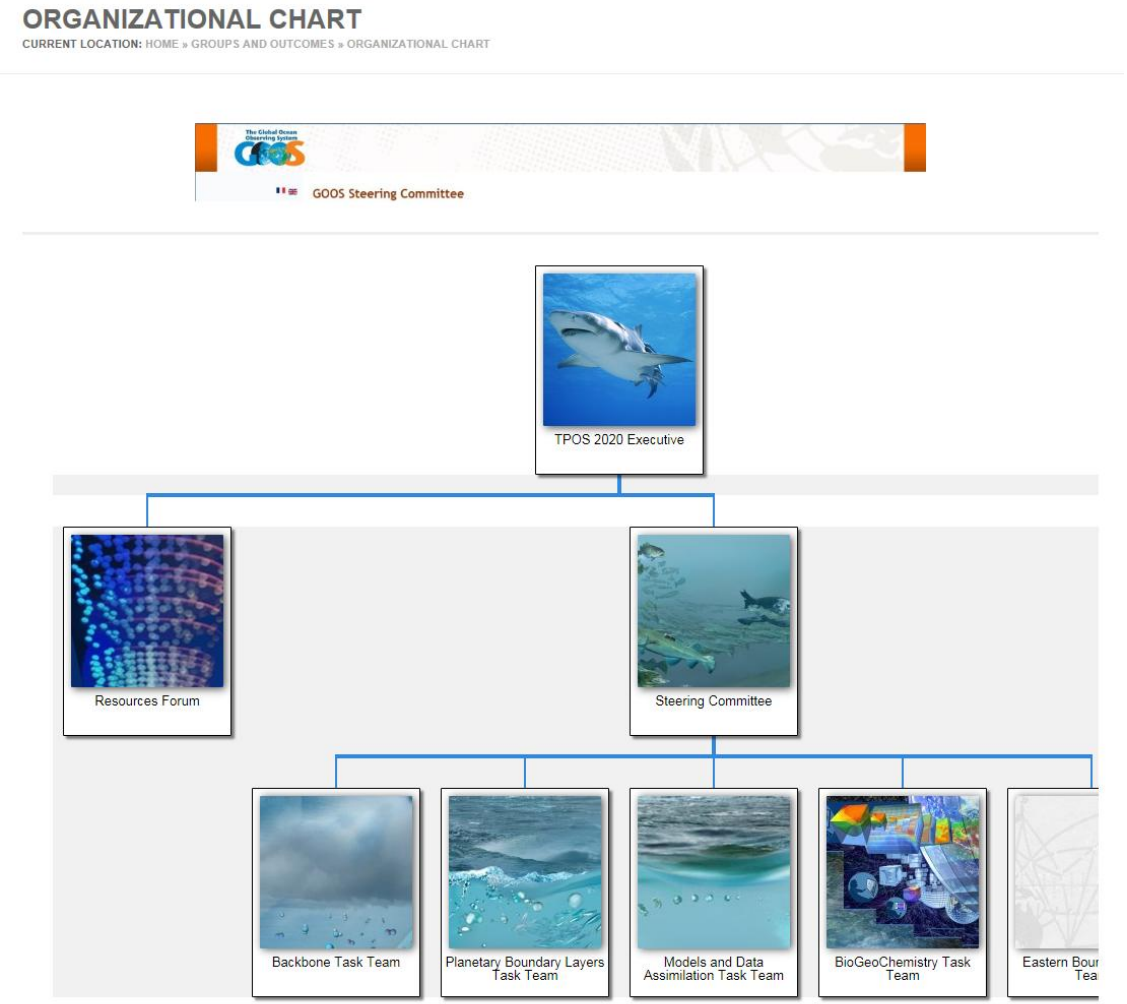
# TPOS 2020

## Re-thinking, refining, re-designing the Tropical Pacific Observing System

TPOS 2020
Tropical Pacific Observing System




TPOS 2020 is a focused, finite term project, beginning in 2014 and completing in 2020, with its primary outcome being an internationally-coordinated and supported sustainable observing system for the Tropical Pacific Ocean.

# Sampling for the backbone observing system has as its goal to

- Observe and quantify the state of the ocean, on time scales from weekly to interannual/decadal;
- Provide data in support of, and to validate and improve, forecasting systems;
- Support calibration and validation of satellite measurements;
- Advance understanding of the climate system in the tropical Pacific, including through the provision of observing system infrastructure for process studies; and
- Maintenance and, as appropriate, extension of the tropical Pacific climate record.

## Some specific questions that must be addressed are:

- What are the unique capabilities of the 'legacy' ENSO observing system elements, and what are the enhancements that have been made over the past decade that should be continued in the TPOS beyond 2020 in support of a backbone observing system? This consideration should include efficiency, effectiveness and utility.
- What contributions can we reasonably assume will continue courtesy of global observation efforts (eg, SST, altimetry, Argo, TAO/TRITON moorings, scatterometer winds, ocean colour)
- What enhancements/modifications to these efforts should be sought?
- What will be the data synthesis strategy for integrating the full multivariate suite of backbone observations into a coherent view of ocean structure and variability of the region?
- Anticipating the future evolution of prediction systems and drawing on advice from the Biogeochemical TT, determine the initial strategy for backbone biogeochemical observations?

## Summary of progress (TPOS 2020 Monthly Status Report, March 6, 2015):

- The second TPOS 2020 Steering Committee (SC) meeting has been scheduled, and will be held in Hobart, Australia on October 14- 17, 2015.
- Each of the Task Teams (TT) created during the SC-1 meeting at KIOST in Ansan, Korea on October 6-9 have agreed Terms of Reference (ToR) and identified Co-chairs.
- Three of these TT have conducted an inaugural videoconference among SC Co-chairs, TT Co-chairs, and Distributed Project Office (DPO) members.
- The inaugural meeting of the TPOS 2020 Resource Forum (TRF) was conducted via teleconference on October 10, 2014.
- The TRF-1 report is presently under project review and will be released for TRF member comment in March, 2015.