

**Summary from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (John Matuszak)**

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the WH Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Council on Environmental Policy (CEQ) have issued a Memoranda instructing US agencies on “Incorporating Ecosystem Services into Federal Decision Making”. As part of that effort there will be several year period to develop implementation guidance and I will be bringing lessons learned from the efforts on the implementation of Ecosystem Accounts to that process.

Separately the Group on Earth Observation (GEO), headquartered in Geneva, is launching a multiyear initiative for “Using Geospatial Data to Identify and Monitor Ecosystem Service and Track in a Natural Capital – Ecosystems Accounts Framework. This is an effort to bring the Statistical, policy and earth observation communities together to determine identify the opportunities and challenges of using Earth Observation Data to help to identify and monitor ecosystem services. Although this sounds simple we understand the tremendous challenges to making this a reality and we are interested in identifying members of the statistical community who might be interested in joining this effort.