



IHB File No. S3/2644/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 67/2013
21 November 2013

STANDARDISATION OF UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES
Publication B-6, New Edition 4.1.0

References: A. IHO Circular Letter 41/2013 dated 27 June - *Standardisation of Undersea Feature Names, Publication B-6, New Edition 4.1.0*
B. IHO Circular Letter 96/2008 dated 24 November - *IHO-IOC Publication B-6, English/French version, 4th Edition, November 2008 – Standardization of Undersea Feature Names*

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 43 Member States who replied to reference A: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

2 All 43 Member States supported the proposed English/French version of the new Edition 4.1.0 of B-6 - *Standardisation of Undersea Feature Names*. Eight States provided specific comments on the texts which, together with explanatory responses, are provided in Annex A. These comments have been considered by the IHB, jointly with the Chairman of SCUFN and the SCUFN members.

3 At the date of Reference A there were 81 IHO Member States with three States suspended. Therefore in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO, the majority required for adoption of these new editions is 40. Consequently, Edition 4.1.0 of B-6 is adopted and will be posted in the IHO publications download section of the IHO website shortly. Member States are invited to dispatch and make use of the new edition as appropriate.

4 Edition 4.1.0 of B-6 supersedes the previous edition which was announced with reference B.

5 English/Spanish, English/Russian, English/Japanese, English/Korean and English/Chinese versions of the Edition 4.1.0 of B-6 are in the process of being updated and will be posted on the IHO website as soon as they are available.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mustafa IPTES', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mustafa IPTES
Director

Annex A: Comments by Member States.

Copy to: IOC Secretariat, Paris, France

**COMMENTS BY MEMBER STATES
IN RESPONSE TO CL 41/2013**

AUSTRALIA

Please include the following details in respect of Australia on page 2-7 of the document listing National Authorities to which the "Undersea Feature Name Proposal Form" should be sent:

Geographic Names Section
Australian Hydrographic Service
Locked Bag 8801
Wollongong NSW 2500
Australia
E-mail: international.relations@hydro.gov.au
Web: www.hydro.gov.au

Comment by IHB: In accordance with Note 1 in page 2.7, the details of HO's should not be mentioned to avoid conflicting information in the publication and on the IHO website.

CANADA

Canada approves the adoption of edition 4.1.0 of B-6 with the changes listed below.

1. Please make the following change to the National Authority contact information for Canada on page 2-7:

Geographical Names Board of Canada Secretariat
615 Booth St., Room 634
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E9
E-mail: geonames@nrcan.gc.ca
Web: www.nrcan.gc.ca

2. Suggest correcting a small typo on page 2-2, under the heading **II. Principles for Naming Features, Section A, clause 4:**

from: "...Where a ship name is used, it should be that of the discoverer ship ..."
to: "...Where a ship name is used, it should be that of the discovering ship ..."

Comment by IHB: The details for Canada in B-6, page 2-7 have been amended as in item 1 above. Also, the typo reported in item 2 has been corrected.

CHILE

Considering that SCUFN Members are tasked to select undersea features names, we consider that SCUFN Members should not be entitled to submit proposals for naming undersea features, therefore section 2 ii) in page 1-vi should read as follow:

"Names submitted to the Sub-committee by individuals (with the exception of SCUFN's members), agencies and organizations involved in marine research, hydrography, etc."

Comment by IHB: This issue was discussed at the 26th meeting of SCUFN (Tokyo, Japan, September 2013) and a majority of SCUFN members supported Chile's proposal. The proposed change is also supported by the Directing Committee. B-6 has been amended accordingly.

FRANCE

As indicated on pages 2-9 in publication B-6, the definitions are not always in keeping with those in S-32 (Hydrographic Dictionary). France would prefer that when a definition already exists in S-32, that this latter be used as a reference, even if it means completing the definition with certain elements which appear in the present B-6. This would avoid inconsistencies and duplication of updating by different entities. A simple reference to S-32 could also be added to B-6 where certain definitions are concerned. B-6 would then only contain complementary definitions, specifically useful to SCUFN work.

France is nonetheless aware that a complete harmonization of the definitions between both publications would represent a considerable amount of effort. Bearing in mind what is at stake, France is therefore not opposed to the maintenance of both publications in their current state.

A few editorial corrections in the French section are, however, put forward in an annex.

Comment by IHB: Definitions contained in B-6 have been developed by SCUFN members who are specialists in marine geomorphology. As a result, they appropriately support SCUFN's work of naming undersea features. The IHO Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group (HDWG), tasked to maintain S-32, may wish to propose the inclusion in S-32 of B-6 definitions, subject to them meeting the purpose of the IHO Hydrographic Dictionary. All editorial amendments suggested by France have been applied to the French text.

INDIA

Comments: - Refer page 2-7 Notes para 1, the text should be "Proposal forms for features located inside the external limit of a territorial sea should be submitted to the relevant Hydrographic Office and/or national authority".

The HOs will take up the issue with the respective national authorities. Mentioning few such national authorities may create confusion.

Comment by IHB: The text proposed above is identical to the one on page 2-7. Also, the national authorities listed on page 2-7 are reportedly the naming focal points when it is not the national hydrographic office.

JAPAN

It seems that examples of supporting maps in appendix lack uniformity. Japan is willing to prepare appropriate maps if required.

Comment by IHB: JHOD has provided the IHB with revised supporting maps which have been incorporated in the appendix of B-6.

TURKEY

TN-ONHO is the national authority to which the "Undersea Feature Name Proposal Form" should be sent for clearance, for any feature located in its territorial sea. So please add the following information to the 2-7 of the document B-6:

Turkish Navy-Office of Navigation,
Hydrography and Oceanography (TN-ONHO)
34805 Çubuklu / İSTANBUL
Tel : +90 216 322 25 80
Fax : +90 216 331 05 25
E-Mail : info@shodb.gov.tr

Comment by IHB: See comment under Australia.

UNITED STATES

Suggested revision to the first paragraph of the Foreword to read as follows:

"The Guidelines, the Name Proposal Form and the List of Terms and Definitions contained in the IHO-IOC publication B-6 "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names" were originally developed through collaboration between the "GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names", appointed by the "Joint IHO-IOC Guiding Committee for GEBCO (GGC)", and the Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features of the "United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names UNGEGN)", in accordance with provisions of appropriate resolutions of United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN). The UNGEGN Working Group on Undersea and Maritime Features was disbanded in 1984 but a liaison has been maintained between IHO and UNGEGN to facilitate communication and cooperation."

Comment by IHB: The Foreword to B-6 has been amended to include the above text.