



GEO AquaWatch Code of Conduct
November 14, 2022

The [goal of GEO AquaWatch](#) is *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. GEO AquaWatch encourages activities to engage, and be led by, early career scientists.*

The GEO AquaWatch Initiative is an interactive environment in which the diverse water quality community must all feel [equal and included](#), respected and appreciated, secure and comfortable to freely and openly exchange ideas.

GEO AquaWatch Members are expected to act ethically and with highest scientific integrity in professional and interpersonal experiences, including research, publications, and formal or informal mentorship, and regardless of context or setting.

For GEO AquaWatch work products, participants in GEO AquaWatch activities must follow GEO's [Open Data / Data Sharing & Data Management Policies](#).

In their own research, GEO AquaWatch members are encouraged to guarantee unfettered global access to the data, research results and research products they generate. Non-inclusive practices, such as “helicopter” or “parachute” research¹, are discouraged.

When commenting on matters in the public arena, members should make it clear, without ambiguity, when they are speaking on behalf of GEO AquaWatch and when comments reflect their agency/employer/institution's view or their own opinion.

Members should not bring GEO AquaWatch into disrepute by their professional or personal behaviour.

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Scientific progress requires open and frank discussion of scientific data and ideas and there is no intention to bully, harass, humiliate, coerce, intimidate or suppress any person or group's ideas. GEO AquaWatch members should behave in a professional and considerate manner to all they encounter when attending GEO AquaWatch meetings and when engaged in Initiative activities. This includes interactions with other members, Initiative and GEOSEC staff and leaders, and the general scientific community. To this end, members agree to interact within GEO AquaWatch by:

- Participating in meetings and activities (as often as possible) and contributing to all work and interactions in a positive and productive manner.
- Being ready to both give and accept kind and constructive feedback.
- When someone is speaking, listen to them and do not interrupt. Allow everyone an opportunity to express their opinion.
- Behaving in a way that does not offend, intimidate, insult or degrade others (present or not present, and including making jokes).
- Refraining from discrimination in all its forms and variations.
- Avoiding speech and writing that use idioms, undefined acronyms or jargon, which not everyone may understand.
- Commit to being an ally by challenging others poor behaviour and practices, and seeking to create positive change.
- If we transgress any of these guidelines, apologize and do better next time.

Acceptance of this Code of Conduct is a condition of GEO AquaWatch membership and participation in activities. Breach of any part of this Code could lead to disassociation with GEO AquaWatch.

Complaints should be confidentially emailed to the GEO AquaWatch Scientific Coordination or GEO AquaWatch Director.

¹ Tackling helicopter research. *Nat. Geosci.* 15, 597 (2022).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41561-022-01010-4>