

## How? How?

The OSL operates within a client-server architecture based on data transfer protocols that aim for interoperability between networks and various exploitation systems. The Web server, located at the interface between the Internet and Fisheries and Oceans Canada's intranet network, serves as a bridge to the scientists' computers holding the source data. Dynamic Web pages allow users to communicate with these specialized computers and visualize results based on their queries.

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Now it's up to you to discover the St. Lawrence Observatory and, why not, to add your own contribution.

The St. Lawrence Observatory (OSL) is based at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute (MLI), a marine science research center of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. During its development phase, the Observatory was financially supported by Canada Economic Development (CED) through the *Technopole maritime du Québec* initiative and by St. Lawrence Vision 2000.

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Observe  
Learn  
Understand  
Share

## Our mission

### Our Mission

To offer an Internet portal dedicated to the exchange, diffusion, and presentation of scientific data and information about the St. Lawrence.

## Why?

### Why?

At a time when environmental issues and climate change have become major preoccupations, collections of scientific data represent an irreplaceable national heritage. The amount of information collected over the years on the St. Lawrence ecosystem is substantial. However, the data are often underutilized for many reasons: they are presented in various formats, they are stored in restricted access databases, or simply because they are held in filing cabinets or personal computers.

*...the distribution of scientific information is essential...*

In the context of a knowledge economy, the distribution of scientific information is essential, as much for optimizing data exchange among specialists and for allowing sound decision making, as for ensuring the transfer of knowledge to the public. With the ever-increasing capacities of the Internet, one can now foresee that scientific information could be as accessible as a weather report. This was the idea behind the St. Lawrence Observatory (OSL) concept.

## Who?

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The OSL is administered by a multidisciplinary group of scientists. The OSL team has significant expertise in the design and development of marine science web sites.

*Scientific collaborators have been experimenting with this concept since 1999...*

This innovative project is based on a partner-client model, where the partners are the scientists who produce data, and the clients are data users, users of the St. Lawrence, and anyone who is looking for scientific information. The OSL scientific collaborators have been experimenting with this concept since 1999 by using themes fostering the integration of their data and data products.

## For whom?

### For Whom?

Anyone interested in the St. Lawrence can rapidly access reliable data via the OSL. Scientific collaborators of the OSL can take advantage of a large-scale distribution tool to highlight their work and results. Managers can make significant savings by optimizing the use of data collected at great expense during at sea missions. Decision makers have access to summarized and continually updated data. And the general public can find non-technical information to better understand the complexity of the major ecosystem that the St. Lawrence represents.

*...non-technical information to better understand the complexity of the major ecosystem...*

## What?

### What?

The information presented in the OSL portal is in various stages of processing (from real-time raw data to non-technical products) to answer the needs of the various client groups. One can find hydrographic and oceanographic data such as temperature and salinity spatio-temporal series, data from at sea missions, toxic phytoplankton monitoring program, sentinel fisheries surveys, etc. The OSL also includes a directory of specialized Internet resources, on-line publications, a thematic bibliography, and an illustrated glossary. In addition, there are value-added products including tide forecast, current models, sea ice concentration and thickness forecast, analyzed satellite images, information on the carbon cycle in the food chain, 3-D topographic maps of the seabed, and animations of water movements in the St. Lawrence.

*...data  
...publications  
...value-added products*