**Steering Committee Conference Call: October 23, 2012**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (U Maine/USGS), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Susan Russell-Robinson (USGS), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC).

**1. Personal Survey Results**

Christine Tilburg walked the individuals on the call through the results of the phone and Working Group surveys. She reminded the group that originally she had created a list of potential interviewees to represent every organization in ESIP. She intends to work through the remainder of the list in the coming months. She also intends to use the survey with students at a lecture she is giving on Thursday (October 25).

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| **Question 1: Are you familiar with ESIP?** |
| Quite familiar (66%) | Familiar (24%) | Not familiar (10%) |
| **Question 2: Do you find the individuals you work with place a high value on scientific data?** |
| Yes (93%)  | Mixed (7%) |
| **Question 3: What one or two questions regarding the Gulf of Maine are you frequently asked?** |
| Questions centered around water quality (eutrophication, macroalgae, impacts of aquaculture, etc). (24%) |
| Climate Change questions (SLR, changes in water temperature, changes in molt cycles, ocean acidification) (22%) |
| General questions about the health of the Gulf (22%) |
| Questions about fish stocks (lobster and clams included) (20%) |
| **Question 4: What has been a difficult part of your job that additional data or products would have made easier?** |
| Need for data that has been synthesized/analyzed or even available in the right format (20%) |
| Difficulty obtaining information (issues with “knowing where to look”) (15%) |
| Data on a finer scale than is provided (10%) |
| Information on eutrophication (10%) |
| Long-term conditions of a local place (10%) |
| **Question 5: Are there too many organizations providing data in the Gulf of Maine? Is the opposite true?** |
| Not too many (44%) | Too many (24%) |
| Regardless of the answer, most people stated that there is too little organization between organizations. |
| **Question 6: What emerging issues do you think will become important in the next 2-3 years? 5-10 years?** |
| Climate Change (76%) |
| Eutrophication (22%) |
| Ocean acidification (15%) |
| Fish stocks and biotic interactions (12%) |
| **Question 7: When you’ve used ESIP products in the past what form have they been in?** |
| Print form (fact sheets) (59%) |
| Web information (tools and articles) (59%) |
| Downloadable data (15%) |
| None of the listed (15%) |
| **Question 8: ESIP is considering providing new services in the future. Which of the following would be of most use to you?** |
| Case studies (44%) |
| Further fact sheets (27%) |
| Peer-reviewed journal articles (24%) |
| Second tier indicators (15%) |
| Workshops (15%) |

Christine mentioned that she was surprised that climate change is still considered emerging. Adria Elskus stated that perhaps it is considered emerging because not everyone is on board with the idea. There was some discussion of the difference between web information/web tools and downloading of data through the ESIP webpage. Christine also suggested that the two higher ranked emerging issues be utilized as a starting place for the interdisciplinary indicators of ESIP 2.0. ***(Action to be taken: Revisit for the November discussion of ESIP 2.0).***

**2. Peer-reviewed article?**

Christine reminded the group that there had been a discussion at the annual Steering Committee meeting (in Boston) of submitting a paper to a peer-reviewed journal. It had been suggested that the abstract start from one of the general abstracts used for previous presentations. She wondered if the group had any opinions on the next step. It was requested that Christine look at the Journal of Ecological Indicators. ***(Action to be taken: Christine will find out details on the Journal of Ecological Indicators including submission requirements, hardcopy/e-journal differences, and distribution).***

**3. Eastern Charlotte Waterways Proposal**

Jim Latimer and Christine have been working with Donald Killorn (Eastern Charlotte Waterways) on a proposal to obtain chlorophyll a and water clarity data from parts of the NB portion of the Bay of Fundy. The proposal is under discussion and will be submitted to Environment Canada. Christine mentioned that Donald had originally contacted her after seeing no datasets presented in the Eutrophication fact sheet for the Bay of Fundy.

**4. Sloan Proposal**

Christine provided a document with details on submitting a letter of inquiry to the Sloan Foundation. She wondered if it would be better to submit at the end of 2012 or beginning of 2013. Susan Russell-Robinson thought it might be better to submit around December 10. She thought there might be very few submissions at that time. ***(Action to be taken: Aiming to have letter of inquiry submitted by December 10).*** Christine agreed to have a very rough draft available by October 31 so that the Steering Committee can finalize the letter by November 10.

Susan also mentioned that the core idea needs to be very strong and centered on the Gulf of Maine. She mentioned that there is a strong sense of place around the Gulf of Maine. She mentioned using research from the surveys to point at the strong interest in climate change and eutrophication. The application would allow changes to be seen over time. The letter needs to be tight and clear that it is backed up by a large group of people. What do we want the photos to show over time: clean beaches, sea level rise, etc? there was a suggestion of using Geocaching sites as well.

Christine mentioned that she feels there is a strong need for outreach with the proposal. She would like to see “kits” distributed to college professors for their classes, etc. Susan thought that part of additional possible EC funds could be for someone to look into this with more detail. Christine also mentioned having press release for the APP once it is developed.

Adria thought that the true proposal could benefit from some case studies/examples of sites so that visitors to the sites would know how to orient their images. Christine thought that a Steering Committee member or Christine should be the first to visit each sentinel site. That way a user could look at those original images for guidance.

**5. Gulf of Maine Times**

Susan suggested that Christine arrange a call with Teresa Torrent-Ellis and Nancy Griffin in mid-November to discuss using the Gulf of Maine Times to release a general ESIP survey.

**6. Maine Water Conference**

Adria mentioned that she is likely holding a panel at the Maine Water Conference and would like Christine to sit on the panel. The group agreed with this idea. Christine has put Tuesday March 19th , 2013 on her schedule.

**7. IOOS Summit**

Matt asked if Christine has received any information on the IOOS Summit. Christine believes that only two papers were selected for the NERACOOS region. She mentioned that a lot of authors are upset that they were never contacted about their submission. Christine will ask Ru Morrison (NERACOOS) for a list of accepted participants. ***(Action to be taken: Once Christine receives the information she’ll forward it to the Steering Committee).***

**8. Sentinel Monitoring Group**

Matt Liebman mentioned a group that has come together out of the Community White Paper planning. The group is chaired by Jeff Runge (GMRI) and is trying to come up with indicators for sentinel monitoring of climate change. He wondered if Christine might be able to participate. Christine asked Susan to decide if it would be good for ESIP to participate. ***(Action to be taken: Need to connect with J. Runge if ESIP wants to participate in this NERACOOS/NROC activity).***

**9. Next Call Moved!: The next Steering Committee call has been moved to Thursday November 29 at 1 PM ET. It is critical that everyone attends.**