

Breakout Workshop:

The Value of Ocean Color for the Benefit of Society:
status and change in water quality and ecosystems

Co-Chairs:

Veronica Lance, NOAA
Merrie Beth Neely, GEO AquaWatch
Emily Smail, GEO BluePlanet

Description:

How do we enhance the value of ocean color to applications for the benefit of society? While the world's oceans are characterized by their relative inaccessibility, satellite observations provide both focused and synoptic views of this expansive realm. Though we are arguably data rich, a challenge still remains to ease the conceptualization and synthesis of data for the purposes of user accessibility and decision making. **In this session we will explore societal value and impacts of ocean colour on sectors including fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal and marine pollution.** These two 70 minute sessions are aimed at increasing the science community's awareness of the barriers to using Earth observations for global Ocean users; and water quality monitoring at the state and local level. The format will be individual presentations by panel experts, followed by moderated Q&A and Interactive Audience discussions.

2:30-3:40 pm Ocean Panelists:

- Juan Ignacio Gossn, EUMETSAT
- Dr. Emily Smail, GEO BluePlanet Executive Director
- Professor Maria Tzortziou, The City College of New York

3:45-4:55 Water Quality Panelists:

- Megan Hunnicutt, Office of Agricultural Water Policy, FL Dept of Ag and Consumer Svcs
- Stacie Flood, South Florida Water Management District's Coastal Ecosystems Section
- Andrew Kameronosky, Applied Ecology, Inc consultant for Brevard County, FL.

Objectives:

1. Increasing the science community's awareness of state and local user needs and barriers to Earth Observations for ocean color and water quality monitoring.
2. To produce a refined user-driven list of recommendations to space agencies for ocean and/or water quality product requirements, data needs to inform agencies for new satellite sensor technology on upcoming missions and product development, or capacity building/training needs.

Key Questions

1. What are the challenges/successes for users in exploiting ocean color applications for decision making (e.g., indicators vs data products)
2. What do users desire for data interoperability, uncertainty reporting, etc.
3. What gaps exist within user needs? (e.g., gapfree and multi-platform blended observational capabilities? Inland and coastal waters?)