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CIRCULAR LETTER 63/2008
24 July 2008

STANDARDIZATION OF UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES
Guidelines - Proposal Form - Terminology

IHO-IOC Publication B-6, English/French Version, 4th Edition, June 2008

- References:
- a) IHB Circular Letter 59/2008 dated 9 July 2008
 - b) IHB Circular Letter 25/2008 dated 5 March 2008
 - c) IHB Circular Letter 47/2001 dated 10 October 2001

Dear Sir,

1. A [draft 4th edition of IHO-IOC Publication B-6](#) "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names", English/French version dated June 2008, is available from the IHO website (www.iho.int > Committees > GEBCO/SCUFN). This draft edition has been prepared by the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) and endorsed by the GEBCO Guiding Committee at its 25th meeting in late May in Tokyo, Japan.
2. The main changes from the 3rd edition (2001) are summarized below:
 - ✓ Throughout the publication, the terms 'territorial waters' or 'waters under national jurisdiction' have been replaced with 'territorial sea' to conform to the terminology used in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
 - ✓ Introduction Section. Reference is now made to the revised terms of reference for SCUFN which have been approved by IHO Member States (reference b) and by the IOC at its 41st Executive Council (reference a).
 - ✓ Principles for Naming Features. It has been clarified in para. II.A.5 that names of living persons will normally be no longer accepted, based on a recommendation by the UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN Resolution VIII/2 refers).
 - ✓ Undersea Feature Name Proposal Form. It has been re-arranged to better meet the requirements of GIS usages. For example, the feature geometry will be more accurately defined in terms of points, lines and polygons. It is planned that an on-line proposal form, to be posted on the IHO and GEBCO websites, will be derived from this form.
 - ✓ National authorities where proposal forms for features located in territorial seas should be sent. Rather than listing all IHO Member States with their details (addresses, faxes, e-mails, ...), reference is made to the IHO website where such information is available. Only a few national institutions, not appearing on the IHO website, have been retained.
 - ✓ Terminology Section. A number of generic terms can now be used in the plural mode, e.g. bank(s) or knoll(s). Definitions of the relevant terms have been adjusted accordingly. Also, a new generic term "deep" has been included in the list.

3. English/Spanish, English/Russian, English/Japanese and English/Korean versions of the 4th edition of B-6 have also been prepared, coordinated by the relevant SCUFN members. It is planned to release all language versions on the same date.
4. Member States are kindly invited to review the draft 4th edition of B-6 (English/French) which is on the IHO website and provide their comments to the IHB, if any, no later than 30 September 2008.
5. This new edition will eventually supersede the 3rd edition of B-6 which was published in April 2001 (reference c) as English/French and English/Spanish versions.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Gorziglia', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Copy to: IOC Secretariat, Paris, France