**Minutes of ESIP Call January 26, 2010**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (USGS and UMaine), Jim Latimer (EPA), Gary Lines (EC), Kathryn Parlee (EC), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), Charlie Strobel (EPA) and Marilyn ten Brink (EPA)

***0.5 hour has been added as in-kind for all participants.***

**1. Subcommittee Membership**

Christine Tilburg opened the conference call with a discussion of the current ESIP subcommittee members. She reminded the group that at the May 2008 Steering Committee in Boston there had been quite a bit of discussion on the topic of recruiting State and Provincial members to the subcommittees. Various Steering Committee members and Christine have been working on "growing" this group of individuals with some success. The table below notes the subcommittee membership composition.

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| **Subcommittee** | **Federal** | **State/Provincial** | **Nongovernmental** |
| **Aquatic Habitats/Extent** | EPA  Wells NERR  National Park Service | Maine Dep. of Marine Res.  Mass. Dept. of Env. Prot.  NS Dept. of Nat. Res. | URI  Mass. Aud.  Bigelow Lab |
| **Coastal Development** | CA Wildlife  DFO  EC  EPA  NOAA  Wells NERR | Govt. NB  Mass. CZM  Mass. DMR  Maine SPO  NS Department of Fisheries | Boston University  Town of Newbury Planning  CEF  Census of Marine Life  GOMC  Metropolitan Planning Area  UGA  UNE  UNH |
| **Contaminants** | DFO  EPA  NOAA  USGS | Mass. CZM  Mass. DMR | Bowdoin College  Buzzards Bay Marine Lab  Dalhousie  Acadia University  Marine Environ. Res. Institute  MWRA  UNH  UNE  U Maine  USM |
| **Climate Change** | US EPA  CA Wildlife  EC | Government NB  Maine Geologic Survey  NS Environment | Bates College  Bigelow Lab  COMPASS  Fish. and Sci. Research Soc.  Town of Bar Harbor  U Maine/Maine Sea Grant  UNE  UNH |
| **Eutrophication** | EC  EPA  USGS  Wells NERR | Mass. CZM  Maine DEP  NH DES  RI DEM\* | Acadia University  Clean Annapolis River Project  Friends of Casco Bay  Saquish Scientific  Trent University  URI  UNB |
| **Fisheries** | NOAA NMFS  DFO | Govt. PEI  Govt. NB  Maine DMR | St. Mary's University  UNE  MIT Sea Grant  MER Assessment Corp.  GMRI  U Maine  Fish. and Sci. Research Soc.  UNE |
| **Aquaculture** | DFO  NOAA | NB Dept. of Agr. and Aqua. | Maine Aqua. Assoc.  Saquish Scientific  U Maine  UNB  Maine Aqua. Inn. Center. |

\*Jim Latimer remarked that Chris Deacutis (a member of both the Aquatic Habitat and Eutrophication subcommittees) also works for the RI Department of Environmental Management.

**2. Subcommittee Timelines**

Christine also put together a table/timeline showing the progress of each subcommittee. Susan Russell-Robinson asked about the Coastal Development subcommittee. Christine stated that she's stalled there as she's waiting for GIS assistance. Marilyn ten Brink (chair of the subcommittee) stated that there are quite a few watershed projects going on in the various agencies and she's therefore taken a "slow" approach to the subcommittee and waiting until there seems to be good synergy between agencies towards using the same system of defining watersheds. Susan thought that this might be where ESIP could go to NROC (Northeast Regional Ocean Council) for assistance. Marilyn would like to see all the agencies using the same system of defining watersheds. Susan mentioned that the next NROC meeting should be in February. There will be an opportunity during the roundtable to discuss a coordinated effort at this time. Jim Latimer noted that the eutrophication subcommittee chose to utilize project-specific GIS coverages in order to expedite the completion of the fact-sheet and will revise them as cross-state, region, national, and international coverages become standardized. Susan also suggested that she and Marilyn draft a one-pager explaining ESIPs needs with respect to this subcommittee (e.g. % of counties in each watershed)

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| **Subcommittee** | **Late Winter 2010** | **Spring 2010** | **Summer 2010** | **Fall 2010** | **Early Winter 2010** | **Later Winter 2010 or beyond** |
| **Aquatic Habitats** | Finish eelgrass, start salt marsh | Finish salt marsh | Start tidal restrictions | Finish restrictions | Draft fact sheet | **Release fact sheet** |
| **Coastal Development** | Stalled at the moment - need GIS assistance |  |  |  |  | ? |
| **Contaminants** | Work through shellfish contamination | Work through shellfish | Finish shellfish, start Gulfwatch | Finish Gulfwatch | Start triad | ? |
| **Climate Change** | Finish air temperature | Draft fact sheet | **Release fact sheet** |  |  |  |
| **Eutrophication** | Finish loading and DO | Start Chlorophyll a | Finish Chlorophyll a, start turbidity | Finish turbidity | Draft fact sheet | **Release fact sheet** |
| **Fisheries** | Restarting process |  |  |  |  | ? |
| **Aquaculture** | Finish indicators | Draft fact sheet | **Release fact sheet** |  |  |  |

**3. ESIP Annual Meeting**

Susan asked Christine about the current plans for the ESIP Annual Meeting. Christine stated that the 20th Anniversary Council celebration still appears to be scheduled for June 7-8 in Portland, Maine. She'd like to suggest that ESIP hold our annual meeting on June 9th in Portland. The group agreed this date looks good. Susan asked if there are any ideas regarding meeting space. Christine suggested the Gulf of Maine Research Institute large conference room. Susan suggested that Christine reserve the space**. *(Action to be taken: Christine will reserve the GMRI Board Room for June 9 (all day)).***

**4. Funding**

Marilyn raised the question of ESIP funding. Susan stated that the funding that had been hoped for from Environment Canada for the early part of the year is not going to arrive. Currently Christine is working on CBEP (Casco Bay Estuary Partnership) funds/deliverables for January and February. There is a hole in the funding in March to cover a portion that a NB Grant does not cover for which funding needs to be located. EC funds would then come into play for April-May. There have also been some discussions underway regarding funding Christine through work for the State of the Environment Report (DFO). Marilyn mentioned that she had sent Diane and Christine an EPA RFP. The due date for a Letter of Intent is February 12. Marilyn mentioned that ESIP's interagency linkages would be a positive aspect for the proposal. Susan commented that this type of grant opportunity is exactly what we need to be looking for.

There was some discussion regarding the current effort to get the Gulf of Maine listed as a "Great Water" (angle: keep Gulf of Maine waters from being impaired) and agency priority, which would get the Gulf of Maine in position to get Congressional funding. Susan mentioned that Peter Alexander has been working on this topic. Marilyn wondered if Peter had connected with the tribes on this effort. Susan didn't think so but thought it was a good suggestion.

**Next Call: February 23 at 10:00 AM ET**