

GLOS

www.glc.org/glos

Building a Great Lakes Observing System

About GLOS – the Great Lakes node of the national Integrated Ocean Observing System

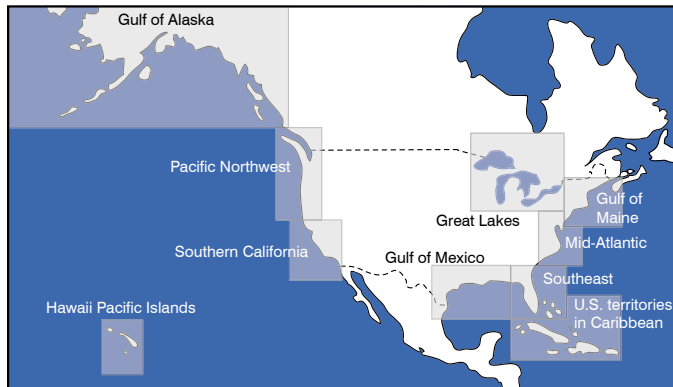
The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) will provide critical real-time data for multiple users, including resource managers, researchers, educators, homeland security interests, the commercial shipping industry and the recreational boating community, among others. GLOS is a regional node of the national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) initiative.

The Great Lakes Commission is leading initial development of GLOS, with funding through the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The effort is being coordinated with the International Joint Commission's Council of Great Lakes Research Managers, as well as a range of federal, state and provincial agencies, academic institutions, and relevant nongovernmental organizations.

GLOS is one of 10 Regional Associations

10 Regional Observing Systems (also known as Regional Associations, or RAs) are being established through IOOS. The RAs will be guided by the priorities of user groups within each region. The RAs will also influence development of the national IOOS backbone through a National Federation of Regional Associations.

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System



History

To date in the Great Lakes region, multiple, independent systems have been created to collect, transmit, store and retrieve physical, chemical and biological data. GLOS will provide coordinated access to these disparate data sets to better support Great Lakes management decisions.

Current Activities

A GLOS Steering Committee and Regional Interest Group have been established, with broad participation from the region's data providers and user groups. The Steering Committee is focused on development of a formal business plan for GLOS. As part of clarifying needs and resources, a comprehensive data inventory and user needs assessment is being conducted, involving dozens of focus groups and GLOS presentations throughout the region.

Nearshore Observing Schematic



Timeline

The GLOS business plan, slated to be released in fall 2004, will propose governance for the regional association of data providers, operational characteristics of GLOS, and funding mechanisms to sustain data collection, integration and retrieval. It is anticipated that the regional association will be chartered in early 2005 along with the signing of partnership agreements.

What is IOOS?

IOOS is an interagency cooperative effort based on a sustained network of buoys, ships, satellites, underwater vehicles and other platforms that routinely collect real-time and historical data and information. These data are needed for rapid detection and timely prediction of changes in our nation's coastal waters, including the Great Lakes. This sustained network of observations will mean more rapid advances in the marine and Great Lakes sciences. IOOS will process and make available the data under one umbrella for broad public access.

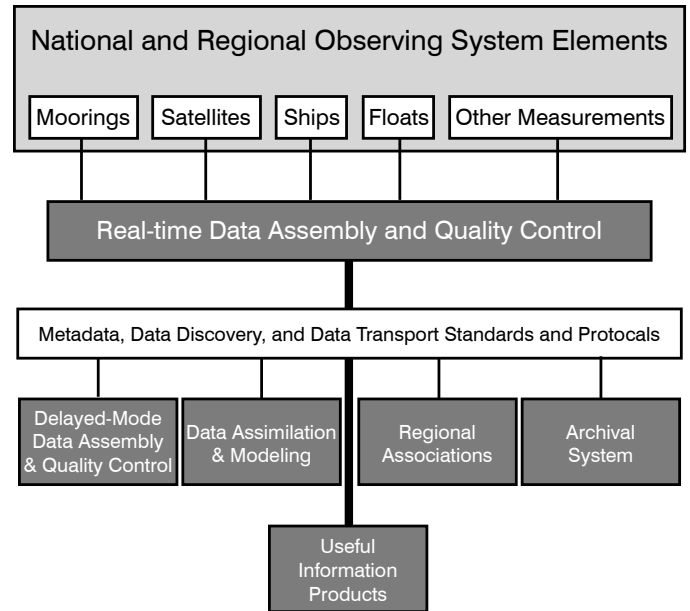
For more information: www.ocean.us

The seven goals of IOOS:

- Improve predictions of climate change and weather effects
- Improve the safety and efficiency of coastal and marine operations
- Ensure national security
- Manage resources for sustainable use
- Preserve health and restore degraded coastal ecosystems
- Mitigate effects of natural hazards
- Minimize public health risks

Data Components

- Buoy systems
- Coastal and riverine sensors
- Satellite observations
- Field measurements
- Ship observations
- Aerial observations



For More Information Contact the GLOS Secretariat

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