**Steering Committee Conference Call: January 22, 2013**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Adria Elskus (USGS, U Maine), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (EC), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. Annual Meeting Date**

Christine Tilburg updated everyone on the status of the annual meeting. The date is confirmed for June 10, 2013 in Boston, Massachusetts. The ESIP meeting will occur before the Gulf of Maine Council’s Working Group and Council meetings. Directly following the Steering Committee call Christine sent a message to the Mariner’s House inquiring about the conference room.

**2. New Office of Research and Development Proposal**

Jim Latimer updated the group on a proposal in to ORD through the safe and sustainable water research track. His proposal utilizes ESIP’s effort to basically link together watersheds and downstream components through comparative ecology. He also hopes to look into individual systems in more detail. The benefit to ESIP is that there could potentially be student help or technical, in-kind assistance. Jim will be asking the Steering Committee to provide comments on the proposal as it moves forward. Matt Liebman wondered about the geographic area and Jim stated that for now the area is from Long Island Sound through the Gulf of Maine. Adria Elskus stated that she likes the idea of the project.

**3. ESIP Changes and Additions**

Susan Russell-Robinson updated everyone on changes to the Steering Committee. After seven years of being the US co-chair she is handing that responsibility over to Jim Latimer and will serve as a mentor until December 2013. Abe Miller-Rushing will be participating in the Steering Committee as the DOI representative. Susan also mentioned that some funds were found to hire a contractor to assist Christine with some of the ESIP 2.0 effort. Part of the work would be to look at the original long list of indicators compiled by the various subcommittees and see if information is now available for some that were previously unavailable.

**4. Suggestions for BoFEP Meeting**

Christine is participating in a Steering Committee to develop a health index for the Bay of Fundy. The project is headed by the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP). BoFEP is holding a meeting in March or April in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. They are asking for suggestions of people to invite who have experience working with ecological indices or “health” ratings. Christine asked the Steering Committee if they had any suggestions of individuals that might be appropriate to invite. Jim suggested John Kiddon and Steve Hale from ORD. Matt suggested Paul Stacey (GB NERR) and Jeremy Miller (Wells NERR). Adria wondered about Curtis Bohlen. She also stated that there were actually quite a few abstracts submitted for the Maine Waters Conference panel focused on indicators. She’ll look through those and get back to Christine. It was suggested that Christine write a short request and send it out to the ESIP subcommittees asking if anyone would like to participate in the BoFEP effort ***(Action to be taken: run paragraph by Steering Committee 1/23-1/24 and then send to ESIP subcommittees on 1/25).***

**6. Community of Practice**

Christine updated the group also on an interview she participated in an interview with Alison Rogers regarding issues the group trying to get the “Community of Practice” launched has encountered. Christine let the Steering Committee know that she stated that for the most part people in the GOM region already have their communities of practice: ESIP, the NEERS lists, etc. Jim also was interviewed and stated that the technology relied on users to go to it (go to the webpage) instead of coming to the users (e-mail lists). Susan also stated that they tried to kick it off using questions that weren’t very engaging or interesting to their potential users.

**8. Upcoming Meetings**

ESIP will be presenting at several meetings coming up:

* Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS): February, poster
* Maine Waters Conference: March 19, Christine on panel
* Georges Tidewater River Association, March 18, Christine as invited speaker
* NEERS, April, Christine is thinking of presenting a poster (it was mentioned during the call that the first day will include a symposium honoring Michele Dionne).