

MarineGEO Code of Conduct

Taking the pulse of coastal ocean life—together

v 1.0 (December 13, 2021)

As a global partnership, MarineGEO discovers how coastal ecosystems work – and how to keep them working – through science. We accomplish this vital science by integrating a standard toolkit of observation, experiments, and knowledge synthesis across a globally distributed, collaborative network. As an open, voluntary network, we must ensure partner engagement and the science we create together are their own rewards. Our network of partners and participants is essential to realizing our vision for a future of healthy and diverse coastal ecosystems, revealed through networked science and safeguarded by an informed society.

Maintaining an environment of trust, collaboration, data sharing, and mutual respect for all participants is essential to an effective network and MarineGEO strives to foster these, as articulated in our [statement of values](#). MarineGEO participants include researchers of all levels, technicians, principal investigators, operations and communication experts, workshop participants, and all others who take part in MarineGEO research, data collection and analysis, training, or other activities.

All MarineGEO participants are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct during any activities in which they are associated with MarineGEO. In addition, participants must comply with any additional requirements set forth by the research site or host institution of MarineGEO research or activities.

To provide all participants the opportunity to benefit from MarineGEO activities, MarineGEO is dedicated to a positive, safe, and harassment-free experience in which diverse participants may learn, network, and enjoy the company of colleagues in an environment of mutual respect. We recognize a shared responsibility to build that environment for the benefit of all.

Expected, professional behavior includes:

- Treat everyone with respect and consideration.
- Communicate thoughtfully and openly with others.
- Be considerate of views and opinions that are different than your own.
- Create a supportive environment to enable scientific discourse and collaboration.



Unacceptable behavior includes:

- Harassment and intimidation, including any verbal, written, or physical conduct that can be reasonably interpreted as threatening, intimidating, or coercing another individual.
- Inappropriate physical contact or unwanted sexual attention.
- Discrimination based on gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, color, religion, or nationality.
- Disrespectful critique of opinions raised in scientific discourse.
- Retaliation against a participant for making a complaint of inappropriate conduct.

All participants are expected to observe these rules and uphold MarineGEO [values](#) in all MarineGEO activities, including in online venues and in social events.

Actions that violate this Code of Conduct or rules specific to the observatory/host organization may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to verbal warnings, dismissal from MarineGEO events or activities, and termination of any affiliation and all privileges between a participant and the Smithsonian MarineGEO network.

Violations of this Code of Conduct should be reported to the observatory's principal investigator and/or host institution. Participants may also contact MarineGEO Director Emmett Duffy, or other member of the MarineGEO Central staff as appropriate.