**Steering Committee Conference Call: November 28, 2016**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Adria Elskus (USGS), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA) Susan Russell-Robinson (Science Advisor), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. Environmental Information Use and Influence Project (EIUI)**

Christine Tilburg opened the call with a reminder about the Environmental Information Use and Influence project led by Bertrum MacDonald and Peter Wells. She stated that Peter and Bertrum would like ESIP to provide questions of interest for ESIP. They would then use these questions to create an appropriate project for a graduate student. Individuals on the call suggested the following questions:

* What users are working with the Indicator Reporting Tool?
* What barriers are encountered by users who wish to work with the Indicator Reporting Tool and/or Monitoring Map.
* Can more detailed pictures of ESIP’s products be developed?

Susan Russell-Robinson suggested that once ESIP has more information on appropriate users it might be possible to go to other, similar groups and show how effectively information is obtained with the webtools.

Christine mentioned that she runs monthly reports on ESIP’s web activities. The group discussed the most visited ESIP webpages. They also discussed COINAtlantic’s use of ESIP datasets through Web Mapping Services (WMS).

**2. Irving Proposal**

ESIP co-chairs (Jim Latimer and Kathryn Parlee) spearheaded a fact sheet specifically focused on the ICUC smartphone app. Peter McLaughlin (NB Gulf of Maine Council member) suggested that ESIP approach Irving with a proposal to link the ICUC smartphone app with some of Irving’s effort to preserve natural areas around the Gulf of Maine. Kathryn met with John Gilbert (Woodlands Division) and a proposal was submitted in November. The proposal covers four years with a total amount of $100,000. Susan suggested that the Steering Committee think about how to pitch the proposal to emphasize that the Program Manager time needs to be included within the funds. One example is that quality control/appropriateness of images is something that the Program Manager does with respect to the app. Reporting out on number of site visits in a written report at the end of each year would be another way to state why administrative costs are included.

Susan also suggested that this proposal be included with ESIP’s presentation to the December Council and Working Group meets. Christine stated that the Working Group also needs to be reminded about the 10 new ICUC sites arising from Susan’s donation at her retirement. ***(Action to be taken: Bring both items to the Working Group/Council in December).***

**3. Adria Elskus “Show and Tell”**

Adria Elksus then provided information on her new position at the Conte Anadromous Fish Research Laboratory in Turner Falls, Massachusetts. She discussed some of the projects at the lab and history of the facility since it was founded as a USGS lab in 1995. Many of her slides discussed research with respect to fish passage or the ecology of the species in question. Susan wondered if Fish and Wildlife stopped stocking the river for Atlantic Salmon. Adria stated that stocking was stopped around 2004. She also discussed the types of data rich products the center has available. As an example, water temperatures have been records for the past 19 years on the river. That information might prove very valuable with respect to climate change.

Adria also discussed some work on the prevent delivery of invasive species through ballast water. She described an intriguing idea regarding changing the pH of ballast waters to prevent the large quantities of invasive species that might be added to the environment. Other projects Adria discussed include fungicide sources and pathways using leaf litter.