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GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN) 26th Meeting, Tokyo, Japan, 23-27 September 2013

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 67/2013 dated 21 November *Standardisation of Undersea Feature Names, Publication B-6, New Edition 4.1.0*
- C. IHO Circular Letter 68/2013 dated 21 November *IHO-IOC GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names on the Web*
- D. IHO Circular Letter 35/2014 dated 29 April GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) New Member

Dear Hydrographer,

- 1. The 26th meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) was hosted and organized by the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD) of the Japan Coast Guard in Tokyo, Japan, from 23 to 27 September 2013. The meeting was chaired by Dr Hans Werner Schenke from the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), Germany, and attended by 28 participants, including nine of the twelve SCUFN Members (from Argentina, Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, and United States of America).
- 2. The final report of SCUFN-26 and the meeting documents are available on the IHO website (www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/SCUFN/SCUFN26/SCUFN26 Report.pdf). The list of actions which were agreed in order to progress SCUFN issues during the intersessional period are listed in Annex D to the report. Most of the actions placed on the IHB as the SCUFN Secretariat have been completed; the remaining actions are being actively progressed.
- 3. The on-line GEBCO Gazetteer (Internet version of the *Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Undersea Features*, Publication B-8) was presented and released during the meeting. As reported in Reference C, it can be accessed via the GEBCO website (www.gebco.net/ > Data and Products > Undersea Feature Names > view and download). The on-line application provides access, through name search, to any undersea feature name in the Gazetteer and its associated details, including showing the feature geometry on a background bathymetric map. The underlying database is maintained by a network of appointed editors under the coordination of an administrator who is currently the SCUFN Secretary at the IHB.
- 4. Member States' comments on a draft new edition of Publication B-6 *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* were reviewed and their implementation in B-6 was agreed (see References A and B).

- 5. The Sub-Committee considered 107 proposed undersea feature names from institutions in Brazil, China, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and USA. The Sub-Committee eventually accepted 84 new names for inclusion in the GEBCO Gazetteer. These names have now been entered into the on-line Gazetteer.
- 6. The 27th meeting of SCUFN will take place from 16 to 20 June 2014 at the IHB in Monaco. Those Member States who have nominated experts to represent the IHO at SCUFN (Argentina, Brazil, Canada see Reference D, Chile, Japan and USA) are encouraged to ensure that their experts are able to attend the meeting.
- 7. Member States' Hydrographic Offices are invited to submit undersea feature name proposals, using the form and the user's guide available in B-6, for consideration by SCUFN. Proposals should be forwarded to the SCUFN Secretary at the IHB (adcs@iho.int).

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,

Mustafa IPTES Director