and overview of session	Emily Smail (UMD/NOAA) & Martin Le Tissier (Future Earth Coast)
09:10 – 09:30	Keynote (Grand Temoin)	James Alix Michel (Former President of the Republic of Seychelles and Executive Chairman of the James Michel Foundation)
09:30 – 09:50	GEO Blue Planet’s role in sustainable development	Paul DiGiacomo (NOAA)
09:50 – 10:10	Policy issues and information needs for sustainable fisheries	FAO - TBC
10:10 – 10:30	Developing operational products for ocean ecosystem and fishery management	Patrick Lehodey (CLS)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:20	Assessing the State of Regional Seas: from Observations to Indicators. The OSPAR Perspective.	Jo Foden (OSPAR Commission)
11:20 – 11:40	The Copernicus Marine Service Ocean State Report and its role to inform sustainable development policies	Karina von Schuckmann (Mercator Ocean)
11:40 – 12:00	Ocean and coastal observations and information for management of marine biodiversity	Isabel Sousa Pinto (U.Porto)
12:00 – 13:00	Panel Discussion	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
Session 5 : Societal Awareness of the value of Ocean and Coastal Information (open to the general public)		
14:00 – 14:10	Speaker introduction and overview of session	Fabrice Messal (Mercator Ocean) & Sophie Seeyave (POGO)
14:10 – 14:30	Keynote (Grand Temoin)	Peter Tuddenham (IOC-UNESCO)
14:30 – 14:50	Ocean literacy in Bangladesh	Mohammad Uddin (Univ. of Chittagong)
14:50 – 15:10	The role of citizen science	Heidi Ballard (UC Davis)
15:10 – 15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30 – 15:50	Ocean and Climate Platform	Françoise Gaill (INEE/CNRS)
15:50 – 16:10	Engaging with the public in Europe	Jan Says (VLIZ)
16:10 – 16:30	Engaging with the public in Madagascar	Ny Aina Andrianarivelo (WCS)
16:30 – 17:00	Audience Q & A	
17:00 – 17:30	Symposium summary, next steps and closing	

