# Advancing technology applications that improve our understanding, management, and use of the Great Lakes

**smart great lakes**

## ●●● The Problem

For the past several decades, scientists, citizens, and policy makers have worked creatively to address Great Lakes challenges including the spread of invasive species, aging water infrastructure, and a changing economy and climate. Today, the Great Lakes region continues to work towards greater collaboration and a better understanding of the lakes. It is now understood that **a connected information ecosystem** could help address a broad variety of challenges currently facing the region.

The traditional approach to problem solving has been limited by single use, disposable data, the high cost of technology, and barriers to data sharing. Fortunately, there has been a shift in the technology landscape making it easier and faster than ever before **to access valuable, accurate information in a timely manner.** Dramatic advances in smart technologies, communication pathways, processing workflows, and information dissemination further enable "smart," information-driven solutions.

## ●●● A Solution

The Smart Great Lakes Initiative (SGLi) is working to build an information ecosystem based on smart technologies that improve the understanding, use, and management of the lakes. This ecosystem will connect the region with advanced data management and analysis, leveraging technology innovations that get people more high-value information, on demand.

Making the Great Lakes smart requires coupling the development of a new technology platform with the creation of common policy goals to enable technology innovation, data gathering, improved monitoring, and greater binational collaboration. Far from being a single-sector solution, the SGLi has the ability to help address information needs basin-wide.

## ●●● Join In

Ways to support SGLi:
- Bring fresh ideas
- Deploy smart sensors
- Become a collaborator
- Help draft the common strategy document

Visit **smartgreatlakes.org** to learn more and get connected. ●

**great lakes observing system**

**cleveland water alliance**

**C G L R**
**COUNCIL OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION**
**BUILDING OUR FUTURE TODAY**
Discover. Connect. Influence.

# Statements of Support

"We're proud our work towards a smart and connected Lake Erie has inspired the vision for Smart Great  Lakes. We look forward to continuing to partner with GLOS to see this take shape."

–**Bryan Stubbs,** Executive Director of Cleveland Water Alliance

"The protection and sustainable development of the basin requires intimate knowledge about how  socioeconomic activities impact the health of the entire watershed. The council is proud to support and  develop the Smart Great Lakes Initiative so that policymakers, scientists, and businesses can make  better decisions."

–**Mark Fisher,** President and CEO of the binational Council of the Great Lakes Region

"Making our data public through GLOS means easy collaboration with other researchers and easy  access for whomever else out there might find it useful. Calling the research community to start doing  this on a larger scale will be huge."

–**Aaron Fisk,** GLOS Board Member and professor at the University of Windsor

"When you look at the binational challenges we, as a region, are looking to solve and the technology  that GLOS has the capability to leverage, this is a natural, and, frankly, very exciting next step for the  organization."

–**Jennifer Boehme,** GLOS Board Chair and International Joint Commission Environmental Scientist

"I'm very eager to see what this initiative will mean for Great Lakes fisheries. Better sharing the information we have as a region would greatly help the GLFC and our partner agencies make management decisions."

–**Bob Lambe,** GLOS board member and Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) Executive Secretary



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