**Steering Committee Conference Call: February 25, 2014**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Adria Elskus (UMaine and USGS), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (EC), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. Contaminants Fact Sheet**

Christine Tilburg updated the Steering Committee on the Contaminants Fact Sheet due to be released around March 31. She stated that she feels that the extra time with the fact sheet, as the Gulfwatch dataset was reviewed, has allowed the subcommittee to improve greatly on the document. The fact sheet will be delivered to the Steering Committee for final design review on March 10. Heather Breeze commented that the Working Group will likely be discussing Outreach Committee protocols at the upcoming meeting. Heather suggested that Christine connect with Sophia Foley. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to connect with Working Group chair with respect to confusion on the Outreach Committee protocol.)***

**2. Coastal Development Fact Sheet**

The Coastal Development subcommittee is also currently working on their fact sheet. Christine stated that the first version of the fact sheet is currently being written. Christine also mentioned that Prassede Valle (Massachusetts CZM) has agreed to write a focus box for the document. After the call Christine and Matt Liebman discussed Matt writing Prassede’s section for continuity between the ESIP Fact Sheet and the State of the Gulf Report on watersheds. Matt agreed to write Prassede’s section and Christine connected with Prassede regarding the change.

**3. Interview Responses**

Christine provided an initial summary from the phone interviews she has been conducting from the end of January through the first week in March. Most of the individuals (73%) are not ESIP members. Although the interviews themselves were focused on the climate content of the ESIP webpages, speaking with “non-ESIPers” has revealed some very interesting things:

* In general, if they are not ESIP members they are not aware of ESIP’s products.
* Many of the people not part of ESIP have asked to go on the mailing list after the conversation.
* Individuals have various issues obtaining data but lack of organization between all of the data sources is a major problem.
* Some of the things people are looking for are not available from ESIP’s webpage or any other source: precipitation forecasting for local areas, pH values, subsurface temperature information.
* Easily the sources that are most used are federal (NOAA and EPA).

Kathryn Parlee requested that Christine pull out comments from the interviews that could be included with ESIP’s successes document. ***(Action to be taken: Update accomplishments document with phone interview information).***

**4. Twitter**

The group then discussed a suggestion from the phone interviews to have an ESIP Twitter account. Heather mentioned that there is already a GOMC Twitter account. The Steering Committee felt it was a good idea to put the ESIP information in with the larger GOMC traffic. Christine agreed to talk to Jim Cradock about this during her call with him later this week. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to discuss this with Jim C.)*** Appropriate things to announce on the Twitter account could include fact sheet releases and journal entries. Kathryn and Heather mentioned that GOMC is trying to write a communication protocol for social media.

**5. Tom Trott**

Christine also mentioned a request from Tom Trott (Suffolk University) to have a joint project between ESIP and his undergraduate ecology class. Steering Committee members on the call felt this would be good activity. Kathryn mentioned that this should also be included with ESIP’s successes. It was suggested that an ESIP Journal Entry discuss the interaction with Tom’s class. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to put a place holder in the journal schedule so that she can revisit this idea.)***

**6. Upcoming Water Monitoring in the US presentation**

Jawed Hameedi mentioned that he has been tasked with preparing a 15 minute presentation on water monitoring in the US. He wondered if Gulfwatch is still active. Christine and Heather stated that, to their knowledge, samples are being collected while the Gulfwatch Team looks for funds to analyze the samples and do other project related tasks. Jawed stated that he would bring ESIP up in the presentation. He requested that Christine provide a few slides for the talk. ***(Action to be taken: Christine will send some slides by the end of the week.)***

**7. Date for Annual ESIP Meeting: June 20th in Halifax.**