Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Framework Data Project

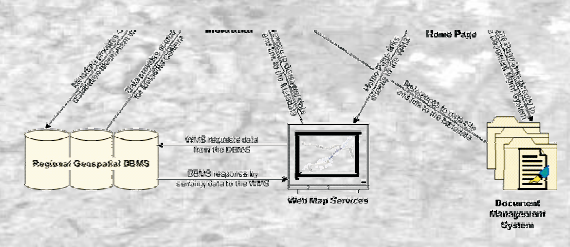
Building a System for the Discovery, Access and Exchange of Geospatial Data

Data Discovery

Data discovery provides the means by which information about the existence of data can be obtained. For the Framework Data Project, all data layers have FGDC 1998 compliant metadata (in both English and French), which has been loaded on to the Great Lakes Information Network Data Access (GLINDA) Directory, a registered node of the NSDI Clearinghouse.

The Shared Vision Model (SVM)

The SVM is the key decision making tool that will be used in the Study to evaluate the impacts of regulation scenarios. It will be made available through the Study website so that users may conduct their own analysis. As such it becomes important to provide linkages to the corresponding background data, via the metadata.



Study Home Page

This is the main "portal" through which users can learn general information about the Study, or conduct a more detailed search for specific data. The home page (www.losl.org) will have direct linkages to the SVM (for regulation scenario analyses), to the Metadata discovery mechanism, to a Document Management System (which will make available all the non-geospatial documentation associated with the Study), and to Web Mapping Services (see below) so that users can view and evaluate geospatial data within an Internet browser.

Data Storage (Regionally Distributed RDBMS)

In order for the Study goals to be achieved in a timely fashion, the regional relational database management system (RDBMS) developed for data storage and maintenance must leverage existing resources to the greatest extent possible. For this and a number of other reasons, the LOSLR Information Management Strategy (IMS) recommends a regionally-distributed system of relational databases consisting of three nodes, each having data holdings consistent with their geographic location. Presently, these include the Great Lakes Commission (for New York State data), Land Information Ontario, and Environment Canada Quebec Region, Ste. Foy.

Web Map Services

Linkages to a web mapping interface will provide visual access to Framework and Study data in a manner that is useful for evaluation purposes and that can be utilized and understood by a variety of potential users including the general public.