

Future of TAGs/WGs

Summary of Science Team Discussions

Group 1: H. Beggs, A. Ignatov, M. Chin, C. Whittle

Proposal:

- Initially consolidate related TAGs and WGs into 4 groups so that the “breakout Tuesday” comprises 4 non-overlapping sessions
 - AUSTAG + DASTAG → Data and Users
 - EARWiG + ST-VAL + DVWG → Retrievals and Validation
 - IC-TAG + CDR-TAG + R2HA2 → CDR
 - HL-TAG + IWWG → Challenging Areas (High-Lat, Coastal, Internal waters)
- The leads of the four groups will negotiate and coordinate joint targeted sessions as needed
- The new structure will be reevaluated and readjusted at the next GHRSSST meeting as needed
- Informal collaboration of ST members between annual meetings (including targeted workshops) are encouraged, but formal telecons discouraged

Group 2: Ken, Misako, Anne, Alexey

Issues:

- Confusion between long standing TAGs and short term WGs.
- Improved performance needed in some cases, others performing well.
- Re-evaluation needed, not necessary disbanding.
- Need less splinter groups during a meeting.

Recommendations:

- Reduction of groups (TAGs): e.g. one science, one technical, users..... (ToR, MoM).
- WGs (tasks teams) to be defined within TAGs.
 - WGs should be defined with charter, deliverable, and deadlines (GHRST reports).
 - WGs could continue with new objectives once achieved.
- Inter-sessional work should take place between meetings, reviewed during GHRST meetings (wider participation).
- Smart, focused WGs.
- Re-organise carefully (define co-chairs...).
- Reaching users in a variety of ways. Would be beneficial to have another user workshop.
- Training and capacity building.

Group 3: Ioanna, Gary W, Jorge and Werenfrid

- Too many TAG/WG's – merging?
 - Too many
 - Split between TAG and WG not clear and potentially not applicable (?)
 - Split fit for purpose, provided the purpose is clear
- Communication inside/between groups
 - Umbrella mode ?
 - Teleconfs – how to overcome time difference?
 - Regular email/news item (Quarterly/monthly)
- How do we get results?
 - What do we want to achieve?
- Funding might require a formal structure
 - Merging but not abandoning ?
 - Priority items to cut across groups
- GHRSSST priorities for the next term
 - Who decides them?

Group 4: Viva, Simon, JF, Peter C

- 1) All groups be disbanded and then reform where appropriate as though they were new groups.
- 2) That we consider a working group to design a procedure for validating the spatial fidelity of satellite-derived SST fields.
- 3) Another issue that emerged from several quarters in our group was the idea of a formal mechanism to obtain feedback from the user community. There are several places where we could use help
 - a) A web page accessible via a URL embedded in the metadata of a particular granule and,
 - b) An evaluation of the quality of a dataset by the users. Data quality as it is being used is a strong function of the uses to be made of the data. It would therefore be valuable to solicit from users a short ranking of quality along with the application they are making of the data.

Group 5: Keith, Lei, Peter & Prasanjit

1. TAGs and WGs: Merge some of these, where they overlap, or rename/restructure (e.g., AUS TAG, should it be an interface for GHRSSST public/user communication rather than a TAG?)
 1. Need to decide/identify where the overlaps are
 2. Do we need to have separate WGs (than TAGs), given the original intention that WGs are special “temporary” bodies with a specific purpose (formulate, execute, dissolve)
2. If restructured (or new groups are formed), each TAG should have an appropriate TOR (and attract relevant contributions from people working on the corresponding themes)
3. Encourage (**enforce**) more inter-sessional meetings/Tele-cons etc. to follow up on the goals, rather than meet just shortly before the Annual ST meeting.
4. Encouraging early career scientists (capacity building, long-term sustenance)
5. Some GHRSSST computational resource (for light tasks, such as Web, Map generation etc.)
6. User survey (ongoing): distribute to the ST and based on the responses, may be re-visit how to form survey questions (leading questions vs. neutral ones), some thought on how to do data-mining of the responses (quality indicators should be constant over the period of time)

Group 6: Bob, Jon, Ed, Sandra

- Dedicated funding (from Space Agencies) for GHRSSST developments and needs such as research on SSES, DV, etc. – Only way for things to get done
- Educational aspect of GHRSSST. It has to come from the Chair!
 - Online courses, summer camps, pay-for-training
- Use GHRSSST expertise in a guided way to address issues as a community
 - Identify where the greatest discrepancies are (i.e., high latitudes, coastal areas, fronts, etc.) and focus on those issues
- Establish a limited life time for working groups (3 -5 year maximum) with specific deliverables
 - Population control
- Overarching theme for future meetings
 - E.g., Discrepancies of L4 products
- Software repository –to not reinvent the wheel
- A GHRSSST directory or list of contacts to answer specific questions

Group 7: Andy, Chelle, Craig, Eileen

- Issue: GHRSSST TAG/WG are too large and need to be consolidated and focused (overlap, impact, workload)
- Some groups are essential (eg. DASTAG) and shall stay
- 3 options:
 1. Dissolve all TAG/WG and make a call for proposals (Bottom up – normally successful)
 2. Refocus into 3 TAG: DASTAG, Retrievals TAG, Applications TAG
 3. Business as usual (not supported)

Option 2 preferred

- All groups shall be “SMART” by design
- Groups must report progress against specific targets (to maintain focus) at least one per year at the ST meeting
- Web pages for each group shall be active and maintained as the primary interface to the world for access to expertise and knowledge – including feedback and community development
- Need to manage any transition carefully to preserve talent and investments made by individuals.
- Need clearly defined Terms of Reference.
- Need to empower energetic early career scientists to take leadership positions
- Adopt the approach of IOCCG where WG shall focus on a deliverable such as a Monograph.
- Groups must perform work during the intercessional period
- Consider an external review of GHRSSST performance by international experts to provide guidance.
- WG and TAGS are essential to GHRSSST but we need to manage this appropriately as it is the way the external world perceives the ST– it is important!!