

***** PRESS RELEASE*****

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Great Lakes Observing System awarded \$1 million grant

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ANN ARBOR, MI — The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) Regional Association is pleased to announce it will receive funding through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to assist efforts to monitor the Great Lakes and assess critical information needs in the region. The funds are being provided through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow (both D-Mich.) announced the \$1,080,815 grant for supporting observing systems in the Great Lakes on May 14.

“The Great Lakes are one of our nation’s greatest natural resources, and ensuring the protection and restoration of these treasures must continue to be a top priority,” Sen. Levin said. “This grant is an important boost to the efforts of GLOS, whose work will provide data on the hydrology, biology, chemistry, geology and cultural resources of the Great Lakes to better target investments in the renewal and preservation of the lakes.”

“As our state’s greatest natural resource, the vitality and future of the Great Lakes needs to be preserved,” said Sen. Stabenow. “This funding will help the GLOS Regional Association address the issues plaguing our waters, which are threatening our way of life and our economy.”

GLOS will use the funds to support instruments for data collection across the Great Lakes, standardize and integrate data and information from regional partners, and develop models and visualization programs that will help people interpret and understand the information. By collecting and integrating complementary data, GLOS will make a broader suite of tools and information available to resource managers, decision makers and scientists, enabling them to make better informed decisions about how to best manage the Great Lakes. GLOS is one of 11 regional associations across the United States responsible for partnering with the NOAA-led Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) in the coordination of regional observing systems.

“The information technology and services that GLOS provides will support the management of these waters for the use and enjoyment of future generations,” said Bill Werick, GLOS board of directors chair. “Effectively managing our Great Lakes requires the best available information to be collected and delivered in an efficient way,” added Dr. Jennifer Read, GLOS executive director. “These funds are critical to our efforts to help managers and policymakers make informed decisions.”

These resources will help GLOS build upon the foundation laid over the previous several years. Over the past 18 months, in particular, GLOS has recruited new staff, moved to new office space and is refining operational and programmatic objectives to position itself to strategically meet the needs of resource managers and other Great Lakes decision makers.

For more information, visit <http://www.glos.us/>

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

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