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GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)
20th Meeting, IHB, Monaco, 9-12 July 2007

SUMMARY REPORT

Reference: CL 111/2007, dated 5 December

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Summary Report of the 20th meeting of the GEBCO-SCUFN (Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names) is available on the IHO website (www.iho.int > Committees > GEBCO/SCUFN) and the GEBCO website (www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/). The 20th meeting of the GEBCO-SCUFN was held on 9-12 July 2007 at the IHB under the Chairmanship of Dr. H.W. SCHENKE, AWI (Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Germany). Out of the 12 SCUFN members at that time, 10 were in attendance, from Argentina, India, Korea (Rep. of), Japan, Mexico, Russia and USA; plus the Secretary from IHB. In addition, there were 11 observers / invited guests from Brazil, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, and IHB.

2 The Sub-Committee reviewed the SCUFN Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures, in light of the comments resulting from the 17th IH Conference in May 2007. A text was agreed for submission to the GEBCO Guiding Committee. This text was subsequently amended by the Guiding Committee and forwarded to member states by the reference.

3 English/Russian and English/Japanese versions of IHO-IOC Publication B-6 *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* (3rd edition, 2001) were approved by the Sub-Committee. They had been prepared by the Geological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Japan Committee of Undersea Feature Names, respectively. A working group was set up to examine the terminology section of B-6, which includes generic terms and definitions, and to review the current GEBCO policy of only considering geomorphological expression of features in the naming process. It will report to the next meeting.

4 The essential part of the meeting consisted in reviewing all actions pending from the previous meeting, followed with the examination of 54 new name proposals, mainly originating from Russia, Japan and Republic of Korea. In the end, 35 new names were accepted for inclusion in the GEBCO

Gazetteer. Most of these features are located in the North Pacific, North Atlantic and Southern Oceans. All newly accepted names are being incorporated into the GEBCO Gazetteer database, from which a revised version of the GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names will be generated in due course and posted on the IHO and GEBCO websites.

5 A report was provided on BODC-NGDC collaboration to reformat the GEBCO Gazetteer into a geospatially enabled data base, which will include:

- ✓ Enhanced display and search options in various products, e.g. GDA, GIS systems, Web-based interactive maps, and KML files (Google Earth).
- ✓ Enhanced data base management capability.

6 It is believed that this improvement will make the Gazetteer more accessible to the public and give the work of SCUFN valuable international exposure.

7 Dr. Galina AGAPOVA (Russia – IOC side) announced her retirement from SCUFN following the meeting. In addition, the IHB has been made aware that LCdr. Rafael PONCE Urbina (Mexico – IHO side) has left the Mexican HO and, therefore, is no longer available to SCUFN. The current SCUFN membership list is at Annex A. As you can see, it comprises 6 members representing IHO and 4 members representing IOC. According to the proposed terms of reference and rules of procedures for SCUFN, which were circulated to member states by the reference (and have received overwhelming support to date), *“the Sub-Committee shall normally consist of 12 members, preferably 6 members being appointed by IHO and 6 by IOC acting in close consultation”* (RoP 2.1.1 refers). In line with this rule, two suitable candidates for SCUFN membership are reportedly being sought to represent IOC in order to balance the IHO and IOC representations within SCUFN. The IHB is grateful to Argentina, India, Japan, Russian Federation and USA for their valuable support of SCUFN activities.

8 The next meeting will be held on the week of May 19th, 2008 in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. Information on the meeting (draft agenda and logistic information) will soon be posted on the IHO website. Meeting documents will be added as and when they are available. All concerned Member States are invited to provide appropriate support for the participation of SCUFN members in SCUFN-21.

9 Member States are strongly encouraged to submit name proposals, e.g. to commemorate historical figures or scientists who have made an outstanding contribution to ocean science, to the SCUFN Secretary (mhuet@ihb.mc), for consideration by the Sub-Committee. Undersea feature name proposal forms are available on the IHO and GEBCO websites.

Any comments on this report will be welcome.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex A: SCUFN Membership List

Copy to: IOC Secretariat, Paris, France.

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Membership**

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