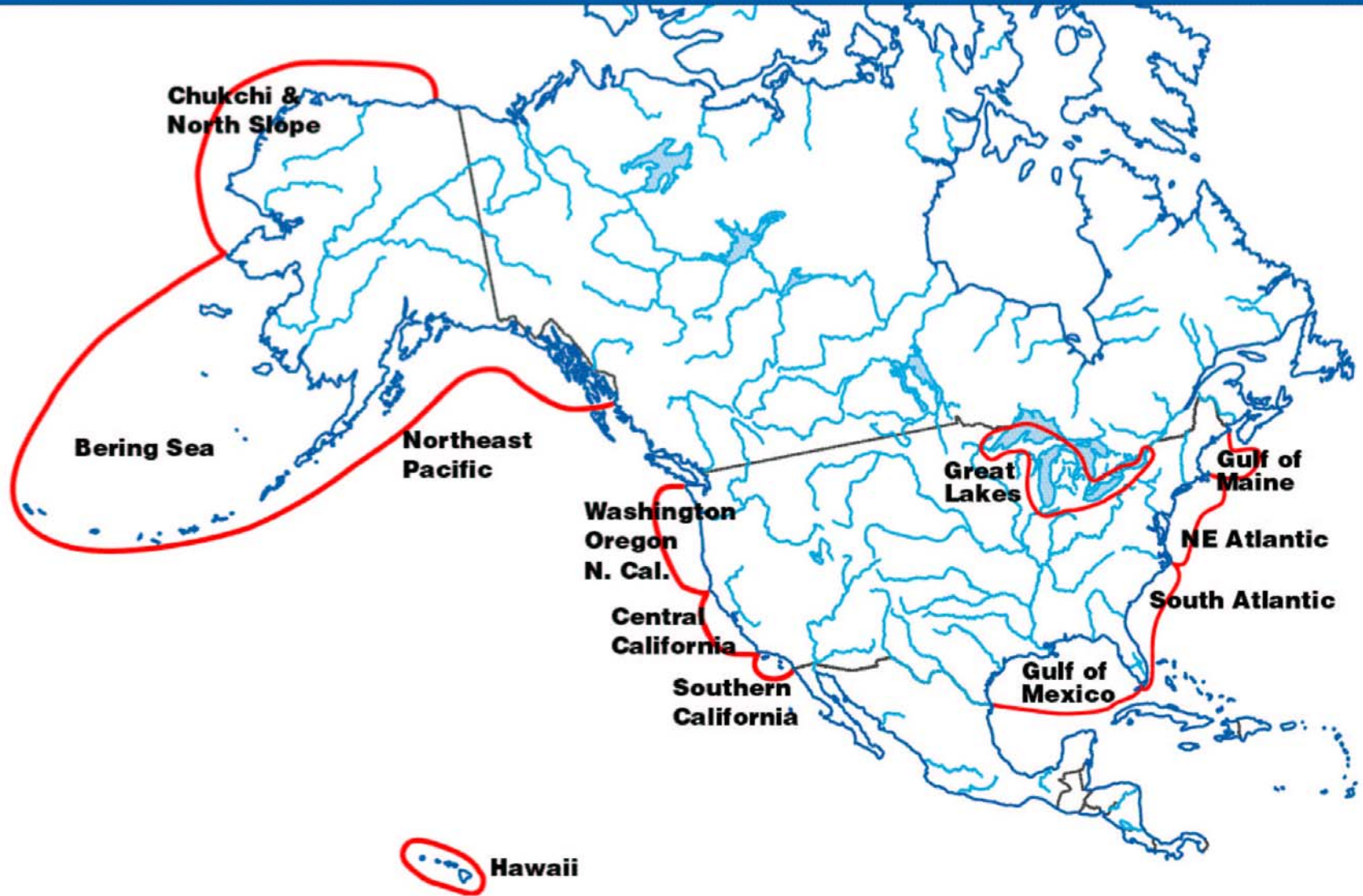


Let's talk governance!

Governance refers to the policies and processes by which design, implementation, operation and improvement of the GLOS will be controlled and managed at both regional and national levels.

- A plan for governance will be essential in ensuring sustainability of GLOS after initial implementation
- GLOS is a volunteer collaborative
- GLOS will provide tangible benefits to Regional Associates and end users, which should be showcased
- Responsibilities of both data providers and users need to be clearly defined
- Groups involved need to be vested in the success of the initiative

Possible Regional Observing Systems



Current Regional Associations and governance models

Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS:
www.gomoos.org)

- 501c3, non-profit corporation
- As a working prototype, GoMOOS is partnering with other systems that will link together to create the NorthEast Observing System (NEOS) which extends from GoMOOS to New Jersey and on to the Carolinas

Southeast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System
(SEA-COOS: www.seacoos.org)

- Affiliate Members Committee with Board of Directors plus 6-8 Working Groups

More governance models

Coastal Alaska Observatory System (CAOS:
<http://www.ims.uaf.edu/caos/index.html>)

- Acting Director (rotation among regional associate agencies)
- Governance and Implementation committees

Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System
(GCOOS: http://ocean.tamu.edu/GCOOS/new_gcoos.html)

- Advisory Board (responsibility for ongoing coordination and representation)...plus Observing Systems Committee, Products and Services Committee, User Committee
- Considering formation of an informal regional alliance among signatories and/or becoming a 501c3 nonprofit.

Lessons from other Regional Associations: Criteria for Success

- Formalized partnerships established within a region
- Provision of an acceptable business plan
- Expected start-up costs and sustainability plans identified
- System should be capable of routine, sustained, 24-hour operations
- Data and information management structure identified
- System should offer free and open access to data collected
- Agree to adhere to standards and protocols
- Governance issues must be solved by the individual regional associations

GLOS governance questions to consider:

- What will be the formal roles of Steering Committee? Regional Associates? User groups?
- Should federal agencies have a heightened role in GLOS hierarchy and decisionmaking?
- What should be the role of non-governmental entities (industry, academia, Native American tribes, etc)?
- How are differences between stakeholders (user groups) arbitrated?
 - data prioritization for the GLOS
 - implementation schedules
 - allocation of resources