**Steering Committee Conference Call: July 24, 2012**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Adria Elskus (USGS/U Maine), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. Gulf of Maine Times & ESIP**

Christine Tilburg opened the discussion noting that the Gulf of Maine Times is moving to an electronic-form only (confirmed by Susan Russell-Robinson) and there has been interest in linking ESIP's journal entries to the Times. Christine stated that the entry formats and content would remain the same. There was also some discussion of the proposed schedule for entries and Christine agreed to forward the schedule to the Steering Committee.

**2. EPA Summer Intern**

Mel Cote (EPA) has again arranged for ESIP to use an ORISE fellow for some work this through May 2013. The fellow, Alison Rogers, is a Mt. Holyoke graduate and will be doing some work involved with the Contaminants subcommittee's sediment indicator. Christine had a conference call with Mel and Alison on July 19 to start her on a data discovery effort involving the NEP sediment index. Christine suggested that Alison do background research and be present for the next Contaminants call (expected in August). The Steering Committee was glad that EPA is providing this assistance once again.

**3. Face to face/phone interviews**

ESIP has been asked to conduct face to face and/or phone interviews in an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of ESIP and possible use for the indicators. Christine has drafted up some questions for the interviews and started a list of potential groups/individuals to connect with. That document was included with the July agenda. The group suggested that the questions as presented in the drafted document be rearranged so that the general questions (such as "Do you find the individuals you work with place a high value on scientific data?") are at the beginning of the interview and ESIP specific questions are at the end. Adria Elskus suggested that Christine consider the questions as just guidelines for interviewers to use, freeing them to pursue other lines of inquiry that may come up during the interview. She also suggested a question be included about what might be missing from the ESIP site that the interviewee would like to see.

The group also added some individuals/organizations to the group of proposed interviewees. Susan suggested RARGOM. Jim Latimer suggested that the State water programs be included (Matt Liebman agreed to get these names from Christine). The group also suggested that Christine interview both ESIP members and non-ESIP members in each organization.

The group agreed that the interviews would be better in September. Adria noted that she would be interested in knowing if USGS people were familiar with ESIP. ***(Action to be taken: Christine will revise the questions and interviewee list for final approval during the August Steering Committee call).***

**4. Journal article action items**

Christine requested some clarification on action items from the June Steering Committee call. The group discussed taking the ESIP journal to additional audiences. It was suggested that Christine think of the types of newsletters or journals that managers and planners would read. The intention is to send little ESIP blurbs to these organizations as news. Examples of potential audiences could include associations of coastal town planners, coastal resorts, etc). ***(Action to be taken: Christine will look into appropriate newsletters and/or journals).***

In addition, Christine would like to confirm that the Steering Committee wants to put a larger article together for Environmental Monitoring Assessment journal. The Community White Paper written for the IOOC Summit might be a good starting point ***(Action to be taken: This topic will be revisited in September or October).***

**5. Funding discussion**

May's conference call included a reminder to discuss three funding opportunities on a future call. The group agreed that of the three the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation seemed most likely for ESIP (http://www.sloan.org/apply). Susan mentioned that if the Steering Committee wants to move forward she would be more comfortable with the group doing all of the background work and only notifying GOMC of the proposal during the final stages.

The group discussed using the ESIP application ("app") as the starting point for the proposal. This app would allow users in the Gulf of Maine watershed to do two things:

1. Locate known monitoring close to their location

2. Input images from the location to a database for others to access.

The group thought this would be a great proposal to move forward. Adria suggested that sites could be possibly selected as benchmark sites (but not limiting the user to ONLY benchmark sites) where users could take images. Susan envisioned families visiting the same locations yearly and inputing images. Jim mentioned that over time this could allow for evaluation. Christine stated that she would like to use Steve Perrin's examples of taking images at Acadia after large storms in the proposal (she has permission from Steve, a Climate Change Subcommittee member).

The group agreed to have a 1/2 hour brainstorming call several weeks before the next scheduled call. ***(Action to be taken: Christine will set up a funding call for the first or second week in August).***