

## Information session B

### Questions:

1. What is information?
2. What is the Information that GEO could be producing?  
(How does it fit in the GEO system of systems ?)
3. Who is/are the Information user(s) ?
4. What is needed to make this happen?

### 1. information vs. data

- a. data is limited in scope, and direct from satellite
- b. information is a combination of multiple streams of data, for easy interpretation
- c. data is chlorophyll data, models result, etc.
- d. information is when you give added value to data, directly useful to user.
- e. information examples are:
  - i. hab bulletin , algae forecasting information
  - ii. coral reef score card

### 2. What is the information that GEO can produce and how does it fit into the system of systems?

1. global assessment (priority ranking?) of impaired lakes (also estuaries, coastal water bodies), perhaps large scale by regional areas
  - a. tropical regions, arctic regions
  - b. can we provide a harmonized product? Is GEO ready?
  - c. Start qualitatively then we can move more quantitative.
  - d. Group categories of lakes (e.g. 7 categories for trophic state, or 'impairment' )
  - e. Trophic status and analyze long term trends
  - f. Geo or some group could provide funds to support someone to provide a global picture, if there are already some preliminary results. European, Australian, US overview for starters.
  - g. GEO needs to endorse approaches and methods?
  - h. Central facility that generates global product that has regional
  - i. Iterative process: demonstrate qualitative approach and capabilities first, then move to more quantitative
  - j. Can't forget about water *quantity*, because of connection to food and energy
2. Preparation of skills and capabilities to respond to WQ emergencies
  - a. Develop emergency response charter for our group to respond and coordinate to emergencies
  - b. Use historic events to recreate scenarios
    - i. Examples: floods, HABs, oil spills (SAR data relevant)
  - c. Longer term response after the event is also important
  - d. Look at organization of Global Flood Partnership as an example. Organized community includes RS, value-adders and end users, with 4 working groups.

3. WQ Apps for specific user groups
  - a. Work with divers alert network (DAN) to provide water clarity information for recreational purposes,
  - b. Water clarity information for homebuyers
  - c. turbidity measurements for fisherman (?)
  
4. Interest for global WQ information:
  - a. Is it possible to observe marine plastic (debris)?
  - b. Dead zones?

**Who are the information users?**

1. Global 'Water quality managers' for global impaired waters assessment
2. Business and citizen interest groups:
  - a. Divers
  - b. Fishermen/aquaculture industry
  - c. home owners

**What is needed to make this happen?**

- Start! Make a first version, have something to show, even if not perfect
- If we can show first information products, financing will follow.