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**CIRCULAR LETTER 68/2014**  
**1 October 2014**

**GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Meeting, IHB, Monaco, 16-20 June 2014**

References:

- A. IHO CL 35/2014 dated 29 April - *GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) - New Member*
- B. IHO CL 68/2013 dated 21 November - *IHO-IOC GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names on the Web*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN 27) was hosted and organized by the IHB in Monaco from 16 to 20 June 2014. The meeting was chaired by Dr Hans Werner Schenke (IOC representative) from the *Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar und Meeresforschung* (AWI – Germany) and was attended by 27 participants, including nine of the 12 SCUFN Members (four representing the IOC and five from the IHO), and 15 Observers, including Mr Shin Tani, Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee.
2. The meeting welcomed Dr Kian Fadaie, Deputy Hydrographer-General of Canada, as a new member representing the IHO (see Reference A). In accordance with SCUFN Rule of Procedure 2.1.3, all other SCUFN Members expressed their wish to be appointed for an additional five-year period. Considering that there was no reason for the GEBCO Guiding Committee to oppose it, the Chair, Dr Hans Werner Schenke, and the Vice-Chair, Ms Lisa Taylor, Director of IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (IHO representative), were then re-elected. The current list of SCUFN Members and Observers is available on the SCUFN page of the IHO website ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Home > Committees & WG > IRCC > GEBCO > SCUFN).
3. The meeting was opened by President Robert Ward who stressed the increasing importance of the tasks undertaken by SCUFN and its key role in raising awareness of the oceans and seas. He also took the opportunity in his welcoming address to thank the supporting organizations of the SCUFN Members and Observers for their support in allowing them to participate in the work.
4. The meeting considered 74 new undersea feature names submitted by various bodies and supporting organizations. It was much easier to review the proposals this year because of the introduction of the new on-line GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names ([www.gebco.net](http://www.gebco.net) > Data and products > Undersea feature names > view and download) developed by the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (co-located at the US National Geophysical Data Center) and maintained by the IHB (see Reference B).
5. The meeting also agreed to consider ways to more efficiently address the increasing list of pending names for which information, required in accordance with SCUFN standards, is generally missing. New interfaces for reviewing and submitting proposals were presented by Dr Hyun-Chul Han, SCUFN Member (IOC representative). The Sub-Committee also decided to seek further information and guidance from the IHB and the GEBCO Guiding Committee before pursuing the possible development of a future product specification for undersea feature names based on the IHO S-100 geospatial data transfer standard.

6. The online Gazetteer currently provides information on 3 824 undersea feature names, some of which are not entirely consistent. Following the meeting, a contractor has been engaged to rationalise the content of the database and enhance future SCUFN operational activities.

7. In order to avoid duplication and improve efficiency and interoperability in the future, the harmonization of procedures and definitions used by SCUFN and national/international organizations such as the NZGB<sup>1</sup> Undersea Names Committee, the ACUF<sup>2</sup> and the Marine Regions project managed by the Flanders Marine Institute were discussed by the Sub-Committee.

8. An offer by the Hydrographic Office of Brazil to host the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of SCUFN was gratefully accepted. SCUFN-28 will take place in Niteroi, Brazil, in October 2015<sup>3</sup>. Those Member States that have nominated experts to represent the IHO at SCUFN (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Japan, and USA) are kindly encouraged to ensure that these experts will be able to attend SCUFN-28.

9. The final report of SCUFN-27 can be downloaded from the IHO website ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Home > Committees & WG > IRCC > GEBCO > SCUFN > SCUFN-27 > Documents). The list of decisions and actions to progress SCUFN issues during the intersessional period are listed as Annex B to the report of the meeting.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES  
Director

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<sup>1</sup> New Zealand Geographical Board.

<sup>2</sup> US Board on Geographical Names, Advisory Committee on Undersea Features.

<sup>3</sup> Dates to be confirmed.