

**IHB File No. S3/2644/A**

**CIRCULAR LETTER 47/2001  
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**STANDARDIZATION OF UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES  
Guidelines - Proposal Form - Terminology**

**IHO-IOC Publication B-6, English/French Version, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, April 2001**

Reference: IHB Circular Letter 39/1989 dated 24 July 1989

Dear Sir,

1. Attached is a copy of IHO-IOC Publication B-6 "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names", English/French version, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, April 2001. This new edition was prepared by the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) and was finalized at the IHB. It was formally approved at the 14<sup>th</sup> SCUFN Meeting, Tokyo, Japan, 17-20 April 2001 and subsequently endorsed by the GEBCO Guiding Committee.
2. The main changes from the previous edition (1989) relate to the list of "Undersea Feature Terms and Definitions", at the end of the publication, which was the subject of a thorough review by SCUFN. In addition, the Terms of Reference of SCUFN have been included in the Introduction. Some revision and updating have also been made throughout the publication.
3. This publication includes an "Undersea Feature Name Proposal" form, which should be duly completed when submitting any new name for consideration by SCUFN. In doing so, the guidelines contained in B-6 should be adhered to. In particular, the reason for the choice of name and the bathymetric evidence of the feature should be sufficiently documented. Your attention is also drawn to paragraph 1.A. of the Guidelines which clearly indicates that the naming of undersea features is limited to those features outside territorial waters.
4. B-6 is supplied free of charge by the IHO and this new edition has therefore been placed in the "Free Publications" section of the IHO website ([www.iho.shom.fr/publicat/free/free.htm](http://www.iho.shom.fr/publicat/free/free.htm)). It is also available from the GEBCO website ([www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/gebco.html](http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/gebco.html)).
5. Since B-6 is a joint IHO-IOC publication, this new edition has been made available to the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (Paris, France) for distribution to IOC Member States.
6. It is also planned to publish a new edition of the English/Spanish version of B-6 at the IHB, from this 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of B-6 (E/F). In order to give this publication the widest possible visibility, it would be useful to have the existing E/Russian, E/Chinese and

E/Japanese versions, which date back to 1991-93 (printed copies are available from the IHB), revised accordingly. Assistance from Russia, China and Japan to produce revised versions in these languages would therefore be most appreciated. Other versions, e.g. E/Portuguese, may be worth producing and the IHB would welcome any initiative in this regard.

7. Member States are kindly invited to consider making use of B-6 – and its proposal form therein – to submit undersea feature names which, if accepted by SCUFN, will appear on INT Charts at small scales and on the bathymetric sheets of GEBCO and IBC (International Bathymetric Chart) series. Name proposals should be submitted to the SCUFN Secretary at the IHB (Ing. en chef Michel Huet, <[pac@ihb.mc](mailto:pac@ihb.mc)>).

8. This new edition supersedes the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of B-6 (E/F) which was distributed under cover of IHB Circular Letter 39/1989.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Rear Admiral Neil GUY  
Director

Encl: 1 copy of B-6 (E/F), 3<sup>rd</sup> edition