SCUFN Report

Submitted by SCUFN Chair

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of the work and activities of the SCUFN32 meeting.

Action to be taken: See paragraph 8

Related documents: None

1. MEETING VENUE

The 32nd meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) was hosted by the Royal Malaysian Navy and Petronas in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 5 to 9 August 2019.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended by 28 registered participants, which consisted of eleven of the 12 SCUFN members (six IOC and five IHO representatives) and 17 observers, including Vice-Admiral (Ret.) Shin Tani, Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee, Mr Tetsushi Komatsu (IOC Secretariat), Marine Regions and representatives of China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, ROK and Russian Federation. Representatives of NOAA and KHOA in charge of the integration of SCUFN operational web services and GEBCO Gazetteer were also present. Assistant Director Yves Guillam (SCUFN Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat.

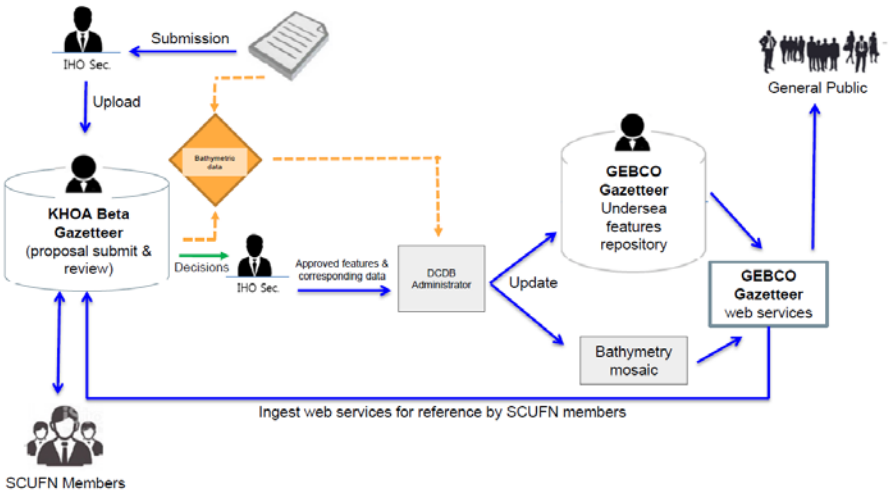
3. SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

The Sub-Committee considered proposals for 187 undersea feature names, submitted by various bodies and supporting organizations from Argentina (2), Ascension - St Helena (1), Brazil (15), China (35), Germany (1), Japan (52), Japan together with USA (9), Malaysia (2), Philippines (37), Republic of Korea (3), Republic of Palau (11), New Zealand (18) and USA (1).

4. GEBCO AND BETA GAZETTEERS

Thanks to the increasing quality of submissions, a large number of the names proposed to the Sub-Committee were accepted in a very efficient and speedy manner. SCUFN thanked the NOAA representative for the major enhancements made recently in the GEBCO Gazetteer as well as KHOA representatives for the development of the integration of

different SCUFN web services. The general principles of this integration, depicted in the diagram below, were agreed and the full integration aiming to avoid duplication and make the whole process much more efficient, is expected within two years.



5. DATA SUBMISSION AND MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS

In addition to the analysis of naming proposals, the Sub-Committee considered several "corporate" issues, including:

- The first comments received through the voting procedure by the IHO Member States for the adoption of the new edition 4.2.0 of B-6 that includes pragmatic suggestions on the release of associated bathymetric data to the IHO Digital center for Digital Bathymetric
- The importance of multilateral consultations between proposers prior to SCUFN meetings when the feature may be located in areas of mutual interests, such as the South China Sea, otherwise some coastal States will never be in a position to make naming proposals if these cases are systematically categorized as being "politically sensitive" in accordance with SCUFN Rules of Procedures 2.10.
- SCUFN noted the statements made by some coastal States by which they wish to be kept informed of the proposals located in their areas of jurisdiction

6. REPOSITORY

For consistency in the decision making process, Prof. Roberta and Mr. Kevin are writing a list of how SCUFN decided on the generic names of ambiguous undersea features.

The list so far will be compiled by next year and will be subject to approval by the SCUFN members at the following meeting.

7. LIMIT OF AREAL EXTENT OF UNDERSEA FEATURE

SCUFN also agreed on the need to pursue the development of a general strategy and possible guidelines defining the optimal horizontal resolution between undersea features that are eligible for naming. Several objectives need to be considered for this task:

- the consequences of the development of GIS tools (by Canada for instance) able to discover features automatically, as long as the generic term definitions become more geometrically robust, a task which is in the scope of the Undersea Feature Names Project Team and the Generic Term Sub-Group;

- the categorization very minor features that can be now unveiled by new sensors technologies

8. ACTION

The GGC is requested to provide some guidance on this minor undersea feature that has a very small areal extent. The result could impact the SCUFN ToR 1.2.

☐ SCUFN ToR 1.2

It is the function of the Sub-Committee to select those names of undersea features in the world ocean appropriate for use on GEBCO graphical and digital products, on the IHO small-scale International chart series, and on the regional IBC series.

- The largest IBC chart scale: 1: 1,000,000
- The largest GEBCO grid(GEBCO-2019): ~ 460 m