**Eutrophication Subcommittee Conference Call - January 31, 2011**

**Participants:**

Chris Deacutis (URI)

Michele Dionne (Wells NERR)

Angie Dubois (Maine DEP)

Jon Eaton (Georges River Tidewater Association)

Tom Gregory (UNH)

Kim Groff (Mass DEP)

Jim Latimer (US EPA)

Jeremy Miller (Wells NERR)

Christine Tilburg (GOMC - ESIP)

Phil Trowbridge (NH DES)

**Introductions**

Prior to discussion of the grab samples, individuals on the call introduced themselves as there are several new participants. Jim Latimer asked if the membership list on the Planning Site is current. Christine replied that it is as of January 25th. She mentioned that some subcommittees have opted to have their individual e-mails available on the Planning Site also. Christine asked if the group would like this. *(Action to be taken: Christine will make the e-mails available on the membership list located at www2.gulfofmaine.org/esipplanning, done 2/1/11 ).*

**Embayment Grab Samples**

Christine then verified that everyone had received the Excel spreadsheet titled "GrabSamplesByEmbayment". The group discussed some of the embayments that do not have information associated with them. Michele Dionne in particular would like to see Saco Bay have complete data. Christine replied that she was not aware of any sampling being done - though with UNE situated on Saco Bay it seemed like there should be sampling occurring. Michele stated that there has been a request for Steve Zeeman (prof. UNE) to locate a student to run water quality samples in Saco Bay. Christine agreed to send a message to Steve and Charles Tilburg to let them know that this is under discussion and would prove to be a great help to ESIP. *(Action to be taken: After the conference call Todd Callaghan sent a message to Christine regarding some EPA sampling of Saco Bay. Christine will follow up with that information before determining if Steve should be contacted).*

Jonathon Eaton mentioned that the chlorophyll a and dissolved oxygen data for Georges Tidewater Association is from sondes. The group discussed that there is concern about analytical variability when looking at chlorophyll a from grab samples versus sondes. The group had previously determined that they were not comfortable with using chlorophyll a from sondes. Jon mentioned that the data for 2002-2003 was collected with grab samples. *(Action to be taken: Christine needs to make sure than only grab samples are utilized for the Georges Tidewater data).*

Angie Dubois stated that there is a Kennebec River Research Program conducted out of Bowdoin that should have some water data for the Kennebec. She suggested that Christine e-mail John Lichter. *(Action to be taken: Christine will connect with John ).*

It was also suggested that Christine send a message to Hilary Neckles regarding potential sampling at Acadia National Park. *(Action to be taken: Christine will connect with Hilary).*Several individuals on the call thought that there should be chlorophyll a grab samples for Casco Bay. *(Action to be taken: Christine will ask Mike Doan if this is correct).*

**Analysis**

The group then briefly discussed how data might be analyzed. Jim stated that the data could be divided into seasonal measurements versus annual. The type of statistic utilized will depend on the data that is available. Phil Trowbridge stated that Piscataque Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) utilized the 90th percentile analysis as they were concerned about missing the spring blooms. Christine asked about the NCA data and Jim replied that they use an index period. Phil asked Jim if he's thinking of doing a pivot on all of the data to see what months the sampling is being done. Jim replied that was the idea though the data will likely be indexed by year also.

**Fact Sheet Suggestions**

**Michele stated that as the fact sheet is developed the group might think of using some of the text to discuss:**

1. **What would make a good coastal monitoring program from nutrient loading questions?**
2. **How might eutrophication be wrapped up with nuisance algae issues? (red tide)**

Individuals on the call liked both of these suggestions. Jon Eaton remarked that he is interested in what groups such as the Georges River Tidewater Association should be adding to their sampling programs.

Jim mentioned that the next step for ESIP will be addressing some of the cross-category indicators such as potentially the red tide example above that would be of interest to both the eutrophication subcommittee and the contaminant subcommittee.

**Next Steps**

The group then discussed Christine's timetable for calls this Spring. Hopefully the fact sheet will be in the drafting phase this summer!