**Steering Committee Conference Call: October 25, 2016**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (USGS), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (ECCC), Susan Russell-Robinson (Science Advisor), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. RARGOM Follow Up**

Christine Tilburg, Kathryn Parlee, and Jim Latimer recently presented a poster at the annual RARGOM meeting (October 13 in Portsmouth, NH). Christine provided a recap of ESIP activities at the meeting. The ESIP poster focused on the smartphone app and generated good conversations with people unfamiliar with ESIP’s activities. Kathryn mentioned that there were several individuals interested in the app. Christine stated that she will be connecting with people as follow-up. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to follow up with Michelle Lemos and Aaron Strong).***

**2. Environmental Information Use and Influence project (EIUI)**

Christine updated the group about current efforts to include ESIP in the Environmental Information Use and Influence (EIUI) project currently led by Peter Wells and Bertrum McDonald. Kathryn, Jim, and Christine met with Peter during lunch at the RARGOM meeting. Peter described the project and some past efforts. Peter asked that ESIP develop some questions of interest with respect to past projects like Fact Sheets and Monthly Journals. He also thought ESIP 2.0 could be brought into the discussion. Adria Elskus wondered if suggestions would be made by the EIUI to improve use of ESIP products. Susan Russell-Robinson mentioned that she reviewed the book that Peter and Bertrum wrote: ‘Science, Information, Policy Interface for Effective Coastal and Ocean Management”. She stated that there are recommendations in the book for improving use of environmental information products.

**3. Funding and Program Manager**

Kathryn provided information on the current state of funding for ESIP and the ESIP Program Manager position. Despite efforts there is not full funding support for ESIP in the coming months. Christine has agreed to go to half-time to keep ESIP moving forward. She will only be working on Tuesdays, part day Wednesdays, and Thursdays starting November 1. As of November 1 the only source of funding is the Environment and Climate Change Canada Gulf of Maine Initiative project.

Kathryn mentioned that a one pager on the ICUC smartphone app has been developed to start discussions with various partners. Along with Peter McLaughlin, Kathryn has met with Irving’s John Gilbert who manages fish and wildlife projects for Irving. Susan wondered what the reaction was with the Secretariat was informed of the change in hours for the Program Manager. Kathryn said that there was not a real response. The group did discuss potential interactions with the not-named US science advisor to the Council. Adria had specific questions regarding how USGS has funded ESIP in the past.

Christine agreed to mail the drafted ICUC one pager to the Steering Committee on October 25. She requested that comments and suggestions be sent back by close of business on October 26. Christine will bring all the comments together and send the document back to Kathryn for submittal to Irving.