

Lakebed 2030: Building the Great Map

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The Great Lakes have never been fully explored. Thousands of shipwrecks lay hidden in the depths. Ancient civilizations have left their cultural imprint hundreds of feet below the surface. Marine life is crucial for Great Lakes fisheries; however, their habitats are barely understood. Ships sail the fresh waters of the lakes, but unknown dangers lurk below.

Nationally, tens of millions of dollars are being allocated for ocean-related initiatives, but the Great Lakes remain a low priority and as a result, are underfunded and undervalued. It's time to take exploration and discovery of the underwater environment of the Great Lakes into our own hands.

Without intentional and comprehensive exploration, the discovery of hidden resources, shipwrecks, ancient artefacts, and marine habitats may not be possible. Investment and support can change this. Approximately \$25M a year over an eight-year period will enable exploration, yield discoveries, and enrich Great Lakes knowledge.

The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) proposes to serve as a granting organization for emerging technologies, exploration operations, data collection, processing and public engagement.. GLOS is the only bi-national charitable organization in the region leading underwater exploration of the Great Lakes and has rigorous governance policies.

Lakebed 2030 is a coalition of industry, academic, third sector and government bodies. Working with a strategically focused coalition, established and emerging technologies can bring the necessary talent to execute the mission. Investment is required for developing a massive public campaign, growing the coalition, executing exploration, disseminating data and stimulating innovation to support the Great Lakes Blue Economy.