



IHO File No S3/2644/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 34/2019
3 July 2019**CALL FOR THE APPROVAL OF NEW EDITION 4.2.0 OF PUBLICATION B-6
“STANDARDIZATION OF UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES”**

References:

- A. IHO CL 67/2013 dated 21 November – *Publication B-6, New Edition 4.1.0.*
- B. 11th Meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee - *Doc. IRCC11-07I2 and Draft List of Decisions (Doc. IRCC11-16B).*
- C. IHO CL 20/2019 dated 28 March - *The IHO Online Form System for Responses to Circular Letters and Input to IHO Publications (P-5 and C-55).*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Edition 4.1.0 of Publication B-6 – *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* – was published in 2013 (Reference A) and then slightly updated in 2017 to take account of the change from International Hydrographic Bureau to IHO Secretariat in accordance with the revised IHO Convention.

2. The need to update this publication arose several times at the recent Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) meetings with the goal to improve the guidelines used by proposers in their preparation of naming proposals; and subsequently the efficiency of the reviewing work by SCUFN Members. Reports and proposals from SCUFN Members and ad hoc sub-groups have resulted in a number of improvements and additions to B-6.

3. The following changes have been made in the proposed new Edition 4.2.0 of B-6:

- The list of national authorities (pp. 2-7 and 2-8 in the current Edition) has been removed. It has been updated and is now available on the SCUFN page of the IHO website > Miscellaneous > Lists of...Naming Authorities. This will allow the maintenance of this list to be facilitated.
- References to the GEBCO website (www.gebco.net) and to www.scufnterm.org, listing all B-6 terms and definitions, and operated by the Korean Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA), have been inserted.
- Preference for names in relation with marine research, as choice for specific terms, has been emphasized.
- Additional guidance in paragraph II.A.6 depicting the way of grouping specific (term) categories of features has been included.
- Provision of naming proposals in digital form and feature geometries as shape files are recommended in the proposal form.
- Additional guidance on the use of generic terms as recommended by SCUFN only (not obsolete terms) has been included.
- Definitions of some generic terms, such as Peak or Pinnacle, have been improved.
- Additional generic terms with genetic implication, such as Reef or Shoal, have been identified and marked.

- A number of historical generic terms, such as Cap, Discordance, Ground, Pass, Plain, Re-entrant or Seabight, sometimes appearing in the current GEBCO Gazetteer¹, have been included with their definitions in the list of generic terms used for harmonization with other gazetteers (not to be used in new proposals).
- The Users' Guide for Preparation of Name Proposals (Appendix A) has been improved, for example by inviting proposers to provide feature geometries as shape files; release and handover their supporting bathymetric data to the IHO DCDB; and provide better informed supporting bathymetric maps.
- A Fast-Track Procedure for the adoption by SCUFN of names proposed by national geographical naming authorities has been added as new Appendix B.

4. This proposed new Edition 4.2.0 was prepared and approved by SCUFN Members, endorsed by GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) at its 35th meeting in November 2018, as well as by IRCC at its 11th meeting in June (Reference B, Decision IRCC11/29 refers). Red-line and clean versions of the proposed new Edition 4.2.0, as endorsed by the IRCC², are available at: www.iho.int > Standards & Publications > Draft Publications Awaiting Approval by Member States > B-6 Edition 4.2.0.

5. Member States are requested to take into account the endorsement of the changes by the GGC and IRCC at their last meetings and are invited to consider the adoption of this new Edition 4.2.0 by providing their reply at their earliest convenience and no later than **15 September 2019** by email (cl-lc@iho.int) or by fax (+377 93 10 81 40) when using the Voting Form in Annex A, but preferably using the IHO Online Form System (see Reference C) by accessing the following link:

https://iho.formstack.com/forms/CL34_2019

However, noting that SCUFN will hold its 32nd meeting from 5 to 9 August in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, responses received **before 5 August 2019** would be highly appreciated.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES
Director

Annex:

A. Voting Form

Distribution List:

IHO Member States

Copy to: IOC of UNESCO, SCUFN Chair/Vice-Chair, Director IHO/DCDB (Ms Jennifer Jencks)

¹ For instance, « re-entrant » is not in the Gazetteer.

² The date of publication (currently September 2018 on the proposed new Edition 4.2.0) will be updated at the end of the approval process.

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Proposed new Edition 4.2.0 of Publication B-6

Voting Form

(to be returned to the IHO Secretariat by 15 September 2019)

E-mail: cl-lc@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your answers.

Member State:

Contact:

E-mail:

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Do you approve the proposed new Edition 4.2.0 of Publication B-6?

YES

NO

If you answer 'NO', please explain your reasons in the comment section below.

Comments:

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Signature :

Date :

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