

Becoming a Member of the Great Lakes Observing System

GLOS members are governmental, academic, non-governmental organizations as well as individuals with expertise and interests in Great Lakes water resources. While each Member has distinct interests, all are dedicated to and benefit from achieving the GLOS mission: to connect problem solvers and information providers to resource users through easy access to services that meet their needs. The primary benefit of GLOS is integrated quality controlled data about the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and interconnecting waterways. Additional, more specific, benefits of GLOS membership are as diverse as the backgrounds and interests of its members.

Benefits include:

- ***Input into research and development of Great Lakes St. Lawrence River data and information products:*** Because the system is being designed on a user-driven basis, membership and participation ensure products and tools are best suited to meet Member needs thereby enhancing your organization's decision-support process.
- ***Leverage your organization's monitoring/observation activities:*** No single institution can collect comprehensive arrays of data over space and time. By joining GLOS, your observation activities will be joined with others to generate a richness of information previously unobtainable. GLOS is the mechanism to establish interoperability, establishing and encouraging the use of comparable and compatible data protocols.
- ***Easy delivery of data and information to your target audiences:*** GLOS, with its emphasis on standardized and coordinated data management and communications platforms, is committed to being a well-known data and information source to which user groups will instinctively look for the best available Great Lakes St. Lawrence River data. For both information producers and users, GLOS will provide the prime regional "marketplace" for delivery and acquisition of regional observational data and information, and the tools that utilize them.
- ***Collaborative opportunities and networking:*** GLOS is a network of organizations and people. Membership in GLOS provides unique opportunities, through projects, workshops and other activities that engage regional partners in collaborative efforts. Members will support and be a part of the leading edge of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence observation and information delivery activities.
- ***Determining the direction of GLOS activities:*** The direction of the GLOS activities and projects will be determined on an ongoing basis by its Board of Directors and a representative Program Review Panel comprised of stakeholder representatives elected or appointed from the membership. Membership, therefore, provides an opportunity to participate in GLOS governance and ensure that GLOS products reflect the needs of data providers, product users, and mission-driven stakeholders.
- ***Regional observing system enhancements:*** Members also benefit from improved access to resources, such as enhanced remote sensing capability, data integration opportunities, models and forecasts that support many Great Lakes research, policy making, and emergency response organizational needs.