

**Breakout Workshop:**

Remote sensing of aquatic litter and debris

Co-Chairs:

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Description:

The breakout workshop will be coordinated and supported by the Task Force on Remote Sensing of Marine Litter and Debris. Discussion will be focussed on the state-of-the-art technology available for mapping and monitoring of floating and slightly submerged matter in all aquatic environments with a focus on anthropogenic waste as plastic litter, but considering also microalgae, sea snot, pollen, vegetation and other materials common in mixed accumulations. This will be presented from the angle of instrument technology, algorithms, datasets and applications.

Interdisciplinary elements of the Task Force are going to be presented with the expected outcome of understanding end-user needs and capabilities of current remote sensing end-products relevant to monitoring aquatic litter. An expected outcome of the workshop is the identification of essential indicators that could be derived from operational remote sensing and would be relevant descriptors for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (e.g., Goal 6, Goal 14). The workshop will also highlight gap areas and recommend ways forward to better understand marine litter pollution using space-based technology and remote sensing in general.

Objectives:

1. Review results of the first two years of activities of the Task Force on Remote Sensing and Debris, with summaries of the state-of-the art and foresight of the field.
2. Consensus on future steps, including the alignment of remote sensing products retrieved from Ocean Colour sensors and current in situ observations (IMDOS, GOOS) towards definitions of Essential Ocean Variables.
3. Taking into account the progress thus far, discuss, select priorities and plan of action for the next 3 years.