

Science for Society: The GEO Blue Planet and AquaWatch Initiatives

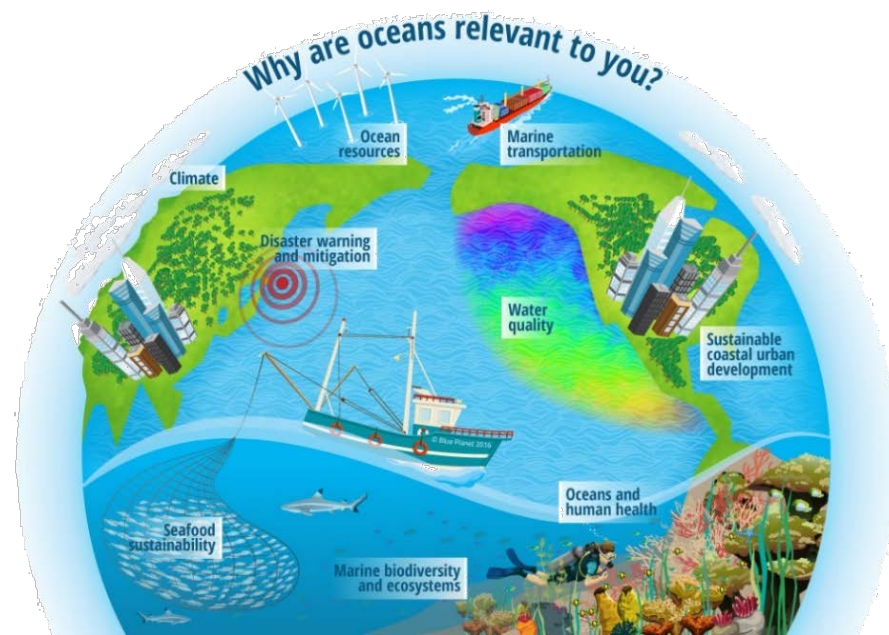


CICS Science Meeting

November 15, 2017

University of Maryland
Earth System Science
Interdisciplinary Center
College Park, MD

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Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

- GEO is a voluntary partnership of 100+ governments and 100+ organizations that is working to link Earth observation resources world-wide for the benefit of society



Countries have borders. Earth observations don't.

- The GEO community seeks to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

GEO Implementation and Strategic Objectives

Engage – Advocate – Deliver



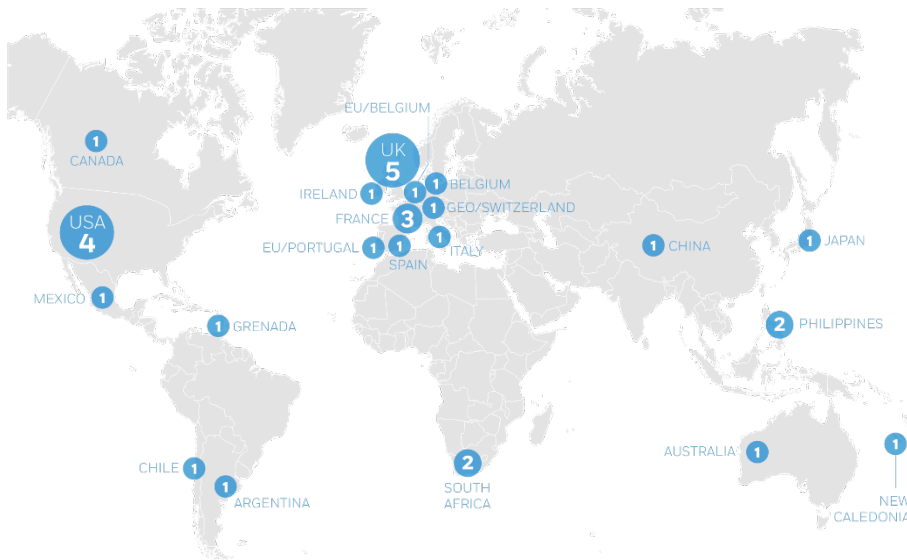
- Blue Planet's **mission** is to:
 - advance and exploit synergies among ocean and coastal observational programmes
 - increased integration of and access to in situ and remote sensing ocean observation data
 - improve engagement with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services
 - raise awareness of the societal benefits of ocean observations at the public and policy levels



Who is Blue Planet

- Blue Planet is a network made up of participants from a variety of existing international organizations, regional organizations, national institutes, universities, government agencies, project groups and other stakeholders.

GEO BLUE PLANET STEERING COMMITTEE



GEO BLUE PLANET ADVISORY BOARD



Working Groups

- Blue Planet has four working groups that are tasked with identifying and sharing best practices and supporting Blue Planet projects.



Data Integration &
Informatics



Information Services



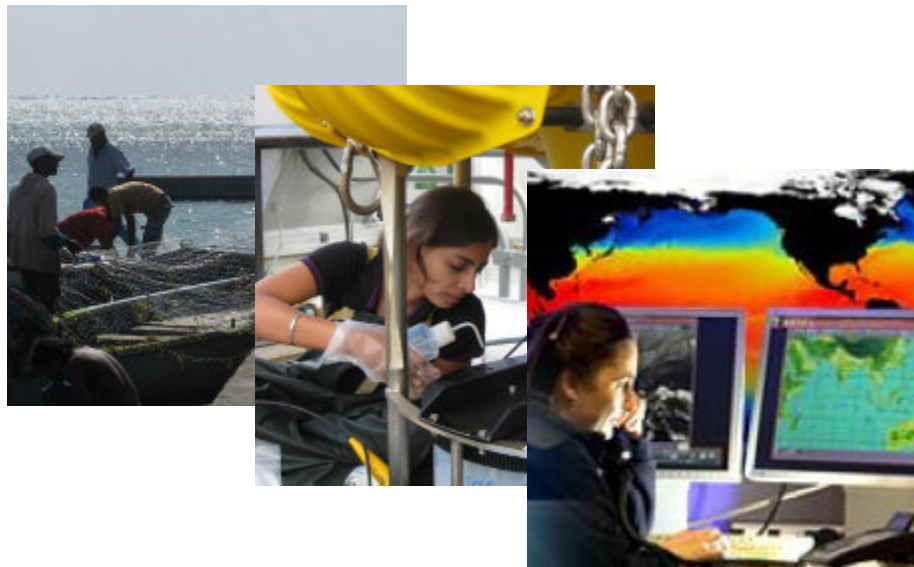
Users and Networks



Capacity Building &
Advocacy

Current Focus

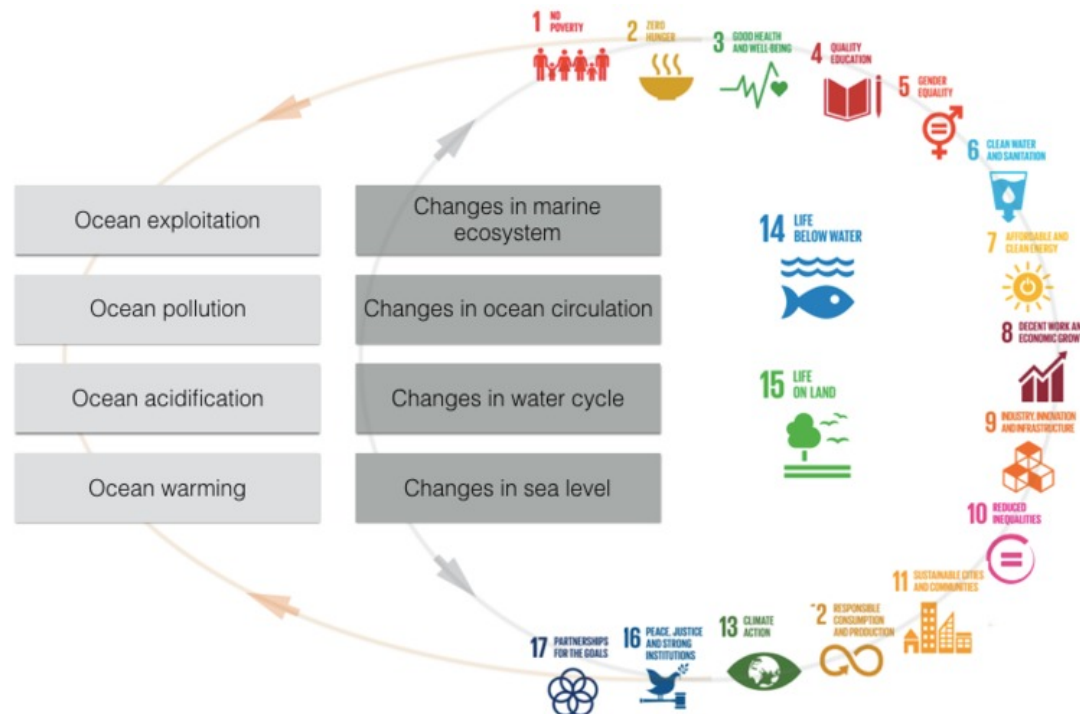
- **Connecting users to providers**
 - Engaging with users to identify data and information needs
 - Clarifying the “seascape” of ocean and coastal observations for user groups



Caribbean SDG Workshop

Implementing and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean: The Role of the Ocean

- Jan. 17, 2018 – Jan. 19, 2018 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- http://www.gstss.org/2018_Ocean_SDGs/



Caribbean SDG Workshop

Implementing and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean: The Role of the Ocean

- The workshop is being planned in a collaborative effort of GEO Initiatives, governments of the Caribbean Small Island States, United Nations Agencies, and regional non-governmental organisations
- The workshop will bring together stakeholders engaged in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in the Caribbean Small Island States with the goal to link these efforts to required ocean observations and to engage in the co-creation of the knowledge supporting these efforts.

Small Island
States
Governments
Share Information
requirements

Requirements
matched with
existing products
and services

Requirements
matched with
existing products
and services

Future SDG Workshop

The Caribbean workshop will be a pilot for future workshops in other regions



Support of Regional Projects

- 4M – Multipurpose Marine Monitoring Mechanism
- Project concept (for implementation in Barbados and Grenada) currently being developed by UNDP Barbados and the OECS, IOCARIBE-GOOS and GEO Blue Planet
- The 4M project will provide data and information necessary for successful implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean



4M Multipurpose Marine Monitoring Mechanism



- AquaWatch's **mission** is to:

Improve the coordination, delivery and utilization of water quality information for the benefit of society



Who is AquaWatch AquaWatch

The  Water Quality Initiative

- AquaWatch participants presently include individuals from various organizations including state, federal, and international governmental agencies, private consulting companies, nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations and academic institutions.



- Working groups





Booklet:

- AquaWatch recently completed an informational booklet on water quality monitoring.
- The booklet is available on the AquaWatch website
www.geoaquawatch.org



Blue Planet (2018 – 2019)

- Build users and networks working group and identify priority user engagement activities
- Complete the infographic for the ocean observing “seascape”
- Secure funding for additional SDG workshops and other regional activities
- Compile “success stories” for ocean observations

AquaWatch (2018 – 2019)

- Continue to build on the water quality information service
- Increase engagement with the water quality monitoring and forecasting community
- Populate formal Steering Committee and set priorities for Working Group activities
- Identify and begin capacity building activities

Thank you

Questions?

www.geoblueplanet.org

www.geoaquawatch.org

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