**Steering Committee Conference Call: August 23, 2011**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (U Maine/USGS), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (EC), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. Indicator Reporting Tool**

Christine Tilburg updated the Steering Committee on the work that has been done with respect to the Indicator Reporting Tool. Both Jim Cradock and Christine have put a lot of time into improving the tool and it's finally getting close to the original vision that prompted the effort. Some of the improvements include using a GoogleMap interface, adding in all Gulfwatch data, and clearer axis titles in the graphing window. Adria Elskus agreed that the tool is now much easier to use. She pointed out that for the PAH graphs there are no units. Jim Latimer commented that tools often work differently in the various browsers. Christine stated that she had noticed this previously and has had the most issues with Internet Explorer.

***Needs to be checked on within tool:***

* ***Units for SumPAHs and other sum parameter.***
* ***User slides need to be updated***
* ***Thumbnail on ESIP webpage needs to have the new GoogleMap look***
* ***For Mussel Watch the site names should include both the numeric code and "english" names.***
* ***Salt marsh not showing on internet explorer.***

**2. Council Communication/Evaluation**

Christine informed the Steering Committee that she would like to craft a note (and associated evaluation) to each Councilor reminding them of ESIP and the various products that ESIP has available on the webpage. Susan Russell-Robinson pointed out that there has been a lot of turnover on the Council and the timing is good to connect with the various members. She stated that some of the individuals will have no idea about ESIP. The group discussed how to approach the "evaluation" portion. In general it was felt that having the questions within an e-mail might generate more responses than an internet survey. Adria pointed out that the answers might not be helpful if the Councilor has never heard of ESIP. Questions that might be appropriate:

1. Have you seen an ESIP presentation at a Council or other meeting?
2. Have you ever visited the ESIP webpage?
3. Several open ended questions.....

It was suggested that Christine make a table with each Councilor's name (and perhaps staff that frequently attend meetings). The table could have columns to list out Steering Committee members that know the Councilor and topics that might be of interest to the Councilor.

**3. NSF Call for Proposals**

The group on the call also discussed a recent National Science Foundation RFP that Jawed Hameedi forwarded to Christine and David Keeley. Jawed stated that ESIP and the Council has been very involved in climate change information. He also stated that NSF is looking for regionally based proposals. He feels that it could be a good opportunity for ESIP. The group discussed some general ideas that might be appropriate for a proposal: water quantity, quality, sea surface temperature. The proposal might be large enough to include other groups (NERACOOS). Jawed stated that federal agencies are not meant to partner. Christine forwarded the original announcement to the Steering Committee. ***Action to be taken: Christine will prompt David K. to move forward with this effort.***

**Next Call - September 20, 10:00 AM ET**