**Steering Committee Conference Call: December 18, 2012**

**Participants**

Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. LinkedIn**

The group on the call discussed the usefulness of Facebook and/or LinkedIn accounts for ESIP. Matt Liebman stated that he thought the purpose of LinkedIn is to develop professional contacts. He also stated that he gets articles and information from LinkedIn. Susan Russell-Robinson stated that she thought ESIP could use LinkedIn to put out information on meetings and journal articles. She stated that she believes LinkedIn might spark more conversation than Christine’s e-mails to the ESIP lists. Matt wondered how this might differ from the Community of Practice effort. Susan stated that to her knowledge nothing has been done with the Community of Practice. Christine agreed to discuss with Jim Cradock how ESIP might use LinkedIn with the knowledge that Christine would be responsible for the LinkedIn account. *(Action to be taken: Christine needs to research LinkedIn and discuss with Jim Cradock).*

**2. ESIP New Year Message**

The group discussed the New Year message that ESIP routinely sends. Christine requested that all Steering Committee **comments be mailed to her by December 31** so that Susan and Kathryn Parlee can send the message out the first week of January. The draft message is copied below (including Susan’s revisions):

**Greetings ESIP Community –**

**Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that 2013 is already upon us! 2012 was such a busy year with the release of the Eutrophication Fact Sheet and changes to the ESIP webpage and webtools (**[**www.gulfofmaine.org/esip**](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/esip)**). In addition, ESIP’s journal entries have provided information about the various individuals and organizations that make ESIP so successful. Even more exciting, three subcommittees should be releasing fact sheets in 2013 (Contaminants, Coastal Development, and Fisheries). As ESIP wraps up initial efforts on the priority indicators, it is time to start a discussion of ESIP’s next round of activities. ESIP’s Steering Committee has been conducting evaluations of needs and experiences in the Gulf of Maine region and is forming a plan to create interdisciplinary groups to look at emerging issues and additional indicators. Stay tuned for more details!**

**3. Steering Committee Calls**

The group on the call discussed the proposed call dates and times for the first half of 2013. **Christine has requested that anyone with known conflicts alert her prior to December 31.**

 January 22 at 10:00 AM ET

 February 26 at 10:00 AM ET

 March 26 at 10:00 AM ET

 April 23 at 10:00 AM ET

 May 21 at 10:00 AM ET

**4. Annual Steering Committee Meeting**

Jim Latimer asked if the date for the annual steering committee meeting has been determined. Susan stated that the date would either be June 10 or June 14. Jim stated that he has a conflict with June 14 that he might not be able to get out of. The group asked that steering committee members vote on the date that works best with their schedules by **December 31.**

**The next Steering Committee call is scheduled for January 22 at 10:00 AM ET.**