

SCUFN Report

Submitted by Chair SCUFN

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This report covers the results of the 28th meeting in Niteroi, Brazil, 12-16 October 2015 and the 29th meeting in Boulder, Colorado, USA, 19-23 September 2016, of the IHO-IOC GEBSCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN).

Action to be taken: See paragraph

Related documents: See links for relevant SCUFN meeting documents:

https://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/SCUFN/SCUFN28/SCUFN28Docs.htm and
https://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/SCUFN/SCUFN29/SCUFN29Docs.htm

SCUFN-28

1. Organization

The 28th SCUFN meeting was held from 12 to 16 October 2015 and was hosted by the Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação (DHN), in Niteroi, Brazil. Nine out of twelve voting members attended the meeting. Ms Lisa Taylor had informed before the meeting the SCUFN Chair and Secretary to step down from her Vice-Chair and membership position of SCUFN, due to other responsibilities and commitments. Mr. Norman Cherkis and Dr. Xenia Dobrolyobowa were unable to attend. After two consecutive non-attendances, Dr. Dobrolyobowa was, following the SCUFN RoP/ToR, considered as stepping down from her membership. The Chair expressed his thanks to Lisa Taylor as former Vice-Chair and to Xenia Dobrolyobowa for their outstanding contributions to SCUFN. Dr. Yas Ohara was elected as new Vice-Chair of SCUFN. 10 observers from four countries attended the meeting. Assistant Director Yves Guillam (SCUFN Secretary) represented the IHB.

2. New name proposals

72 undersea feature names were submitted during the inter-sessional period 2014/15 coming from 8 countries. 61 were approved by SCUFN: Malaysia (4), USA (1), Brazil (11), Rep. of Korea (3), Japan (27), Russia (1), China (13), Sweden (1). The authors of not accepted or pending proposals are informed by the SCUFN-Secretary. All accepted undersea feature names are included together with their relevant meta-data in the GEBSCO Web-Gazetteer database.

3. Adoption of undersea feature names from national naming boards

It is in the intention of SCUFN to formalize and streamline the adoption of undersea feature names into the GEBSCO Gazetteer, which are submitted by accredited national geographic naming authorities. New procedure, including a fast-track or normal route, are suggested to facilitate the adoption of undersea feature names. These rules apply to feature names that

have appeared on nautical charts, published maps or in scientific literature for many years. In this procedure the proposed names for adoption are inspected by a reviewing panel of SCUFN members prior to the meeting.

A first experimental case-study for the fast-track route was conducted on 31 and 28 UFNs submitted by the NZGB in 2014 and respectively in 2015 for adoption to the Gazetteer. Due to technical problems and incomplete bathymetric evidence the adoption was not completed during SCUFN-28.

4. Update and maintenance of the GEBCO-Gazetteer database

Remaining work coming from previous SCUFN meetings like pending actions and decisions, was conducted during the inter-sessional period 2014/15 under external contract via the IHB. This work included the updating and improvement of the GEBCO Gazetteer data base, and the effective implementation of SCUFN decisions, and the monitoring of pending names. Attributes and additional metadata of more than 3000 UFN were reviewed and edited during the period.

5. Towards S-100

SCUFN decided to include in its program liaison with the IHO S-100 Working Group and the Nautical Cartography WG in order to provide expertise on undersea feature names for the development of a product specification for undersea features and the harmonization of definitions that already exist in B-6 and the IHO Registry Feature Concept Dictionary of S-100, the S-57 Feature Catalogue and the IHO Hydrographic Dictionary S-32. A top priority is to improve the Undersea Feature Name model and make sure that “Type” attributes may be used to differentiate feature types in a consistent manner. SCUFN established an ad-hoc WG under the lead of Kian Fadaie.

6. Web-Tools

The website www.scufnterm.org has proved to be a useful tool for UFN proposers as well as for SCUFN members. Continuous updating and improving of exemplary undersea feature images is under process. During the SCUFN meeting the experimental website www.scufnreview.org was introduced and utilised by SCUFN members to review newly submitted name proposals. It was general understanding that this tool is very beneficial and supportive to accelerate the reviewing process. It was decided to utilize this website during the forthcoming intersessional period for pre-viewing and judging new name proposals and the submissions of accredited national geographic naming boards for the adaption of names. A third website currently under development shall be used by authors of name proposals: www.scufnproposal.org. SCUFN expresses thanks to KIGAM and KHOA for the development and their outstanding support of these invaluable web-tools.

7. Liaison with other geographic naming boards

UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN): Reports to SCUFN submitted by Mr. Trent Palmer, Liaison officer UNGEGN to IHO.

New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB): Reports submitted by Dr. Vaughan Stagpoole, NZ.

Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) of the US Board on Geographical Names: Reports given by Mr. Jimmy Narantzis, ACUF Secretary.

Marine Regions, Belgium: Reports submitted by Mr. Simon Claus, from Marine Regions.

Marine Regions as global map service provider acknowledges the prominent role of SCUFN as authoritative body for undersea feature naming.

8. Minor undersea features

It was noted by SCUFN that due to modern technologies in hydrographic surveying, processing, visualising, and mapping in conjunction with the development of new undersea feature models in view of the S-100 implementation. However, the members of SCUFN agreed not to divert SCUFN from its current scope and priorities.

SCUFN-29

9. Organization

The 29th SCUFN meeting was held from 19 to 23 September 2016 and was hosted by the National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in Boulder, Colorado, USA. Ten out of twelve voting members attended the meeting. Mr. Norman Cherkis (IOC) has informed SCUFN Chair and Secretary that he cannot attend SCUFN-29 and thus step down as member of SCUFN. The Chair thanked Mr. Norman Cherkis for his fundamental contributions to SCUFN. IOC is asked to call by CL for nomination of candidates. Apologies were received from Dr. Kian Fadaie for being unable to participate. 14 observers from 5 different countries attended the meeting including Mr Shin Tani (Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee) and Mr Osamu Miyaki, (IOC Secretariat). Assistant Director Yves Guillam (SCUFN Secretary) represented the IHB. Two new members were welcomed by the Chair, namely Dr. Roberta Ivaldi (IHO) from Italy, and Dr. Xenia Dobrulyabowa (IOC), who was re-appointed by the IOC. The Secretary informed the meeting of several further anticipated changes to the membership due to occur in 2018 and presented the timeline for the IHO and IOC Secretariats to prepare calls for nominations to fill vacancies.

10. New name proposals

During the inter-sessional period 133 new name proposals were received from 12 countries: Brazil (7), China (50), Denmark (1), Dominican Republic (2), France (1), Japan (23), Republic of Korea (2), Malaysia (4), New Zealand (31), Russian Federation (1), UK (3), USA (8). More than 80 new names were accepted by SCUFN. 12 undersea feature names submitted by Canada were reviewed and accepted by SCUFN using the experimental fast-track procedure. Additional 84 names submitted by New Zealand and 139 names by Canada could not be reviewed due to time constraints. SCUFN members very successfully made use of the new evaluation website www.scufnreview.org to judge the name proposals already before the meeting. Using this tool, the process time for the name proposals can significantly be reduced.

11. Adoption of undersea feature names from national naming boards

SCUFN appreciates and welcomes the submission of undersea features outside the territorial seas by the national naming authorities. The use of the fast-track procedure may lead in future to the adoption of features within territorial seas resulting in large numbers of features to be included in the Gazetteer. In the view of this, SCUFN decided to put on hold the development of a general policy related to the systematic inclusion in the Gazetteer of undersea features located in territorial seas.

12. Update and maintenance of the GEBCO-Gazetteer database

The GEBCO Web-Gazetteer is the product and outreach of all SCUFN activities. It is used by many international institutions, organisations, map-services, etc. Every endeavour is taken by GEBCO/SCUFN and the IHB to improve the quality of the content of the Gazetteer.

However, operation and maintenance as well as indispensable improvements of the operability performance and the interconnectivity (upstream/downstream services) of the online-Gazetteer to the new web-tools, are not secured in the future. These open questions will be discussed among involved organizations.

13. Towards S-100

At SCUFN-29 the S-100 Undersea Feature Names Project Team (S-100 SCUFN-PT) was established and its Terms of Reference were endorsed by SCUFN. The Project Team will be composed of SCUFN-members (generic term WG) and Expert Contributors (EC) in liaison with the appropriate HSSC Working Groups under the lead of Canada.

14. IHO-IOC Publication B-6 – Standardization of Undersea Feature Names

The next edition of B-6 will contain significant changes with regard to form and content. These modifications include beside others:

- Integration of the fast-track procedure
- Relation of national undersea feature naming boards in common areas of interest
- Modification of generic terms in alignment to the S-100 implementation
- Inclusion of the UFN submission-website to B-6

The new edition of B-6 will be submitted for approval after finalizing the above mentioned changes.

15. Liaison with other geographic naming boards

In parallel to the increasing collaboration with several national undersea feature naming authorities, SCUFN seeks cooperation with Marine Regions, a service provider for geographic names, boundaries, and GIS products. They regard SCUFN as the global authority for undersea feature names. Mr. Simon Claus from Marine Regions is invited in future to be observer to SCUFN.

16. Action

The GGC is requested to:

- a. **Note** the information provided; and
- b. **Take** any other action deemed appropriate.