**Steering Committee Conference Call: March 22, 2016**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Abe Miller-Rushing (NPs), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. Annual Meeting**

Christine Tilburg opened the call with an update regarding the annual Steering Committee meeting on May 24. Christine mentioned that there are no rooms available at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland. She has reserved a room at the USFWS Falmouth, Maine office and also is waiting to hear if a Maine Audubon room is available the same day in Falmouth. Falmouth is one stop past Portland on 295. Jim Latimer mentioned the draft agenda will be developed in the next month and reviewed by the Steering Committee. ***(Action to be taken: The ESIP co-chairs and Program Manager need to work on a draft agenda for the annual meeting).***

**2. Partner Information**

Abe Miller-Rushing has suggested that the first part of each Steering Committee call (or every other) is dedicated to one Steering Committee member discussing their own projects that intersect with ESIP’s efforts. The “presenter” can prepare 3- 4 slides. There are many projects going on in our member’s parent organizations that might be of interest to ESIP and other Steering Committee members. Christine mentioned that Jed Wright (USFWS) will present at the start of the annual meeting. Jim and Heather Breeze both liked this idea. Christine asked that Steering Committee members let her know if they would like to present at a particular monthly call. Otherwise she’ll make suggestions for the months in question. ***(Action to be taken: Determine a tentative schedule regarding Steering Committee presentations).***

**3. Presentations**

ESIP has a lot of presentations scheduled for the next couple of months. At some of the meetings a temporary ICUC site (bracket and sign) will be installed for meeting participants.

* March 23-24: NEAEB (New England Association of Environmental Biologists) in Rockland, Maine. This presentation will be on indicators with a focus on the ESIP indicators that intersect environmental biology: **Christine presenting.**
* March 29: Maine Sustainable Waters Conference. A temporary ICUC bracket will be installed at the meeting: **Christine and Adria Elskus presenting**.
* April 9: Penobscot Watershed Conference. ESIP has been asked to present at this weekend conference: **Christine presenting.**
* April 14-16: NEERS (New England Estuarine Research Society) in York, Maine. Abstract has been accepted. The focus of the presentation will be the EPA/ORD project and the smartphone app. **Both Christine and Jim Latimer will be presenting.**
* May 6: Presentation at the NEIWPCC (New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission) board meeting in Portland, Maine: **Christine presenting with Jim Latimer calling in too.**
* June 8-10: BoFEP (Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership) meeting in Fredericton, NB. Abstract due March 31. A temporary ICUC bracket will be installed at the meeting: **Kathryn Parlee and Heather Breeze presenting.**
* June 9-10: Ocean Indicators for Monitoring Ecosystem Health in the New York Bight. Christine has been asked to attend.
* June 12-16: Coastal Zone Canada meetings in Toronto. Abstract has been accepted and will be presented by **Kathryn Parlee (or Jim Latimer).** A temporary ICUC bracket will be installed at the meeting.

**4. ICUC**

The group briefly discussed ICUC sites. Marilyn ten Brink wondered at the cost of setting up sites. Christine stated that the bracket and ICUC sign cost around ~$25. The most time consuming part of the process involves getting permission to install sites. Marilyn suggested that some Cape Cod beach groups might be interested in installing sites. Christine suggested that Marilyn connect her with the correct individuals. The group also discussed how approval for certain state or federal locations might make it easier to install other locations under the same state or federal organization.

Heather mentioned that one of the technical individuals in her office has created a way for users to access the ICUC app from a Blackberry. She suggests anyone using a Blackberry connect with her.

**5. Indicator Reporting Tool**

Christine informed the Steering Committee that Jim Cradock has been working with the Indicator Reporting Tool to make it perform graphing tasks more rapidly. The new version of the webtool can create graphs in a fraction of the time that the old version needed. Jim will be making final changes and Christine hopes to preview the new version on the next Steering Committee call. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to work with Jim Cradock and preview the new webtool function during the next Steering Committee call).***

**Next Steering Committee meeting: April 26 at 10 AM ET**.