**Steering Committee Conference Call: July 31, 2014**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (USGS, UMaine), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. Coastal Zone Canada**

Christine Tilburg opened the call with an update from ESIP’s presentations at Coastal Zone Canada. ESIP presented orally in two sessions, presented in one poster session, and chaired a coastal ecology session. Audience questions centered on users for the indicators as a whole and specific questions regarding the Indicator Reporting Tool. Additionally 515 hard copies of ESIP’s materials were distributed during the meeting. Christine also picked up our new bookmarks. If you would like a stack of ESIP bookmarks please let Christine know.

**2. Geocache**

The first two pictures from visits to GOMC Geocaches that ESIP selected for images have been submitted! The first one was for a visit to the Scarborough Marsh. The second one was from Wolf’s Neck State Park. Very exciting! Christine explained how geocachers are collecting points towards the geocoins. The Council’s geocache website describes what is necessary for each site. In general the visitor is asked to answer a question that users must be physically at the geocache site to answer. An example is the question for Grand Pré, Nova Scotia: “What artist’s painting depicts the collaborative building of dykes at Grand Pré during the Acadian Period? (Hint: read the interpretive panel.” You can get more information on the sites and process through the geocache webpage: http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/geocache/. Adria Elskus suggested that a tab be made available on the ESIP webpage which will show pictures that people have collected. Christine liked that idea and wondered if that could be made available along with a journal entry in the fall focused on the geocaches ***(Action to be taken: revisit this idea in September or October).***

**3. Video**

Christine reviewed the status of the introductory video for ESIP that is being produced by Regan Alsop. A draft version of the audio has been reviewed by Kathryn Parlee, Jim Latimer, and Susan Russell-Robinson. The next version (including visual) is expected for review in the beginning of August. The first video is more general information about ESIP. Two follow-up videos (as funds allow) will focus on the Monitoring Map (1 minute) and the Indicator Reporting Tool (1 minute). Adria suggested that the Monitoring Map video come out soon but the Indicator Reporting Tool video be held until after revisions.

**4. Newsletter**

Individuals on the call also discussed the first annual ESIP newsletter. The newsletter is in final draft and Christine hopes to make it available on the ESIP webpage on August 1. A message will then be sent out to the ESIP lists. Matt Liebman wondered who the audience is for the newsletter. Christine stated that the audience is the ESIP community – not the general public.

**5. Ocean Health Index**

Jawed Hameedi wondered if the ad hoc committee discussing ESIP 2.0 has looked at the Ocean Health Index. He stated that the OHI is receiving a lot of attention and people are interested in using the index for various areas. Christine stated that she was aware of the OHI as she was part of a group trying to use the index for New Brunswick (FYI, two other ESIP Steering Committee members participated in that effort too: Heather Breeze and Peter Wells). She stated that the New Brunswick group struggled to put the information together. In addition, it appears that groups trying to use the index are modifying the index for their own areas (example: Puget Sound). Jawed thought there was also another index that might be helpful ***(Action to be taken: Jawed will send the link to Christine). (Action to be taken: Put Jawed on the committee mailing list so that he is aware of activity).***

**6. August – December 2014 dates**

It is time to set the remainder of Steering Committee calls for 2014. Please let Christine know if any of the following dates do not work for you:

* August 19 at 10:00 AM ET
* September 23 at 10:00 AM ET
* October 21 at 10:00 AM ET
* November 25 at 10:00 AM ET
* December 16 at 10:00 AM ET