**Steering Committee Conference Call: April 27, 2017**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Adria Elskus (USGS), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (ECCC), Susan Russell-Robinson (Advisor), and Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. GOMI Update**

Christine Tilburg provided an update on the GOMI water sampling and reporting for 2016. Christine mentioned that she presented a summary of this work on a ECCC call/meeting Monday April 24. Kathryn Parlee also provided some information on the meeting. Kathryn thought some of the questions from Day 2 of the meeting were interesting. Participants stated that there needs to be more information on monitoring in the Bay of Fundy. Kathryn thought that ESIP’s Monitoring Map webtool might have a role to play in the future. Susan Russell-Robinson wondered if the Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network was mentioned at the meeting. Kathryn thought Matt Liebman had mentioned it in passing during his Watersheds report for the State of the Gulf Report presentation. Kathryn mentioned that other requests from participants included better communication with other groups and more assistance in translating science to policy.

Adria Elksus mentioned that NAC-SETAC is also interested in that last point and has a panel on communicating science to affect policy on the schedule for June 15 at UMass Amherst. Christine stated that she will be in Halifax presenting at a meeting with DFO that week. Jim Latimer mentioned that he might be able to attend the NAC-SETAC meeting. Adria suggested that people send her questions they might have for the panelists.

**2. Sediment Manuscript Team**

Along with the water quality dataset from the Gulf of Maine Initiative the GOMI team collected sediment samples in 2015. There is a team of individuals working on this dataset. The group had their first call on April 11. Jim had started the call by suggesting that the group come up with overall questions. The group liked that idea but wanted to look at the data first. Christine is uploading the datasets to a OneDrive file and members will work with the data and come back in 1 month to discuss their analysis and suggestions.

**3. Annual Meeting**

Steering Committee members on the call then discussed the upcoming annual meeting on June 6. Susan has offered her house up for the meeting in Norway, Maine (roughly 1 hour from Portland). Christine asked for suggestions for the agenda. Susan requested a session focused on the Gulf Pulse (ESIP’s annual newsletter). She would like to discuss important work and key messages to include. The group also thought that there should be a discussion on funding and funding possibilities. Jim mentioned that he thinks it is important to keep the ESIP 2.0 effort in mind and would like the agenda to set aside some space for a discussion on ESIP 2.0. Kathryn thought it would be helpful to brainstorm how ESIP might participate with in connection to a Climate Network meeting that is being organized. Susan thought there would be value in inviting Ellen Mecray and Bill Appleby to the annual meeting. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to invite Ellen and Bill to the annual meeting).***

**4. National Ocean Plan Update**

Jawed Hameedi updated the group on the Northeast Ocean Plan which includes a northeast regional planning document. Both plans have been discussed at the highest level of government. He mentioned that there are currently some issues with respect to the plan and discussions about where appropriate zones should be delineated.