**Steering Committee Conference Call: July 19, 2016**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (USGS), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (ECCC), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. Show and Tell: Matt Liebman**

Matt Liebman opened the call with a mini-discussion of his work on the State of the Gulf Report’s Watershed theme paper. Matt worked on the theme paper with Glen Benoy (ECCC), Eric Luiker (GNB), and Greg Hellyer (EPA). He took the individuals on the call through a brief discussion of the DPSIR model and various state and impacts that are important for the theme paper. The group discussed the watersheds and HUCs use for the theme paper. Matt pointed out that the HUC organization works well for watersheds but is complicated at the coastal zone. Marilyn ten Brink agreed stating that the HUCs work well for riverine watersheds.

The group discussed several indicators in greater detail including fish passage as Matt believes that is an important story in the theme paper. The group discussed the status and trends for the indicators used in the theme paper. Jawed Hameedi also opened a discussion regarding the appropriate terminology when discussing nutrient yields and loading.

Adria Elskus volunteered for the September “Show and Tell” and will discuss some of the interesing work with diadromas fish she is leading. ***(Action to be taken: Add Adria to the Show and Tell schedule for September).***

**2. Fisheries Fact Sheet**

Christine Tilburg updated the Steering Committee on progress with the Fisheries Fact Sheet. The subcommittee is currently working on the designed version of the fact sheet. Heather Breeze conducted a thorough review and improved upon the text. The Steering Committee will have the opportunity to review the designed version around August 8. Christine hopes to release the fact sheet September 1.

**3. ECCC Funds**

Christine updated the Steering Committee members with respect to a proposal that was funded through Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The project is titled “Modeling multiple stressors and environmental pressures in the Bay of Fundy.” Funds will be split between ESIP and Eastern Charlotte Waterways. Steering Committee members discussed the concern that ESIP will no longer have USGS funds as Susan Russell-Robinson has retired. Jim Latimer stated that it is critical to find another source of funding as there are gaps in funding the Program Manager. Marilyn suggested approaching a large non-profit. Jim stated that the Gulf of Maine Council tried previously with little success. However, if people have specific individuals as contacts perhaps ESIP can connect with them more successfully.

**4. Annual Newsletter**

Christine reminded the group that ESIP has traditionally released an annual newsletter (Gulf Pulse) during the summer. A copy of the non-designed text was sent to the Steering Committee. Comments are due back July 25.

**5. ESIP 2.0: Schedule**

The group then discussed a best way forward for the ESIP 2.0 pilot study. During the annual meeting the group decided to use ecosystem services in connection with one of the two themes presented at the June Gulf of Maine Council meeting (copied below):

* Coastal Resiliency / Vulnerability of Coastal Infrastructure to Extreme Weather Events (drivers include rain and temperature)
* Links between Changing Climate, Ocean and Ecosystem Health, and Sustainability of Coastal Resources such as Sustainable Fisheries, Migratory Birds, and Wetlands

Jim pointed out that there are pluses and minuses with each topic. It was suggested that Steering Committee members spend some time thinking about the two topics so that a thorough conversation about the pilot project could be part of the Steering Committee August call. Christine stated that she would like to dedicate the entire August call to this topic. Christine suggested that when she sends the brief reminder message a week before the next call she’ll include a request for these pros and cons to jump start the discussion. ***(Action to be taken: Include a note about pros and cons with reminder notice for August call).***