**Steering Committee Conference Call: November 29, 2012**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Adria Elskus (U Maine/USGS), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (EC), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. Latest version of Sloan letter**

The group discussed the most recent version of the Sloan letter as attached to the original agenda. Susan Russell-Robinson stated that due to the Council letterhead and branding, the text must be shorter than one page. Following the call she had a science writer review and condense the letter. The letter will be sent to Cindy Krum (GOMC) next week and submitted the week following.

**2. ESIP in next BoFEP Tidings Newsletter**

Christine updated the Steering Committee on the short news article she has drafted for the next BoFEP Tidings newsletter. A current draft is with Susan and Kathryn Parlee for review. If any Steering Committee member would like to review, please let Christine know the week of December 3- 7.

**3. Journal of Ecological Indicators**

Individuals on the call discussed the potential scope of the ESIP submission to the Journal of Ecological Indicators. Christine stated that she thought the article could be framed on indicator selection and use. The Gulf of Maine would then serve as a case study. The group liked that suggestion. Further discussion resulted in a tentative plan for the article to discuss the process and selection of Tier 1 indicators and then user feedback and selection of Tier 2 indicators. Susan liked the idea of using the Gulf of Maine as a case study and reminded everyone of the Coastal Zone Canada 2010 meeting where the panel compared Puget Sound (with approximately 5 indicators selected) and the Great Lakes (with around 300 indicators selected). The Steering Committee felt that preparing this article after the contaminants fact sheet release would be best (release March 31, 2013).

**4. 2013 Annual ESIP Meeting**

Christine let the group know that the annual ESIP meeting is tentatively scheduled around the June GOMC meeting. Those dates will likely be finalized at the December Working Group/Council meeting. The location will be finalized at that time too. There is a rumor that the meeting will be in Boston again. The group discussed using the Mariner’s House (if a conference line can be arranged) or the new EPA office.

**5. Emerging Issues as diving off point for ESIP 2.0 interdisciplinary subcommittees**

Christine began a discussion of how to start the ESIP 2.0 process. She stated that the individuals interviewed as part of ESIP evaluation effort have resoundingly chosen climate change and eutrophication as the top two emerging issues. She wondered if it would make sense to start with these two areas as the expanding groups would work. The group wondered if the best path might be to pick a few of the major relationships with other subcommittees (perhaps using the Latimer diagram/net of indicators). Then the expanded subcommittee (really needs a new name to distinguish from original climate change subcommittee) could look at what information we have, what the interviews pointed out as important, and then whether indicators might be used to enrich the understanding of that interrelationship. Susan used ocean acidification as an example. The work would be interdisciplinary between fisheries, aquaculture, and the climate change groups. The groups might decide to look at precipitation of certain minerals. The decision tree would involve deciding if information is available or a proxy indicator might be necessary.

Christine wondered if the group might use the annual “Happy New Year!” ESIP message to announcing the beginning of the effort. The group liked that idea and decided to use the December call to hammer out language. Christine mentioned the importance of bringing new ESIP members into the process (examples: Climate Change Network participants and the NB climate change office).

**The next Steering Committee call is scheduled for December 18 at 10:00 AM ET.**