Protecting our Ocean: SDG 14 and its Interlinkages

Hosted by: The American College of Greece and Esri

Overview:

What happens on land eventually makes its way to the ocean. What happens in the ocean, impacts life on land. Although these two environments appear drastically different, they depend on each other to thrive. Damaging one ecosystem is to the detriment of the other. This session seeks to discuss, through various lenses, the ways by which the land and ocean are interlinked and how one ecosystem depends upon or is impacted by the other.

Presentations:

Maritime Industry vs Marine Ecosystems: A love-hate relationship

Dr. Stella Apostolaki, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, Executive Director, Center of Excellence in Sustainability – The American College of Greece
Dr. George Kokosalakis, Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship and Shipping Management, Executive Director, Center of Excellence in Logistics, Shipping, and Transportation – The American College of Greece

The presentation will discuss the effect of the maritime industry and other human activities on marine ecosystems. Topics discussed shall include the challenges and barriers relevant to the decarbonization of the maritime industry, as well as methods to minimize, monitor, and control oil contamination and air pollution from ships; minimization of sea water pollution deriving from other human activities, including plastic and microplastic pollution as well as the long-term impacts of climate change and overfishing. The negative environmental effect of the covid pandemic will be examined as expressed in increased pollution and disruption of the global supply chains.

From Ridges to Reefs: Exploring the Interconnectivity of SDGs 14 & 15 through Geography

Eric Wagner, Product Engineer - Esri

This presentation will explore the interaction between life below water and life on land using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Data-driven approaches will determine where land cover change has occurred in a Central American watershed over the last 20 years and find the potentially impacted areas downstream of this location. Once in the ocean, other datasets and tools will help understand marine biodiversity and water temperature trends. Additionally, this presentation will build off the previous presentation to see how deep learning, advanced ship monitoring technologies, and GIS can be used to understand the marine impacts of covid on supply lines and cargo ships waiting in major ports.

Panel Discussion

Following the completion of both presentations, we shall engage in a panel discussion with the audience relevant to the presented material, including challenges, opportunities, threats, and tools available for the protection of the marine ecosystem.