

The Great Lakes Regional Ocean Partnership Project

Advancing Bi-national Data Exchange

Supporting Great Lakes Regional Priorities by Improving Access to Foundational Data Sets

The goal of the project is to improve discoverability and allow easier access to coordinated, bi-national datasets that resource managers need to support decision-making. This project will support the Council of Great Lakes Governors work on the Great Lakes St Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and companion Agreement with the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The Agreement and Compact call for five-year cumulative impact assessments, the first of which is due on December 8, 2013. This effort draws upon the Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database developed and maintained by the Great Lakes Commission which presents annual withdrawals, diversions and consumptive uses reported by the states and provinces. GLOS data management activities will improve efficiencies in future iterations of the cumulative impact assessment and related applications.

Informing Adaptive Management

The project will also support the implementation of an effort that has been developed out of the bi-national International Upper Great Lakes Study recently completed in March 2012 under the auspices of the International Joint Commission (IJC). With the uncertainty related to climate in the Great Lakes region, the Study Board undertook a significant effort to understand, design and scope an adaptive management (AM) process. This process is necessary to provide ongoing support to the coastal managers and other local and state/provincial decision makers whose work is affected by the uncertainty of future water supplies including development of regional risk assessment studies that examine vulnerabilities to extreme highs and low in specific geographies. This project will support these regional risk assessment studies by providing data in easy-to-use formats for applications that improve understanding of coastal vulnerabilities.

Synergistic Collaboration

The project team is working with the Coordinating Committee on Basic Great Lakes Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data. This committee serves in an advisory capacity to the agencies of the United States and Canada who are charged with the responsibility for collecting and compiling the Great Lakes hydraulic and hydrologic data.

The project team is also collaborating with all the agencies and organizations listed to the right.



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The Council of Great Lakes Governors and the Great Lakes Observing System were awarded funding through NOAA's Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program to advance technology to support integration and access of important bi-national datasets.

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