



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHB File No. S3/2644/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 41/2013
27 June 2013

STANDARDISATION OF UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES

Publication B-6, New Edition 4.1.0

Reference: CL 39/2013 dated 24 June - *GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), 25th Meeting, Wellington, New Zealand, 23-27 October 2012*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Publication B-6 *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* provides guidelines on all aspects of international undersea feature naming and supports the work of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN). The purpose of B-6 is to ensure maximum international standardization of the names of undersea features. It has been developed through collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The current 4th edition of B-6 is dated November 2008. It is a publication which is available in a number of bi-lingual versions: English/French, English/Spanish, English/Russian, English/Japanese, English/Korean and English/Chinese.

2. As reported by the reference, a draft new edition of B-6 was developed by SCUFN and agreed at its 25th meeting in October 2012. This draft was subsequently endorsed by the GEBCO Guiding Committee and, more recently, by the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) at its 5th meeting. A copy of the draft edition 4.1.0 of B-6 (English/French version) is available for inspection on the IHO website at http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/draft_pubs/B-6_e4.1.0_2013_v3_20130522.pdf. Noteworthy changes to the existing edition have been emphasized in yellow in the draft and are summarized below.

3. The Terminology section incorporates new and revised definitions for undersea feature generic terms. These terms have been divided into two categories:

- A list of “active” generic terms which should be used in any new naming proposals. In future, SCUFN will only accept generic terms taken from the new list.
- A list of those generic terms that are now considered obsolete by SCUFN but are being kept in the publication to assist in understanding the origin of names based on previous editions of the GEBCO Gazetteer and to facilitate harmonization with other gazetteers. The use of these obsolete terms will not be allowed for new feature names.

A number of “active” generic terms, marked with an asterisk (*) in the publication, relate to terms that may reflect a geological origin; for example, a Fracture Zone - which is formed by the movement of tectonic plates associated with an offset of a spreading ridge axis. The use of these terms must be justified by geological and/or geophysical evidence as well as bathymetric data.

4. A new bilingual English/French format for proposals for undersea feature names has been included in the revised document. The same will occur in the other language versions; for example, a bilingual English/Spanish proposal form will be included in the future English/Spanish version of B-6 edition 4.1.0. The bilingual presentation is intended to facilitate the understanding and use of the form by potential proposers. However, it is still expected that the form will be completed in English, which is the common language of the members of SCUFN.

5. A user's guide for the preparation of undersea feature name proposals to be submitted to SCUFN was agreed at SCUFN-25. It has been included in B-6 as an appendix. The guide provides instructions on how to prepare a proposal and specifies the supporting information required, such as bathymetric information, to be included with the proposal.

6. In accordance with IHO Resolution 2/2007, as amended, and noting the previous endorsement of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee and IRCC, Member States are requested to review and consider the adoption of the draft edition 4.1.0 of B-6, and to indicate their decision by returning the Voting Form, provided in Annex A, **no later than 15 September 2013**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES
Director

Annex A: Voting Form - Adoption of Edition 4.1.0 of B-6

VOTING FORM

(to be returned to the IHB **no later than 15 September 2013**)

E-mail: info@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

**Member
State:**

Contact:

E-mail:

ADOPTION OF EDITION 4.1.0 OF B-6

1. Do you approve the adoption of edition 4.1.0 of B-6 - *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names*?

YES

NO

Comments (if required)