**Steering Committee Conference Call: March 28, 2011**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (UMaine/USGS), Diane Gould (US EPA), David Keeley (GOMC), Jim Latimer (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (EC), and Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS).

**1. 18 Month Work Plan**

David Keeley opened the conference call with a discussion of the table he sent out to the Steering Committee asking for ideas and/or assistance with the ESIP 2.0 tasks. He thanked Adria Elskus, Diane Gould, and Jim Latimer for their comments. He stated that he would be setting up calls in the next thirty days to move forward with the process.

**2. Update: ESIP-NERACOOS workshop**

Christine Tilburg updated the group on the ESIP-NERACOOS workshop. She stated that Chris Reddy is the confirmed opening speaker with a discussion of communicating science. Adria Elskus stated that it should be a good talk. Christine stated that there are approximately 12 confirmed participants. She asked if there are suggestions for further individuals to attend. Susan Russell-Robinson suggested that Jack Schwartz might be able to attend *(Action taken: an invitation was sent to Jack on March 28).* Christine wondered if it would be appropriate to invite Working Group members. The group thought that would be a good idea. *(Action taken: Christine sent invitations to the US Working Group members. Canadian members could be invited to the workshop planned for the BoFEP meeting).*

**3. Update: Presentations**

Christine provided information on how the Fishermen and Scientist Research Society meeting went March 24-25 in Truro. She stated that there was a lot of lively discussion and the audience was very confrontational with other participants. Kathryn Parlee stated that she thought some of this might have been due to the dynamic between DFO and fisheries individuals. Christine agreed that this appeared to be the case. She also stated that individuals at the meeting were not convinced of the usefulness of indicators in general or specific ESIP indicators (two discussed at the meeting as "not appropriate indicators" were extent of eelgrass and climate change). Christine felt that a lot of feedback on the specific fisheries indicators was very helpful and should provide guidance to the Fisheries Subcommittee.

**4. Update: Canadian Impervious Surface**

Christine updated the Steering Committee members on the Herculean effort that Lee Sochasky and Darren Llewellyn (New Brunswick Community College) have put into developing an impervious surface layer for the St. Croix watershed. Christine also stated that she's received inquiries from Nova Scotia regarding doing similar work. Susan stated that the project has been a huge success story.

**5. Building Annual Meeting Agenda**

Christine asked the members on the phone if there are agenda items they would like to see for the June meeting. The following items were discussed:

* Status of the Tier 1 data including discussion of data (SR2 request).
* Need for continuity between different fact sheets (AE request)
* Example: Similarity in figures
* Demonstration/Discussion of DVD being developed to walk users through ESIP's webtools and webpage
* Brainstorm topics/individuals for ESIP Journals (SR2 request)
* Communication campaign strategies for:
* Premiers/Governors
* State agencies at the user level

**Next Conference Call: April 26 10:00 AM ET**