**Steering Committee Conference Call: March 24, 2015**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (USGS, UMaine), Matt Liebman (EPA), Abe Miller-Rushing (DOI), Kathryn Parlee (EC), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. ICUC**

Christine updated individuals on the call regarding progress on the ICUC smartphone app. She mentioned that a RFP is being drafted for release mid-April. She has already received emails from at least one company that would like to submit a proposal.

**2. Coastal Development Fact Sheet**

Christine mentioned that the Coastal Development Fact Sheet is almost ready for release. She is in the process of checking through all of the datasets in the Indicator Reporting Tool. Once that is completed she will release the fact sheet to the ESIP community and have it available on the “Fact Sheets” tab.

**3. Pilot Story**

The group then discussed one of the deliverables on Christine’s contract. The deliverable includes drafting watershed “stories” (or “windows on a watershed” or “watershed portrait”…trying to find a better name) that can be accessed on the ESIP webpage. Christine stated that she could see this link on the slideshow of Provinces and States that is the top of the ESIP webpage. She is hoping that several stories can be drafted and the button announced in the summer ESIP newsletter. In addition this might be a great thing for ESIP to include during a presentation to the Working Group in June. The group also discussed having others author the stories. Christine thought that might be difficult. Abe Miller-Rushing wondered if it would be useful for ESIP to write the story and then send it to a local individual (ex: one of the citizen science groups) to get their inputs (or even quotes). Christine liked that idea.

**4. Meetings**

Christine mentioned that the ESIP abstract was accepted for an oral presentation in NEERS meeting in April. Adria Elskus wondered if the Steering Committee would get a copy. Christine stated that the Steering Committee will get to review the presentation prior to the meeting. Matt Liebman stated that he has also recently presented ESIP information at the New England Association of Environmental Biologists conference last week. Christine suggested that the poster and oral presentation could be made available on the “News and Accomplishments” part of the ESIP webpage. Matt liked the idea but noted that the presentation and poster are DRAFTS ***(Action to be taken: Make the NEAEB presentation and poster available on the news part of the ESIP webpage).*** The group also discussed some of the GOMC products that are distributed at meetings. One document discussed was the 25th anniversary booklet at: http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/twenty-fifth-anniversary/.

**5. Decision Support Systems**

Adria mentioned that she recently heard a talk by Brian McGill (U Maine) about decision support systems. Brian’s project uses data to make models that answer user’s specific questions. Adria thought that he might have some good insight for ESIP. Christine agreed and though he might be able to do a webx or conference call during the ESIP annual meeting. Adria agreed to look into this option.