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

**Participants:**

 Chris Deacutis (URI)

 Angie Dubois (Maine DEP)

 Jon Eaton (Georges River Tidewater Association)

 Jim Latimer (US EPA)

 Matt Liebman (US EPA - on mute)

 Jeremy Miller (Wells NERR)

 Marilyn ten Brink (US EPA)

 Christine Tilburg (GOMC - ESIP)

 Phil Trowbridge (NH DES)

 Barbara Warren (Salem Sound Coast Watch)

**Embayment Grab Sample Mapping**

At the start of the call Jim Latimer walked callers through the series of slides that were mailed out prior to the call. He discussed which embayments lack data (all New Brunswick and Nova Scotia embayments plus Wells). Jeremy Miller agreed to send the Wells data forward to Jim after the call. Christine Tilburg stated that it is surprising that no data is available for Saint John given that a large city sits at the mouth of the embayment. She agreed to ask individuals at Environment Canada regarding the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia embayments. *(Action to be taken: Christine will contact EC**with a more forceful request for data.)*

The group also discussed the figures and how embayment files are at a higher resolution than land mass which is somewhat confusing. Barbara Warren stated that the embayment file for Salem Sound looks correct.

Barbara also wondered why most dates have data listed from about 2000 to present. Jim stated that if comparing across systems it is useful to use the same time period. Christine mentioned that even if the fact sheet focuses on 2000 to present, a user would be able to pull up all the data via the Indicator Reporting Tool *(Action to be taken: all data needs to be put in the Tool, not just 2000 to present).* Barbara liked that idea.

Jon E. asked why the Georges River Tidewater Association data is not plotted. Christine stated that Jim had been confused about which estuary the data is associated with and Christine sent a confirming e-mail late on Friday. *(Action to be taken: GRTA data needs to be added in.)*

**Analysis**

The group then discussed the previous interest in using salinity zones to analyze the samples. Chris Deacutis wondered if all of the stations have associated salinity. Christine stated that she didn't think so. Jim stated that from an oceanographic viewpoint it makes sense to zone by salinity. Phil Trowbridge agreed that even using a large range for salinity values would help to remove outliers.

Chris stated that in Rhode Island they often zone using lat/longs or geography. Christine thought that this would require a good knowledge of all of the embayments. Suzanne Bricker previously used local individuals to make the geographic determinations. Barbara suggested that salinity be used for the first run through the data and the group agreed. Christine suggested that perhaps one embayment could be looked into with further detail as part of a focus box and the callers all agreed with this approach. Jeremy Miller stated that the Wells data would lend itself nicely to a focus box. Jon E. agreed with this approach as the salinity can range greatly for the Georges River based on precipitation and tidal changes.

The group also discussed using only Spring - Fall samples in order to make the data more consistent and comparable.

**Fact Sheet Suggestions**

1. **Focus Box: Chlorophyll a trends over time at Wells NERR.**

**Next Steps**

Christine agreed to look through each data set to determine if salinity samples are available. She will send an update e-mail to the subcommittee when this mini-analysis is completed. The group can then decide via e-mail to start the analysis as described above.