

GEO AQUAWATCH: THE GLOBAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

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The Group on Earth Observation (GEO) AquaWatch Water Quality Initiative is a global community of practice including scientists and subject matter experts from over 100 countries. The mission of the AquaWatch Initiative is to improve the coordination, delivery and utilization of water quality information for the benefit of society. Our goal is to bridge the information gap between global decision-makers and the water quality earth observation data providers. We will do so by tackling five objectives: 1) Facilitate effective partnerships between the producers, providers and users of water quality data, products and information 2) Improve analysis and integration of in situ and remote sensing water quality data, 3) Develop and deliver fit-for-purpose water quality products and information services, 4) Support technology transfer and access to water quality data products and information, and 5) Advocate for increased education and capacity for the use of water quality information for decision making. Each of our five working groups advance these objectives. Open data is paramount. Our efforts support country-level reporting on sustainable development goals (particularly 6.1, 6.3.2, and 14.1.1), Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

GEO AquaWatch has several exciting projects promoting the use of scalable remote sensing and in situ water quality data. 2020 projects include building a water quality information service pilot project and enhancing our online Knowledge Hub of available best practices and resources for both in situ and satellite data providers and users. To enable efficiencies and build trust with data users we intend to compile available training resources and update online data product brochures to augment our existing data product inventory available at www.geoaquawatch.org.

PRESENTER BIO: Dr. Neely serves part-time as the Scientific Coordinator of the GEO AquaWatch Secretariat and scientific program manager in NOAA's Satellite Oceanography and Climatology Division. Her career as a phytoplankton ecologist and seagrass expert includes publications on nutrients, HABs, seagrasses, and benthic microalgae in the Gulf of Mexico and Florida Bay.