**Coastal Development Conference Call - May 3, 2012**

**Participants:**

 Becca Newhall (NOAA)

 Marilyn ten Brink (EPA)

 Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS)

 Daniel Savard (NB Department of the Environment)

 Lee Sochasky (Resource and Development Consultant)

Christine Tilburg (GOMC - ESIP)

*\* Slides were prepared for use with this conference call*

**Population Analysis Figures**

The group discussed the revised population figures that have been produced. Christine Tilburg stated that the major change is that she located information for the early 1900s for NB and NS. Lee Sochasky stated that she likes the information as presented in Slide 2 but wondered if it could be described in the text. Becca Newhall wondered if the group should think about questions they want answered by the figures. Christine agreed and stated that due to the brevity of the fact sheets each indicator will have roughly 1 page of text and 2-3 figures. **That said the group preferred discussing the population changes over the last century in text as opposed to a figure.**

Susan Russell-Robinson stated that one important thing to remember is that the indicators were chosen to be interdependent. For example, users might want to look at population pre1970s and post 1970s alongside information on impervious surface (which begins being a significant problem in the 1970s).

The group discussed the GIS figures produced and agreed that the figure with 1970-2010 data was most helpful. Daniel did have some concerns with how the numbers were derived. He was confused by the perceived low population number for the Saint John area ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to verify the Saint John data****).*

Becca wondered if it would be more helpful to have the Gulf of Maine watershed as a layer in the figure. Lee wondered about major rivers. Christine stated that it is her hope that all ESIP fact sheets have similar figures. However, any user can produce maps with the watershed, rivers, and HUCS (among other layers) using the ESIP Indicator Reporting Tool (www2.gulfofmaine.org/esip/reporting). In addition, the tool uses a GoogleMap platform so users can use satellite imagery too.

One request was for a more detailed Canadian coastline to be used. Christine agreed to connect with Marilyn ten Brink on this. She thought that the Canadian coastline from the aquatic habitats figures might work. ***(Action to be taken: Modify Canadian coastline****).*

**Impervious Surface**

The group then discussed the impervious surface indicator. Lee brought the group up to date regarding the Canadian effort. She mentioned that the layer should be available in the Open City or NB GIS program. Christine stated that she also has the information and needs to copy materials over for Marilyn. ***(Action to be taken: Get Canadian information together for Marilyn****).*

Daniel stated that he has always had a concern with the impervious surface indicator as much of New Brunswick has natural impervious surface. Christine wondered if this portion of the fact sheet could include natural impervious surface **(perhaps as a sidebar).** Susan agreed and stated that there are certainly areas of Massachusetts and Maine that have rock close to or at the surface. Marilyn thought that it should be relatively straight-forward to look at the intersection between man-made impervious surface and soil surface maps. The group discussed the importance of having both types of impervious surface information available (ex. planning of parking lots, etc). Susan also mentioned that information is available on what types of chemicals are being eroded from outcrops in New England and released into the watershed.

**Next Steps**

The following steps were set out for the impervious surface analysis (Marilyn and Christine need to set internal dates for these items):

 1. Link the US and Canadian impervious layers (hopefully for two time points)

 2. Look into the natural impervious surface information

Also needed from the group:

1. Marilyn requested that everybody jot down a couple of questions that they fill should be addressed by the fact sheet. These questions should reflect the understanding that each indicator will have 1 page and perhaps 2-3 figures.