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CIRCULAR LETTER 39/2013
24 June 2013

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)
25th Meeting, Wellington, New Zealand, 23-27 October 2012

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The 25th meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) was jointly hosted and organized by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and GNS Science and took place at LINZ offices in Wellington from 23-27 October 2012. The meeting was chaired by Dr Hans Werner Schenke from the Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung (AWI – Germany, IOC representative). There were 23 participants, including ten of the 12 SCUFN members (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Germany, Japan, Rep of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, and USA). The meeting welcomed LCdr. Felipe BARRIOS (SHOA - Chile) as a new elected member representing the IHO. The current list of SCUFN members and observers is provided in Annex A.

2. The final report of SCUFN-25 and the meeting documents are available on the IHO website (www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/SCUFN/SCUFN25/SCUFN25_Report.pdf). The list of agreed actions to progress SCUFN issues during the intersessional period are listed at Annex D to the report. Those actions placed on the IHB as the SCUFN secretariat are now being actively progressed.

3. A draft new edition of Publication B-6 *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* was agreed, incorporating new and revised definitions for generic terms related to undersea feature, a new bilingual format for undersea feature name proposals, and a user's guide for the preparation of undersea feature name proposals. The draft new edition was subsequently endorsed by the GEBCO Guiding Committee and, more recently, by the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) at its 5th meeting. It will next be submitted to Member States for approval.

4. Approximately 170 names or name proposals were examined and the acceptance of 124 new undersea feature names was recommended for inclusion in Publication B-8 *Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Undersea Features*. Name proposals included:

- 10 from the Servicio de Hidrografía Naval (SHN), Argentina, in the South Atlantic, South Pacific and Southern Ocean;
- 3 from the Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS), Italy, in the Southern Ocean;
- 4 from the Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação (DHN), Brazil, in the Atlantic;
- 9 from the Japanese Committee on Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN), in the Pacific;
- 5 from Kumamoto University, Japan, in the East China Sea;
- 15 from the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), China, in the Pacific, South Atlantic and South Indian Ocean.
- 6 from the State Scientific Centre “Yuzhmorgeologiya”, Russian Federation, in the North Pacific;
- 4 from the Korean Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN), in the East Pacific;

- 75 from the New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB), in the South Pacific and the Southern Ocean;

5. The meeting noted with satisfaction the significant progress made during the year in the development of a web-based map interface and on-line database for the GEBCO Gazetteer, thanks to the efforts and support of the US National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC). The IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) is located at the NGDC. The project is close to completion and will be the subject of a further circular letter. It is planned that all new names and other agreed changes will be included in the on-line database, from which it will then be possible to publish Publication B-8.

6. The offer by the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of Japan to host the 26th meeting of SCUFN was gratefully accepted. SCUFN-26 will take place on 23-27 September 2013 in Tokyo. Those Member States that have nominated experts to represent the IHO at SCUFN (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Japan, Pakistan and USA) are encouraged to ensure that these experts are able to attend SCUFN-26.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

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

Mustafa IPTES
Director

Annex A: SCUFN Membership

**GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)
Membership (June 2013)**

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