GEOHAB was invited to participate to the CSA Oceans UN/International Organisations Consultation Workshop (June 11, 2013). The activity was part of a broad mapping exercise being conducted by the European Commission FP7 Coordinated Support Action (CSA) Oceans to the Joint Programming Initiative on Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans, www.jpi-oceans.eu). Inputs provided in the framework of this workshop and a subsequent extensive questionnaire filled by the participants are analysed to inform the European Commission on the development of the JPI Oceans Draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

Participants provided their views on the gaps and knowledge needs that could potentially be relevant to JPI Oceans and how best to interface with other mechanisms for European international coordination and cooperation on marine and maritime research. In particular, JPI Oceans aims to add value at a European level to make better use of R&D related national investments and resources, including human capacities and infrastructures. The document elaborated by GEOHAB emphasized pressing issues and promising research, technology and innovation potentials, in a 20-30 years perspective, related to the seas and oceans in general. In addition, the major challenges related to harmful algal blooms (HABs) in European waters were highlighted, such as the need for an operational oceanography of HABs events, technical advances to develop sustained long term and high-resolution observing systems for biological processes (in general), to ascertain the impact of climate change on HABs (including benthic ones), to implement sustainable and secure fisheries, aquaculture and tourism, organization of common and efficient ocean data bases, etc. JPI Oceans was also informed in detail about the scientific GEOHAB programme and its achievements as a platform to coordinate and foster international research on HABs since its launch in 2000. In the future, GlobalHAB, recently endorsed by IOC/UNESCO in the last IOC Assembly, will continue to work with the principle that the fundamental problem of HABs cannot be solved in individual laboratories and requires an international approach. The delivered document indicated that collaborative links between GlobalHAB and JPI Oceans will contribute to the structuring of efficient and sound marine research in Europe.

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