



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (and influence)

Please respond by August 5, 2024 to 2024RFI@glos.org.

The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) is inviting information (and influence) to shape our proposal for the next 3 year FY2024 NOAA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Provision 11 and 12 (2025-2027) with [NOAA's](#) Integrated Ocean Observing System ([IOOS](#)).

BACKGROUND

As part of the FY2024 BIL funding process, GLOS will submit a proposal for 3 years (~December 1, 2024 - November 30, 2027) to IOOS in early September 2024. GLOS is looking for ideas and partnerships to enhance our regional observing program through updated and expanded infrastructure and enhanced dataset and product accessibility.

SOLICITING IDEAS

GLOS is seeking ideas to help us shape and prioritize BIL programming. We are asking for your help in identifying the major data gaps, data access and sharing challenges, and continuous or emerging needs for improved information that can help in managing major Great Lakes issues.

The FY2024 BIL proposal is specifically calling for 1) improvements and enhancements to the observing system and 2) expanded sharing and integration of Federal and non-Federal data to inform pressing regional coastal management challenges. We are requesting your help in **identifying infrastructure upgrades to existing systems, and/or new-to-GLOS products and partners** to help address pressing Great Lakes management needs.

SUBMITTING YOUR INFORMATION

Individuals can propose ideas in a narrative that should not exceed 2 pages. Additional pages for photos, maps, or relevant graphics are permitted. The narrative should include a succinct description of:

1. The **problem**. All submissions should include, at minimum, a high-level summary of the data/information or infrastructure challenge and suggestions for how GLOS might direct capacity or resources to address the problem and benefit the Great Lakes community.
2. The **opportunity**, if applicable. Submitting a specific opportunity around observing infrastructure or data partnership expansion is not necessary, but we welcome ideas for projects at various phases of planning and implementation.
3. A brief summary of project partners and a budget estimate, if appropriate.

Please submit your brief problem/project descriptions to GLOS (2024RFI@glos.org) no later than COB Monday, August 5, 2024.

*Examples of **problems**:*

GLOS wants to better understand the major observing and information challenges. Problems can range from high-level management and policy information needs to specific technical challenges for a type of observing technology. Submissions for problem ideas can be

basin-wide or applied to a particular local geography. **The primary requirement for all submissions is to characterize the problem being faced and suggest where GLOS capacity and resources might help address the problem.**

Specific examples of problem ideas include:

- The need for year-round, near real-time data to address winter gaps in information (serving a variety of stakeholder management issues).
- Upgrades to water quality sensors that are reaching end-of-life and relied upon for decision making.
- Identification of data gaps to inform agricultural best management practices in the Lake Erie basin.

*Examples of **opportunities**:*

Once your submission has summarized the major problem or challenge that needs to be addressed, you can optionally include suggestions for a specific project idea that can help address this challenge. Project ideas will be considered, as relevant, for inclusion in the FY2024 BIL Proposal or future project opportunities. Please provide a rough budget estimate and include phased or a la carte options as possible. Examples of specific project ideas include the following:

- You see a need for the collection of high resolution lake floor bathymetry (underwater topography) that could lead to better analysis, modeling and understanding of benthic habitat, wrecks, and infrastructure.
- You operate observing equipment to serve a local community but are experiencing reliability and compatibility issues due to outdated equipment. You would like to purchase equipment or upgrade existing equipment to enhance monitoring capabilities and ensure continued data connectivity.
- You notice a lack of information integration regarding decision making around a particular Great Lakes management issue that GLOS might be able to support. You are unsure if it is being done elsewhere, but have experience or insight how it might be done in a certain community. You are looking for partners, technical support, and/or better information sharing that can help communities assess their risks.

RFI OUTCOMES AND EXPECTATIONS

This non-competitive process is an opportunity for you to provide your expertise, feedback, and perspective as a Great Lakes manager, scientist, policy-maker, or community member.

Individuals and organizations that submit information and ideas through this RFI may be asked to:

- Help with pioneering observation and data management developments with vendors/researchers.
- Work collaboratively with GLOS and other partners in developing large-scale grant proposals or multi-year/phase programming.
- Help strengthen and widen the network of Great Lakes data providers and users.

Submitting a project idea in this RFI does not guarantee the project will be included in any proposal. An informal and internal assessment of the responses may be made based on relevance to the current GLOS Strategic Plan, impact to the GLOS program, funding availability and opportunities, leveraged partnerships, production of useful Great Lakes

information/data/products for the region, and cost effectiveness. This is not the sole information source for GLOS programmatic decision-making and will not be the only opportunity to provide project ideas for funding.

GLOS serves a wide variety of different stakeholders and the data and information we aggregate is used for many different purposes. We want the Great Lakes community to benefit from and leverage the data sharing capacity that is available through GLOS and we are relying on your input, advice, and expertise to help us prioritize and guide our planning to make sure we are as effective in our mission as possible. We are thankful for the time and effort you take to submit a response and are hopeful this will be the start of a process that yields mutual benefit for you, GLOS, and the Great Lakes at large.