



GEO Ocean Community of Practice - addressing the future of ocean observations

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The GEO Ocean Community of Practice (CP) brings leaders from different observing system stakeholder organisations i.e. coordinators of international, multi-nation regional and national observing programs, international organizations, representatives of the ocean science community and users of ocean and marine information together as a forum for improved coordination across observing systems. The forum is a means for introducing GEOSS principles and goals into the oceans and marine realm and for supporting the introduction of requirements, observations and practices into GEOSS. The CP shall also address cross-cutting issues in the diverse disciplines of oceanography (physical, biological, etc) that impact observing systems and their users, to define common monitoring strategies, scientific objectives and implementation strategies.

The CP objectives include:

1. Facilitate international implementation and coordination of ocean and marine observatories and observing programs and partnerships in regard to common monitoring goals and strategies.
2. Support the implementation of GEOSS principles to improve and enable continuity and sustainability of observing systems and open exchange of data and information.
3. Stimulate capacity building in ocean and marine observations.
4. Report on progress and give advice to the GEO on issues relating to observing the world oceans and seas.
5. Disseminate this information to relevant communities concerned with and reliant upon global observing systems including but not limited to operational service providers, end-users, scientific and research funding communities associated with environmental change and sustainable development.

The CP was initiated in the fall of 2011. In this presentation, directions and future plans of the CP will be discussed.