



The GEO AquaWatch Initiative

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Water quality is essential for human, ecosystem and economic health. Degradation of water quality can result in human exposure to disease and harmful chemicals, reduction in productivity and diversity of ecosystems and damage to aquaculture, agriculture and other water-related industries. The AquaWatch Initiative is a water quality community within the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) that seeks to develop and build the global capacity and utility of Earth Observation-derived water quality data, products and information to support effective monitoring, management and decision making across the continuum of inland and coastal waters. AquaWatch is working towards building a single network that integrates existing water quality monitoring efforts for the benefit of the global community. Participants currently include representatives from various organizations including state, federal, and international governmental agencies, private consulting companies, nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations and academic institutions. AquaWatch is currently focused on developing a global water quality information service by 2025.