







# ATH GEO BLUE PLANET SYNPOSIUM Our Future is Blue: Linking Ocean and Coastal Information with Societal Needs

The 4th GEO Blue Planet Symposium will serve as a forum for discussion of ocean and coastal information for sustainable development, Blue Growth and societal awareness. The symposium will bring together producers, and current and potential users, of ocean and coastal information, who will share their experience with the audience.

#### OCEAN & COASTAL INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### OCEAN & COASTAL INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF BLUE GROWTH

### SOCIETAL AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF OCEAN & COASTAL INFORMATION

We live on a Blue Planet, and Earth's waters benefit many sectors of society. The future of our Blue Planet is increasingly reliant on the services delivered by marine and coastal waters. Maintenance of these services relies on the advancement of effective, evidence-based decisions for sustainable development. Oceans and Society: Blue Planet is an Initiative of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). GEO aims to address global challenges and improve decision making by coordinating and developing the Earth observation efforts among participating governments and organizations.

## LOCATION

The symposium will take place in the city of Toulouse, France just prior to the 8th edition of the European Open Science Forum. Toulouse is home to Mercator Ocean, member of the GEO Blue Planet Initiative, and operator of the Copernicus Marine Service of the European Union. The goal of the GEO Blue Planet Initiative is to ensure the sustained development and use of ocean and coastal observations for the benefit of society. We do this by promoting collection of continuous ocean and coastal observations, processing of data into information and linking this information with societal needs. The societal needs feed back into ocean and coastal observation requirements and enhancement or modification of the ocean and coastal observation strategy. This requires close working relationships between scientists who collect ocean and coastal observations, those that take these observations and extract information as well as forecast future conditions, and those that use the information and forecasts in the management of our living planet. Representatives from these groups are invited to participate in the 4th GEO Blue Planet Symposium.

GEO Blue Planet is a network of ocean and coastalobservers, social scientists and end-user representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups, including international and regional organizations, NGOs, national institutes, universities and government agencies. Our experts have a demonstrated capacity to bridge the gap between data and services to deliver usable information that supports informed decision-making toward reaching sustainable development.

Find out more:

symposium.geoblueplanet.org

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