

Vision

We envision a fully integrated Great Lakes Observing System that provides products and services to decision-makers, resource managers and other data users with input from members and partners, to foster understanding and inform decision-making related to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River System.

The sustainability of GLOS will be driven by user needs and the added value of the related products and services that GLOS provides. The coordinated observing network developed by GLOS is designed to provide data in forms and at rates required by data users and decision makers to address a series of goals reflecting Great Lakes needs and the IOOS societal goals. This network contributes regional data integration efforts to support larger scales of observing coordination such as IOOS, GOOS, and GEOSS. GLOS will orient its programmatic planning and execute its mission to address the following goals:

- Allow more effective protection, restoration and sustainable use of healthy Great Lakes and coastal ecosystems;
- Reduce public health risks;
- Improve the safety and efficiency of navigation in the Great Lakes;
- Allow more effective mitigation of the effects of natural hazards;
- Support Great Lakes water security; and
- Improve understanding and the development of adaptation strategies related to the impacts of climate change on Great Lakes communities;

MISSION

The mission of the Great Lakes Observing System is to advance the coordination of the extensive Great Lakes regional observing network of people, processes and technology that work together to maximize access to critical, real-time and historical information about the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system for use in managing, safeguarding and understanding these immensely valuable freshwater resources.

The Great Lakes **Observing System** is a coordinated network of people and technology that work together to generate and disseminate continuous data on the Great Lakes. GLOS will make a broader suite of data available to scientists, resource managers, data users and decision-makers allowing them to develop a more complete characterization of our Great Lakes by collecting and bringing data together to be used with other data sets, in models, and in data visualization products.

To accomplish its mission, GLOS uses a functional management structure that comprehensively addresses all aspects of a coordinated observing system in order to provide data and related products and services that meet user needs. To do this, GLOS has the following mission functions:

- Support and enhance the operation of Great Lakes observation capability. (OBS)
- Improve access to high-quality, integrated data. (DMAC)
- Enhance data products and decision-support tools. (GLMAC)
- Maximize benefits of GLOS through strategic promotion, communication, education, and outreach. (E&O)
- Develop, coordinate and implement cohesive GLOS program and operational planning. (Advisory, Staff and BOD)