**Steering Committee Conference Call: January 27, 2011**

**Participants**

Jennifer Hackett (DFO), David Keeley (GOMC), Jim Latimer (EPA), Carolyne Marshall (EC), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), and Marilyn ten Brink (EPA).

**1. Targeted release: Climate Change Fact Sheet**

The climate change fact sheet text was delivered to the designer (Peggy Issenman) on 1/10/11. Christine sent out the document for review on January 27, 2011 and asked that comments are returned by next week. Susan Russell-Robinson commented that she has been made aware of the protocol that should be followed for review at the GOMC level. She agreed to send the link to Christine. Christine stated that she would like to build a list of groups that should receive the fact sheet. Susan stated that the release needs to occur at a National level also. The following groups were suggested during this or previous calls: ACZISC newsletter, NEERS, Climate Change Network list, ACCESS, NERACOOS, BoFEP, Long Island Sound (Latimer), NEPs (Marilyn), NERRs (Marilyn), CERF (Latimer), Coastal States Organizations (Ted Diers is the current active president), US National Global Change Program (Susan), and California Global Change Program (Marilyn).

**2. Aquaculture Fact Sheet review: Synopsis**

The Aquaculture Fact Sheet was the first ESIP fact sheet to follow the review process as determined by the Steering Committee. The entire process was documented and distributed with the agenda.

**3. SETAC Session Proposal**

David Page suggested during a Contaminants Subcommittee call that ESIP submit a proposal for a session at the upcoming National SETAC meeting (Boston, November 2011). Jawed Hameedi agreed to co-chair the session with Christine and a proposal is being submitted by February 1. The proposal draft was attached with the agenda. Jim Latimer requested that the session proposal be resent to him. Christine did following the call.

**4. Webpage changes: Update**

Jim Cradock and Christine have put in time and effort doing a minor overhaul of the ESIP webpage. Christine is pleased with the results and excited about securing funds to make more modifications. Susan commented that she likes the fact that you can see the major components of ESIP at a glance. Jennifer Hackett stated that she too likes the new ESIP webpage and would like to see some of ESIP's components applied to the Council webpage.

**5. Annual Meeting?**

Christine reminded the group that discussions of the annual face-to-face meeting normally begin at this time of year. Susan thought that it might be a good idea to tie in with the June Bar Harbor Working Group and Council meeting. There was some discussion of when that meeting might be. Members on the call also stated that June might be tricky due to personal obligations. Christine agreed to ask Michele Tremblay what the potential dates are. Once she has those she'll query the group to determine if an ESIP meeting would be better prior to or following the meeting. ***(Action to be taken: Christine will try to determine what the timing of the WG/Council meeting is for June).*** Susan commented that she thought a full day would be beneficial - particularly if it consisted of an afternoon meeting and then a morning meeting the next day.

**6. Great Water Initiative**

Jim asked for an update on the effort to get the Gulf of Maine designated a Great Water. Christine thought that Peter Alexander had been heading up the process. David Keeley stated that the effort has two pieces: needs assessment and advocacy piece and he was fairly certain that the Gulf of Maine has been listed as a Great Water. Jim stated that he had been thinking of the EPA designation because it is often associated with funding. Marilyn thought that large marine systems (including the "Great Waters") have congressional funding components. David thought that it didn't involve additional external funding. He stated that a letter had been sent to Lisa Jackson's predecessor and a positive response was not received. Marilyn suggested that he try again as the climate has changed.

**7. Funding and ESIP 2.0**

The remainder of the call was spent discussion ESIP's 18 month and beyond plan. The comments from the discussion will be brought into the current draft of the plan and mailed out within a week. The Steering Committee will then have 1 week to provide revisions.

**Next Conference Call: February 22 10:00 AM ET**