**Steering Committee Conference Call: May 22, 2012**

**Participants**

John Brawley (Woods Hole Group), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. IOOS White Paper/Presentation**

During the May NERACOOS meeting Ru Morrison (NERACOOS Executive Director) announced an IOOS summit in Virginia November 13-16, 2012. The purpose of the meeting is to show how IOOS has evolved to meet ocean observing needs. Susan Russell-Robinson suggested that this national meeting might be a great place to promote indicators and if it would be a good idea to participate in the Summit. If so ESIP would need to prepare a five page white paper for submission in June. Jim Latimer thought that it was a good idea but requested that some of the text point to what is needed for coastal observing. Jawed Hameedi agreed and thought that people would be interested in ESIP's indicators. He cautioned against only focusing on eutrophication indicators in the paper (ESIP used NERACOOS data as part of the dissolved oxygen indicator). He mentioned that IOOS has been working with water quality information but their expertise is quite limited. Jim reminded that the document should point to the relevant State of the Environment Reporting.

***Action to be taken: Christine will confirm with Ru the submission deadline. She will draft an outline for the document by May 25 for Steering Committee discussion via e-mail. The outline should include sections on the importance of indicators and ESIP's role in the Gulf of Maine, the use of IOOS data in current indicators and potential needs for future indicators (ex. HABs) and capacity building.***

**2. Nova Scotia Climate Change Adaptation Fund (remainder of funding items from original agenda will be covered on June call).**

Christine briefed the call participants on the current Nova Scotia funding announcement. She thought that the NB Environmental Trust Fund proposal could be reworked for this opportunity. The proposed project consists of creating an "ESIP app" that users could use to see where they are in relation to climate change monitoring and also upload images reflecting current coastal conditions, storm conditions, etc. Susan thought that it was a good idea but wondered who would develop the app itself. She mentioned that a current USGS effort has hit a stumbling block with developing an app. Jim stated that ORD is currently developing an app and he agreed to forward information on the contractor to Christine. ***(Action to be taken: Jim will send the information to Christine so that a cost-range can be determined.)***

**3. Evaluation: Web Survey**

Christine began a discussion of ESIP's evaluation tasks as described by the current EPA contract. She stated that there is some confusion about deadlines due to revisions to the contract. Susan stated that the deadline should be September 30. However, she suggested that Christine shoot for September 15. The group discussed potential questions for use with a web survey. Questions could be as follows:

* Why did you visit the ESIP webpages today? Answers could include: read the latest journal entry, download a fact sheet, use the Monitoring Map, and use the Indicator Reporting Tool.
* Is this your first visit to the ESIP webpage? If not why have you visited in the past?
* Are you a member of one of the ESIP subcommittees?
* Have you successfully located information on monitoring sites through the Monitoring Map? What changes would improve your interactions with the Monitoring Map?
* Have you successfully viewed data through the Indicator Reporting Tool? What changes would improve your experience with the Reporting Tool?

Susan stated that she liked the question about being in an ESIP subcommittee. She suggested that the questions with respect to the two webtools should include a box for "not applicable" or similar so that "no's" don't skew the data if the user actually did NOT visit the webtools. The group also thought that some questions about the fact sheet would be helpful.

Susan mentioned that although ESIP has done evaluations in the past it will be helpful to get opinions now that ESIP has matured. It will also provide information for future proposals.

**4. Next Steering Committee Calls - June**

* Discuss remaining funding ideas (3) **Susan requested that the Steering Committee look at the Foundation webpages so that the discussion can be more informed.**
* Discuss/develop questions for face to face (or phone) interviews

**5. July Conference Call**

The Steering Committee will begin discussing the ESIP 2.0 steps as outlined during the March meeting in Boston.