**Steering Committee Conference Call: March 27, 2013**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (USGS/U Maine), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Abe Miller-Rushing DOI), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. Contaminants Fact Sheet – Schedule and Review**

Christine updated the Steering Committee on the status of the Contaminants Fact Sheet. The fact sheet had previously been scheduled to go to print on March 25. However, on Friday March 22 Adria Elskus (US Chair of the Contaminants Subcommittee) and Christine became aware of issues with some of the data in the Gulfwatch dataset that had been used for one of the indicators. The data ESIP had been using did not match data that New Hampshire has (and should be identical). Adria and Christine agreed that the fact sheet could not move forward until they are confident of the data and are waiting to have a QA’d copy of the dataset in hand. Marilyn ten Brink suggested that Christine make a formal request for a QA/QC’d copy of the dataset. Christine agreed to make this request of the program head ***(Action to be taken: Christine will make this request of Steve Jones and will cc Adria and Peter Wells, chairs of the Contaminants Subcommittee).***

Matt Liebman wondered if funds would be available for the design work and printing once the indicator analysis is completed. Christine stated that she does not know the answer to that. In speaking with Kathryn Parlee, EC is going to modify the contract with the designer so that she is paid in full for the contract without printing due to the designer’s effort far above previous requests with ESIP’s fact sheets (many more revisions than previous fact sheets have needed). Kathryn won’t know the status of future funds until the new fiscal year begins (April 1).

**2. Feedback from Georges River Tidewater Association and Maine Water Conference**

Christine next provided feedback from the presentations given to the Georges River Tidewater Association (March 18) and Maine Water Conference (March 19) meetings. The GRTA meeting went very well and the audience was particularly interested in the potential for “you see/I see” app. The liked the idea of using the app to mark habitat expansion and species appearances. They also enjoyed seeing the GRTA data within the Indicator Reporting Tool. The MWC was more structured. Adria also spoke of the presentations at the MWC. Christine mentioned that all the MWC presentations are being uploaded online for anyone that wasn’t able to attend due to weather or travel restrictions. The conference webpage is at: http://umaine.edu/mitchellcenter/maine-water-institute/maine-water-conference-2/2013-2/.

**3. ESIP and BoFEP Newsletter**

Christine also mentioned that an ESIP article was included in the latest BoFEP newsletter. You can see the article at:

http://www.bofep.org/newsletter/FT\_2013\_spring.htm

**4. BoFEP Health of the Bay Meeting**

The BoFEP Health of the Bay Meeting is scheduled for the first week of April in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. Both Christine and Heather Breeze (DFO & ESIP Steering Committee member) will be attending. At this time Christine does not know the participant list but expects to report out at the next Steering Committee call.

**5. Funding Questions**

GOMC has hired a new fund developer who is working with the two ESIP co-chairs (Kathryn and Jim). A short list has been brainstormed for potential ESIP funding ideas:

* “You see/I see app”
* Indicator Reporting Tool training sessions
* Capacity building for data gaps
* ESIP workshops for ESIP 2.0
* Redesign for Indicator Reporting Tool.

At the present time the fund developer is asking that the co-chairs have a call with her to discuss several questions and Kathryn and Jim would like the Steering Committee’s input on these questions. The Steering Committee agreed to answer the following questions in e-mail and return them to Christine **by 12 noon on April 1.** In addition, Matt Liebman suggested that the group think about framing the answers to these questions with an eye towards pushing ESIP’s influence to a more external sphere. Much of ESIP’s influence to date has been internally (in the ESIP & GOMC community).

**What aspects of the ESIP to date do you see as the greatest success?  What partnerships or organizations helped make it successful?  Who uses it and would be most affected if it were interrupted or scaled back?  What aspects might have been done better or differently?**

**What do you see as the most important aspect that you would want to carry forward through the Council, specifically, in the future?  Should it be continued in its current form, or are there crucial areas to expand?  I'm especially interested in any changes that might add to its usefulness in appealing to advocates, foundations, or even interest communities such as fishing, hunting, tourism, etc.**

**What could you envision as benefits to different audiences, such as local government, business, tourism, advocacy groups, interest groups (hunters, fisherpersons, etc)?  Think broadly!  Are there opportunities for engagement that you could envision beyond the 'usual' audience?**