

THE OBSERVATORY

SLGO - Our mission: to promote the sharing and pooling of scientific information on the St. Lawrence ecosystem

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

From the field of navigation



Écosphère 2015

Foire de l'environnement et de l'éco-habitation

New data sources

From the St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011-2026 (SLAP)

Board of Directors 2015-2016

New Benefactor Members

Environmental Data Management

SLGO Publication

RADARS

Real-time surface currents

Photo J. Cloutier

Three new associate members from the field of navigation



SLGO is proud to welcome three new associate members: the *Corporation des pilotes du Bas Saint-Laurent (CPBSL)*, the Shipping Federation of Canada, and the Green Alliance. These organisations are all involved in supporting safe, efficient and sustainable transportation on the St. Lawrence waters.

The expertise of the CPBSL pilots ensures that vessels are safely guided between *Les Escoumins* and Quebec City, including the Saguenay River. The Shipping Federation of Canada contributes to the implementation of a quality-oriented, safe, productive and sustainable marine transportation system, while the Green Alliance proposes voluntary measures to encourage the maritime industry to go beyond the scope of existing rules in areas such as pollutant emissions, invasive species, and waste and cargo residue management.

By integrating various data sources on its Web portal, SLGO supports the objectives of these new members. A good example is the Web application Observation Network where water levels, currents and winds from the Canadian Hydrographic Service, Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans are integrated.



Photo J. Cloutier

New Benefactor Members

SLGO thanks the Ministère de la Sécurité publique (MSP) for its cooperation

Quebec's Department of Public Safety (MSP) becomes benefactor member and contributes to SLGO operations by providing access to the best information regarding place names associated with geospatial data, namely those documenting marine mammal and capelin observations gathered by citizens. The Ministry's team provided prompt service and ensured the smooth operation of the data-access procedure.



A first: a university professor becomes a benefactor member of SLGO

As a result of a meeting at the last ACFAS Conference in Rimouski, Mr Omer Chouinard, Arts and social sciences professor, Sociology Department of the University of Moncton, has become benefactor member. SLGO wishes to thank Mr Chouinard for his support. We also thank all the teachers who through their activities support SLGO's mission.

Board of Directors

Following the last SLGO General Assembly on June 17, the 2015-2016 Board of Directors includes the following representatives:

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Observer

Bernadette PINEL-ALLOUL

Professor, *Université de Montréal*



A new representative from the Quebec Government, Mr Jessy Dynes, Director, *Faune aquatique, Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP)* has joined the Board as an administrator.

New data sources

Two new data sources from the [St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011-2026 \(SLAP\)](#) are available via the “Environmental References” application on SLGO.ca (details at <http://slgo.ca/references/?lg=en>). This application has been featuring natural habitat information since 2014. The map-based tool allows users to search for habitat restoration sites or protected areas in selected areas.

- Protected Areas on Private Land Between 1925 and 2013: <http://slgo.ca/en/envref/protected-areas/private-lands/summary.html>
- Atlas of Bank Restoration Sites: <http://slgo.ca/en/envref/restoration-plans/atlas-restoration/summary.html>

The screenshot shows the 'Environmental References' web application. At the top, there are filters for 'Data Source', 'Administrative Region' (set to 'All'), 'Thematic' (set to 'All'), and 'Method' (set to 'All'). Below these is a map of the St. Lawrence region with various colored markers (red, blue, yellow, green) indicating different types of sites. A large pop-up window is overlaid on the map, displaying a document titled 'Guide d'intervention en matière de conservation et de mise en valeur des habitats littoraux d'intérêt de la MRC de Sept-Rivières'. The document cover features a lighthouse and the logo of the 'COMITÉ ZEP' (Zone d'Écologie Prioritaire). The document is dated 'Janvier 2009'. To the right of the map, there is a legend with four categories: 'Analyse multicritère' (red dot), 'Cartographie' (blue dot), 'Consultation/concertation d'experts' (yellow dot), and 'Identification d'habitats pour une espèce en péril ou un groupe d'espèces' (green dot). At the bottom of the application, there are logos for Canada, St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011-2026, and Québec. A 'Download' button is also visible.

Best Practices in Environmental Data Management (English Version)

The recent SLGO publication about environmental data management is now available in English. The objective of the document is to offer basic concepts, to contribute to a better understanding of the data life cycle, to provide principles and to foster the adoption of environmental data management best practices. Such an endeavour is part of the St. Lawrence Global Observatory mandate as a service to its members, and is specifically targeted towards SLGO members without all the necessary infrastructures and means required to manage their data.



- Read more at: <http://slgo.ca/en/data-management.html>

SLGO was present at Écosphère 2015

SLGO participated in the 2015 edition of the Foire de l'environnement et de l'éco-habitation held in Montreal on June 13-14. The Observatory, represented by its senior programmer Keven Ratté, shared a stand with Éco-Nature in order to promote a turtle data collection joint project and to raise awareness about environmental data management best practices.

The event helped feature the project's cooperative efforts and also contributed to demonstrate the importance of citizen involvement in data collection operations along with the benefits of crowdsourcing applications developed by SLGO.



- Access the application at: <http://slgo.ca/en/biodiversity/reptiles/network-turtles/summary.html>
- More info about Écosphère 2015: <http://projetecosphere.org/?lang=en>

Radars

A team of researchers from the *Institut des sciences de la mer de Rimouski (ISMER)*, McGill University and the Maurice Lamontagne Institute (MLI), with financial support from the MEOPAR network, has developed and improved surface current forecasting tools. As part of a partnership with SLGO, a brand new interface has been developed for the visualisation of real-time surface current data obtained from high frequency (HF) radar systems deployed along the coasts of the St. Lawrence maritime Estuary.

Access data under Observations Network / Radar: <http://slgo.ca/en/projects/surface-currents/context.html>



Fisheries and Oceans / Pêches et Océans
Canada

