**Steering Committee Conference Call: August 21, 2012**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. Web Survey**

ESIP's web survey was launched on August 2 and announced through the ESIP mailing list. The Working Group was also informed of the survey. As of August 16 there have been twenty-two responses. The individuals on the call discussed the results so far that were provided in a table within the agenda. It was suggested that Christine send out a reminder message to the ESIP lists and include a response date mid-September. ***(Action to be taken: Christine will send out a reminder regarding the web survey.)***

**2. Interviews**

During the last Steering Committee call it was agreed that Christine would create a list of potential individuals to be interviewed in September regarding evaluating ESIP's effort and direction. A list was provided as part of the agenda. Christine stated that she intends to start setting up interviews the week of August 27-31. Susan Russell-Robinson stated that the list seemed like a lot to tackle. She suggested doing the Working Group members last. Marilyn ten Brink agreed that the priority should be non-Working Group members. She thought another way to approach prioritizing the list would be to revisit the list of three categories of individuals that ESIP previously produced. Heather Breeze stated that she wasn’t convinced that the Working Group is familiar with ESIP products.

In the end, the group agreed that Christine would contact all individuals on the list that are not part of the Working Group. ESIP would try to evaluate the Working Group via hard copy questionnaires at the October Working Group meeting. ***(Action to be taken: This needs to be added to briefing note for Working Group?)***

Other items: Susan stated that John Annala is leaving GMRI. She also suggested that Chris Feurt could be interviewed for the Wells NERR position. It was also noted that David Mitchell has left the Nova Scotia government. Heather agreed to send a new contact’s information forward to Christine. ***(Action to be taken: The list of interviewees needs to be corrected with this information.)***

**3. ESIP 2.0 Initial step**

During the March 2012 annual Steering Committee a series of steps were suggested for beginning the ESIP 2.0 process. The group on this call postponed the majority of this discussion until September. However, Susan was interested in discussing what indicators of interest to ESIP could also be included as suggestions for NERACOOS’ portfolio. The following indicators were suggested: SST, average depth temperature, dissolved oxygen, nuisance algae, nitrogen concentration, phosphorus concentration, and bacterial concentration.

*From Jim Latimer e-mail: 8/30/12: “I was surprised to see that chl-a, a commonly used (buoy - based) regulatory response indicator, was not included on the list. Planktonic nuisance algae pigments may also be able to be isolated spectrally. In addition, salinity, solar radiation, IR, wind spead/direction. And finally, depending upon the configuration of the buoys, temperature and DO at depth is helpful.”*

**4. Miscellaneous**

Heather requested that the list of indicators being addressed by the State of the Gulf report be included. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to add these in.)***

Susan briefly discussed the funding of ESIP at this time. The group discussed proposals in preparation or discussion (Examples: Sloan and ETF).

Susan also discussed a Stanford PhD that is interviewing Susan on September 5 regarding research on coastal and ocean governance.

**The next Steering Committee call is scheduled for September 25 at 10:00 AM ET.**