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CIRCULAR LETTER 72/2012
13 July 2012

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)
24th Meeting, Beijing, China, 12-16 September 2011

Reference: IHB Circular Letter 54/2012 dated 23 May 2012

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The 24th meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) was hosted and organized by the National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS) of China and took place in Beijing from 12-16 September 2011. The meeting was chaired by Dr Hans Werner Schenke from the Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar und Meeresforschung (AWI – Germany, IOC representative). There were 30 participants, including 10 of the 12 SCUFN members, i.e. from Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, Rep of Korea, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, and USA. The meeting took note of the absence of Cdr. Harvinder Avtar (India – IHO side) at two consecutive meetings and who, according to the SCUFN terms of reference, is regretfully considered to have resigned from the sub-committee. The current list of SCUFN members and observers is provided in Annex A.

2 The final report of SCUFN-24 is available on the IHO website (www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/SCUFN/SCUFN24/SCUFN24_Report.pdf), together with all documents referred to at the meeting. All the actions which were agreed as a means of progressing SCUFN issues during the intersessional period are listed at Annex D to the report. Those actions for the IHB as the SCUFN secretariat are being actively progressed. The main points discussed at the meeting are summarized below.

3 The meeting noted that the following language versions of IHO-IOC B-6 “Standardization of Undersea Feature Names” (2008 edition) have been completed and published, and are available from the IHO and GEBCO websites: English/French, English/Spanish, English/Russian, English/Korean, English/Japanese and English/Chinese. A list of SCUFN recommended changes to the Terminology section of B-6 was agreed by the sub-committee. This included revised definitions for a number of specific terms and the addition of two new “generic terms that have genetic implications”, i.e. Mud Volcano and Rift.

4 The meeting examined 154 names or name proposals. These included:

- 9 from INOCAR, Ecuador, in the Southeast Pacific;
- 11 from AWI, Germany, mainly in the Southeast Pacific;
- 1 from the Belgium and Netherlands HOs, in the Southern part of the North Sea;
- 9 from the Brazilian HO (DHN) and company Petrobras, in the Southwest Atlantic;
- 10 from the State Oceanic Administration of China, in the Pacific;
- 12 from the Russian HO (DNO) and the Russian Academy of Sciences, in the Arctic and Pacific.

- 40 from the Japan Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN) in the Northwest Pacific;
- 8 from the Korean Committee on Marine Geographical Names (KCMGN), in the West Pacific;
- 4 from the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) of the US Board of Geographical Names (BGN), in the North Atlantic, the North Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico;
- 9 from the Undersea Names Committee of the New Zealand Geographic Board, in the Southwest Pacific; and
- 41 from the GEBCO Gazetteer Reserve Section, i.e. pending from previous SCUFN meetings.

5 In total, the Sub-Committee recommended the acceptance of 76 new undersea feature names for inclusion in the GEBCO Gazetteer. These names were approved by the GEBCO Guiding Committee which met shortly after the meeting of SCUFN.

6 All new names and other agreed changes are being included in a new edition of IHO-IOC Publication B-8 - the GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Features Names, which can be accessed from the publications download section of the IHO website. Member States are invited to consult and make use of the GEBCO Gazetteer when producing new charts.

7 The meeting noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in migrating the GEBCO Gazetteer towards a web-based map interface and on-line database, thanks to the efforts and support of the US National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) and the co-located IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB). Completion of this project is being progressed thanks to funding received by the NGDC from the Google organization.

8 The offer by the Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences of New Zealand to host, jointly with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), the 25th meeting of SCUFN was gratefully accepted. SCUFN-25 will take place on 23-27 October 2012 in Wellington. Those Member States who have nominated experts to represent the IHO at SCUFN, i.e. Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Pakistan and USA, are encouraged to ensure that these experts are able to attend SCUFN-25.

9 The Circular Letter in reference invited Member States to consider nominating suitable experts to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cdr. Havtar from India. Those Member States who have not yet responded are urged to give consideration to this matter.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hugo Gorziglia', written in a cursive style.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Encl: Annex A: SCUFN Membership

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)
Membership (July 2012)

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