**Steering Committee Conference Call: July 23, 2013**

**Participants**

Jim Latimer (EPA), Abe Miller-Rushing (NPS), Kathryn Parlee (EC), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. ESIP Presentations**

Christine Tilburg led a discussion of the Excel file she produced showing ESIP presentations from 2008 up to present time along with a few known presentations into 2014. She asked the Steering Committee if there were meetings she had forgotten that need to be filled in. She pointed out that there were meetings included with presenters other than herself. Marilyn ten Brink mentioned that two Coastal Zone (US) presentations need to be added. Susan Russell-Robinson stated that the June 2014 Coastal Zone Canada needs to be added. Christine noticed she had forgotten to add the date for an ACCESS meeting she had attended. *(Action to be taken: These revisions need to be made).* It was suggested that a column be added to the table describing the type of individuals that attend the meeting. It was also suggested that another table be produced with meetings that ESIP participates in that do not include presentations (examples could include NERACOOS, BoFEP Health Workshop, etc. *(Action to be taken: This table needs to be made).* Abe Miller-Rushing made some suggestions regarding getting feedback at presentations including using evaluation index cards at posters. *(Action to be taken: Christine needs to think about how to get evaluations at poster sessions).*

Susan then updated the group on current plans for the Gulf of Maine Session at CZC14. She mentioned there would be a ½ day session with a focus on habitat restoration, ecosystem health and climate change. There would them be a closing panel of dignitaries hopefully with a median panel leading in charge. Questions would be preselected for at least part of that session. The group thought the plan sounded interesting and made suggestions for individuals and ideas for the session.

Steering Committee members also discussed other meetings that might be of interest to ESIP. Susan mentioned the Association of Science-Technology Centers annual conference as a potential place to gain feedback for discussing how to connect visitors to complex science. It would be a big expense so the presentation would need to be well thought out.

**2. Update of Contaminants and Coastal Development Fact Sheets**

Christine updated the group on progress with the Contaminants fact sheet. She almost has all of the Gulfwatch data in hand (only missing 2009 Sum DDT information) and has most of the dataset delivered to MWRA for GIS analysis. Next week the Contaminants Subcommittee has a call scheduled. She will work with that group for a month before connecting with Kathryn Parlee to start a new contract with the designer.

The Coastal Development Subcommittee will meet in September to outline their fact sheet! This means that likely by December/January six of the seven ESIP fact sheets will be in print! Big news!

**3. ESIP Accomplishments**

Members then discussed the document that Christine produced of ESIP accomplishments. It was suggested that Christine add the following: ESIP/BoFEP mini-webtool workshop, the EPA/ORD project (J. Latimer to send official name), workshop dates, Boards or meetings that ESIP has been invited to participate in (examples: BoFEP health meeting, Sentinel Monitoring Meeting, CCN), downloads of fact sheets and ESIP web history (by years). *(Action to be taken: These revisions need to be made).* The group felt strongly that the webhits need to be included as they are ways of measuring ESIP’s growth over time. Christine already keeps track of these statistics and will include them with this document.

**4. Next Month: Revisit Indicator Criteria**

Christine mentioned that the last item on the agenda is just a note to get Steering Committee members thinking about a larger item that will be discussed during the August conference call. She reminded the group that during the June meeting they agreed to revisit the original indicator criteria before ESIP’s subcommittees revisit the indicators that were set aside for the priority indicators. The original criteria are listed below.

* Is the indicator scientifically valid?
* Is it responsive to change?
* Does a cause and effect link exist?
* Are there accurate data available?
* Is the indicator relevant to users?
* Is it comparable regionally?
* Is it useful at different scales?
* Is it comparable to targets, thresholds, or standards in the states and provinces?
* Does it indicate a condition?

During the call Christine remembered that there were two additional criteria that the Steering Committee wanted to add. She had her meetings confused. These were criteria discussed at a different June meeting (the Sentinel Monitoring meeting) but, for discussion, these were:

* Is there a well established time series?
* How friendly is it to a nonscientist?

**4. Miscellaneous**

Abe wondered if anyone had heard of the University of Maine’s EPSCOR effort with respect to aquaculture. No one on the call had. Abe mentioned the importance of connecting ESIP’s aquaculture effort to individuals working on the project. Christine and Abe agreed to connect on this topic. *(Action to be taken: Christine and Abe need to connect on this topic and the Monitoring Map update with respect to Acadia monitoring).*