**Steering Committee Conference Call: September 27, 2016**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Adria Elskus (USGS), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Pete Murdoch (USGS), Kathryn Parlee (ECCC), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. Addition of Susan Russell-Robinson to Steering Committee**

Christine Tilburg reminded the group that Susan Russell-Robinson retired from her position at the USGS over the summer. She has asked to continue her participation with ESIP through a volunteer science advisor position. Christine asked the group if they supported Susan remaining with the ESIP Steering Committee in this position. The group was unanimous in strongly supporting the inclusion of Susan in a science advisory role. Marilyn ten Brink wondered if Susan is remaining as an emeritus position with the USGS. Christine agreed to look into this question. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to connect with Susan to find out if she will be in an emeritus position with USGS along with participating with ESIP).***

**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. They are interested in working with ESIP to determine how ESIP products are being obtained and used. Peter, Jim Latimer, Kathryn Parlee, and Christine hope to have a lunch meeting on the subject at the upcoming RARGOM meeting (October 13) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

**3. ICUC Webpage**

Christine shared a draft of the ICUC webpage that Jim Cradock has been working on. The purpose of the webpage is to provide a space for information on the smartphone app. In addition the website will contain a library of the images collected at the official ICUC locations. http://www.gulfofmaine.org/public/ecosystem-indicator-partnership/icuc-app/. Tesera is working on creating a map to also be displayed on the webpage.

**4. “Show and Tell” with Pete Murdoch**

Christine reminded the group that a new feature has been added to the monthly Steering Committee calls. Every other month a Steering Committee member or individual outside of ESIP will be asked to provide a mini-discussion on a subject of their choice. Pete has this month’s “show and tell” with Adria Elskus having November.

Pete prepared several slides to look at resilience metrics that are currently under development within the region. He suggested that ESIP’s Steering Committee should think about how we want the ESIP FEGS to be comparable or compatible with many of the other efforts. Pete discussed efforts with NRC National Academies, NRC, NIST, DOI, NIMS, EPA, NSC and MitFLG (see his slides mailed to the Steering Committee for more detail). He mentioned that MitFLG’s areas of interest are very similar to ESIP’s and include environmental health, wetland and forest cover, habitat quality, and dam safety. Pete mentioned his own work to look at 167 projects to determine if funds were wisely spent after Hurricane Sandy. Pete also mentioned that the Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network recently put in a capacity grant to create a Center for Analysis Prediction and Evaluation (CAPE) to be housed at NERACOOS. It was stated that the audiences for these efforts might not be the same. Marilyn stated that while it is valuable to try to figure out ways to measure indicators groups need to know if their efforts have been helpful in the end. Jim agreed stating that ESIP needs to make certain information being produced is being used by those making decisions.

**5. Jim Latimer: FEGS**

Jim lead a discussion about the FEGS. He stated that he is trying to become familiar with the EPA effort. He used slides to show potential FEGS beneficiaries including subsistence fishers, waders & swimmers, and commercial fishers. His slides (also made available to the Steering Committee) show in more detail the comprehensive list of potential beneficiaries with respect to estuarines and coasts. During the discussion Pete stated that it is important that ESIP takes advantage of other efforts in the region. He also pointed out that that a resilient coast is one that is allowed to change.

Jim mentioned that a small workgroup within ESIP has been formed to continue to work on the FEGS effort between Steering Committee calls (Pete, Jim, Kathryn, and Christine). He invited others to join in if able and interested.