**Steering Committee Conference Call: February 26, 2013**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Abe Miller-Rushing DOI), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. Welcome: Abraham Miller-Rushing**

The call opened with lengthier introductions that usual as the group welcomed new Steering Committee member Abe Miller-Rushing (DOI). Abe is Science Coordinator for the Schoodic Education and Research Center at Acadia National Park.

**2. New ESIP Contractor: Sara Ellis**

Christine Tilburg updated the Steering Committee on the contractor hired to perform data support for ESIP through funds from Environment Canada and USGS. Sara Ellis was hired for the contract and has begun work on “contaminants indicator assessment”. Christine has already had three conference calls with her. She has another call scheduled with her on Wednesday (2/27) with Adria Elskus and David Page.

**3. May ACCESS Meeting**

The Atlantic Canada affiliate of CERF (ACCESS) has its Spring meeting this May in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia and is focused on several themes including eutrophication and climate change. Abstracts are due April 1. Christine wondered if anyone might be going that could present an ESIP poster. Heather Breeze said she might. Christine agreed to ask Kathryn Parlee if she could first. ***(Action to be taken: Christine will see if Kathryn will present ESIP’s poster. If not, Heather will perhaps. If either is the case, ESIP will need to submit an abstract by April 1).***

**4. BoFEP Health of the Bay Meeting**

Christine updated the Steering Committee on progress towards BoFEP’s meeting to discuss establishing a health index for the Bay of Fundy (April 3). Jawed Hameedi was curious about the project and wondered if a webpage has been set up (one has not). Christine and Heather both stated that the project is in the early stages. Christine mentioned that she is hoping that young scientists are going to be invited to the meeting. ***(Action to be taken: If you know of young scientists that could be invited please forward their names to Christine at this time).***

**5. LinkedIn Group Page**

Several months ago the Steering Committee discussed the idea of ESIP hosting a LinkedIn group page. Jim Cradock has set up a group page for ESIP and we need to determine what we want to accomplish with the group page. Individuals discussed the possible uses of such a page. Jim Latimer stated that it could be used as a listserve to connect various ESIP members. Abe Miller-Rushing stated that LinkedIn groups can be used to find and make connections within ESIP’s network.

**6. Upcoming ESIP Meetings**

* March 18: Georges River Tidewater Association
* March 19: Maine Water Conference
* April 3: BoFEP Health of the Bay Meeting
* April 11: NEERS

**7. March Steering Committee Call**

The March Steering Committee call date does not work for several individuals and will be rescheduled. A Doodle poll will go out this week with alternative dates.