**Steering Committee Conference Call: March 25, 2014**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Adria Elskus (UMaine and USGS), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Abe Miller-Rushing (NPS), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. Contaminants Fact Sheet**

Christine updated the Steering Committee on final revisions to the fact sheet. She thinks that the fact sheet will be released the first or second week of April. Announcements will go out through ACZISC and the Gulf of Maine Council’s Twitter and Facebook pages. Matt Liebman commented that many revisions went into the fact sheet. Christine stated that she really thinks the new fact sheet is great.

**2. General Fact Sheet and Poster**

The same designer working on the Contaminants Fact Sheet has also been working on the general ESIP fact sheet and poster for use at Coastal Zone Canada (http://www.czca-azcc.org/czc-zcc2014/home.htm). Jim Latimer stated that he is happy information on the EPA/ORD effort to link watershed attributes and impacts on associated estuaries could be included. Among other things this will allow Jim to get permission for travel. Christine stated that she will send out a PDF of the poster with the notes from this call. ***(Action to be taken: Poster will be sent out with conference call notes).***

**3. Fisheries Subcommittee Work**

Christine then asked the Steering Committee for assistance with the Fisheries Subcommittee work. She mentioned that there is no chair for the subcommittee and it is moving very slowly. The subcommittee has chosen four indicators: ocean jobs, dominant species metric, diversity by subregion, and population of species by subregion. Christine has completed analysis for the first two (ocean jobs and dominant species metric) but the two remaining have not been completed by ESIP. However, the two remaining (diversity by subregion and population of species) have been analyzed by other larger projects (ex: Census of Marine Life, Gulf of Maine Region). She would like to know how the Steering Committee feels about providing the analysis for the first two indicators in the fact sheet along with a literature review of the last two indicators. The Steering Committee felt this would be fine.

**4. Susan Snow Cotter Award**

Christine then mentioned that she sent out a document nominating Susan Russell-Robinson for the Susan Snow Cotter Award given by the Gulf of Maine Council. She requested that comments/additions to the text are sent back to her by this Thursday (March 27). She will bring together everyone’s comments and send it forward to Kathryn Parlee for submission before March 31.

**5. Online Collaboration Tool**

The group then discussed the new online collaboration tool that has been created to replace the old version in Plone. The Plone version had become too out of date and was not keeping up with ESIP’s needs. The new online collaboration tool looks like the main ESIP pages and will be used to store all of the meeting summaries and documents uploaded for the ESIP subcommittees. Jim Latimer asked if the new pages will be password protected. Christine said that they aren’t. Previously the passwords were required if anyone wanted to maek comments on documents in Plone.

**6. Directional Committee**

Christine is ready to send out the invitation to the individuals proposed for the “directional committee”. She feels uncomfortable sending the invitations out without knowing who the chair will be for this committee. She feels it should be someone from the Steering Committee as it is important that the chair is familiar with ESIP’s other activities. She suggested that a list of the individuals be sent out to the Steering Committee and a suggestion for chair can be nominated.

**7. ICUC/Geocaching**

As part of the Gulf of Maine Council’s 25th anniversary a series of geocaching sites will be selected in the States and Provinces to get people out exploring the region. Susan Russell-Robinson suggested that ESIP participate and make one of the geocaching sites a test for the ICUC app. ESIP could use a geocaching site at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge site (or other location) and have people take pictures from a specific viewpoint and submit to ESIP. The pictures could be used to see if the project works and as proposal materials. Heather Breeze mentioned that Christine should connect with Dan Earle about sites under discussion for the 25th anniversary. ***(Action to be taken: Christine will connect with Dan).***

The group then discussed various types of “caching” that might work.

* **Geocaching:** http://www.geocaching.com/: According to the cool video, you navigate using GPS or smartphone directions to locate a cache that might be easy, or might be difficult to find. Once at the site you sign the logbook and possibly trade knickknacks (rules for each geocache are available within the search tool).
* **Earthcaching:** http://www.geosociety.org/earthcache/intro.htm: Earthcaching also uses GPS to locate sites but they are VIRTUAL. Although users find the location, there is no “box” or “container” with a logbook. Cache activities involve some lesson on how that place formed, about why that place is important scientifically or what that site can tell us about our planet.
* **Letterboxing:** http://www.letterboxing.org/: Letterboxing also involves navigational skills to locate small boxes in public spaces. Each box has a logbook that the “finder” stamps with their personal stamp.