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CIRCULAR LETTER No. 56/2005
30 May 2005

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)

Membership

Reference: Circular Letter 90/2004, dated 16 December 2004

Dear Hydrographer,

Circular Letter 90/2004 reported on the availability of the 17th SCUFN Meeting Minutes (www.iho.shom.fr > Committees > GEBCO/SCUFN) and invited Member States to nominate candidates for this GEBCO sub-committee.

The Bureau thanks the following 22 Member States who responded: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Iceland, India, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey and USA. We are pleased to report that, as a result, three nominations to SCUFN have been submitted, as follows:

- LCdr Harvinder AVTAR (India)
- LCdr Rafael PONCE Urbina (Mexico)
- Capt Albert E. THEBERGE (USA)

The credentials / experience of the nominees are given in **Annex A**. The IHB believes that all three candidates have the required background and experience for an efficient contribution to SCUFN work. Their appointment as SCUFN members will be formally endorsed by the GEBCO Guiding Committee at its 21st meeting (Aguascalientes, Mexico, 11-12 July 2005). As can be seen from the updated SCUFN membership list in **Annex B**, there is now a very good IHO representation on SCUFN and the IHB is most grateful to Argentina, India, Japan, Mexico, Russian Federation and USA, for their valuable support to SCUFN activities.

The 18th meeting of SCUFN will take place at the **IHB, Monaco, on 3-6 October 2005**. Information on the meeting (agenda, documents, logistic information etc.) will be posted on

the IHO website (GEBCO/SCUFN page) as and when it is available. All concerned Member States are invited to provide appropriate support for the participation of SCUFN members in SCUFN/18.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. GorziGLIA', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Encls : Two annexes

Copy to : - IOC Secretariat, Paris, France (Dr D. Travin)
 - Chairman of SCUFN (Dr H.W. Schenke, Germany)
 - Permanent Secretary of GEBCO (Prof. R. Whitmarsh, UK)

Credentials / Experience of SCUFN Nominees

1. LCdr Harvinder AVTAR (India)

Holds a Master's Degree in Hydrographic Surveying from Goa University, India. Has eleven years of experience in hydrography in Indian waters and has been closely associated with the chart production process at the National Hydrographic Office since 2003. Well versed with marine geology and bathymetry of Indian region. Member of the Indian National Cartographic Association since 2000.

2. LCdr Rafael PONCE Urbina (Mexico)

Holds a Master's Degree in Hydrographic Sciences and a Category A Certificate in Hydrography (FIG-IHO). Currently, Deputy-Director for Hydrography and Cartography.

3. Capt Albert E. Theberge (USA)

Has been active in both the bathymetric community and the history of oceanography community. During his 27-year career with NOAA Corps, he commanded two survey vessels and served in various capacities on hydrographic and bathymetric surveying vessels, as well as mobile geodetic and hydrographic field parties. Served as NOAA Office of Minerals and Energy liaison to Scripps Institution of Oceanography Marine Physical Laboratory Deep Tow and Sea Beam Group under Dr. Fred Spiess from 1982-84 and accompanied a number of expeditions throughout the Pacific Ocean. Headed NOAA's EEZ Mapping Project from 1987-90, directing the activities of five multibeam sounding vessels in waters of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Since retirement from NOAA Corps in 1995, has been affiliated with NOAA Central Library and is a recognized authority on the history of ocean exploration and the history of NOAA. Serves on the US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) and conducts historical research for that body into the history of the discovery and naming of undersea features.

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)
Membership
(May 2005)

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