

**GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)**  
**XVth Meeting, IHB, Monaco, 7-10 October 2002**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

Dear Hydrographer,

We enclose herewith a paper copy of the Summary Report of the 15th meeting of the GEBCO-SCUFN (Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names), which was held on 7-10 October 2002 at the IHB, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Robert L. Fisher, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA. This Report is also available on the GEBCO website ([www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/](http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/)).

This IHO-IOC Sub-Committee is responsible for selecting the undersea feature names which will appear on GEBCO products (paper and digital), on 1:1 Million International Bathymetric Charts (i.e. IBCM, IBCCA, etc.) and on International (INT) Charts at small scales. SCUFN considers all naming proposals which are submitted to its Secretariat at the IHB. All approved names are contained in a GEBCO Gazetteer database, which is maintained at the IHB. SCUFN works in cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) of the U.S. Board on Geographical Names (BGN) and liaises with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

At the IHB meeting, 326 names and 37 as yet unnamed features were examined. These included:

- 85 names / features in waters surrounding Japan. They were proposed by the Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names.
- 29 names in the French Polynesia area, following proposals from Professor A. Bonneville (French University of the Pacific, Tahiti).
- 9 names on IBCEA sheet 1.03 (North Atlantic, Azores Archipelago area), proposed by the Portuguese HO and Professor J.R. Vanney (University of Paris, France).
- 10 names, in the South East Pacific, proposed by the Chilean HO in relation to the newly established IBCSEP.
- 10 names, mainly in the Pacific, taken from ACUF reports.
- 166 names, already included in the GEBCO Gazetteer, for which corrections and additional details had been proposed by Dr. G. Agapova (Russian Academy of Sciences). Most of them were named after Russian marine scientists and explorers.

SCUFN eventually selected 92 new names for inclusion in the GEBCO Gazetteer, in addition to 64 names previously accepted, as listed in Appendix A of the Summary Report. When the Gazetteer database has been updated with the names selected by SCUFN-XV, a new Gazetteer will be produced, replacing the existing one, and will be available as an Excel file on the GEBCO website.

The current SCUFN Membership is given in Annex A. At present only one prospective IHO Member State's representative (USA) appears on the list (to be confirmed by the GEBCO Guiding Committee) and the balance is made up of representatives from IHB and IOC. It should be further noted that two key contributing SCUFN members (Dr. R.L. Fisher, Chairman and Mr. D.P.D. Scott) have announced their intention to resign from SCUFN following the next meeting in April 2003. The matter is therefore of obvious concern and SCUFN-XV considered that every effort should be made to enlist appropriate experts, within IHO and IOC, to join SCUFN. The IHB's opinion is that it is important that the IHO participate in the work of this Sub-Committee, as decisions are made on naming of features in regions that may be of interest to Member States. Member States are therefore urged to participate in the work of this important body and to advise the IHB accordingly by filling in the form in Annex B. Candidates should ideally be conversant with bathymetry, geomorphology and/or marine geology.

Your attention is also drawn to Section 8 of the Report outlining the relationships of SCUFN with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

The next, XVIth, SCUFN meeting will take place at the IHB on 10-12 April 2003. Any comments on this report will be most welcome.

Finally, on behalf of the IHB, I apologize for the long time it has taken to prepare this Report and I take this opportunity to assure Member States that we are committed to radically improve this situation in the near future.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

*(original signed)*

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA  
Director

Encl.: Summary Report of GEBCO SCUFN-XV (English only)

Copy to: IOC Secretariat, Paris, France.

**SCUFN MEMBERSHIP***(April 2003)*

<b>MEMBERS</b>			
<b>IHO</b>		<b>IOC</b>	
Ing. en chef Michel HUET (Secretary)	IHB	Dr. Robert L. FISHER (Chairman)	USA
Dr. Lisa TAYLOR*	USA	Dr. Galina AGAPOVA	Russian Federation
		Mr. Desmond P.D. SCOTT	UK
		Dr. Hans Werner SCHENKE*	Germany
<b>OBSERVER</b>			
Mr. Trent PALMER		ACUF (USA)	

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\* Prospective Member

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE  
GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)**

**NOMINATION FORM**  
*(to be returned to the IHB [pac@ihb.mc](mailto:pac@ihb.mc) by 30 June 2003)*

**Member State:** .....

.1 Would you like to nominate a person to be a member of SCUFN?

YES

NO

Name: .....

E-mail: .....

Credentials / Experience: .....

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Comments : .....

.....

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Signature .....

Date: .....