

Paper for Consideration by GGC

New Edition of Publication B-6 "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names"

Submitted by:	SCUFN Chair and IHO Secretariat (as SCUFN Secretariat)
Executive Summary:	This document proposes a draft new edition of B-6 <i>Standardization of Undersea Feature Names</i> , to better support the work of SCUFN and the preparation of name proposals.
Related Documents:	Edition 4.1.0 of B-6, September 2013 (updated February 2017) Draft Edition 4.2.0 of B-6, July 2018 (red line and clean versions) IHO CL 41/2013 dated 27 June and CL 67/2013 dated 21 November: <i>Publication B-6, New Edition 4.1.0</i> M-3 IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended
Related Projects:	N/A

Introduction / Background

1. The current edition 4.1.0 of Publication B-6 was published in September 2013. An updated version was produced in February 2017 to take account of the change from International Hydrographic Bureau to IHO Secretariat in accordance with the new IHO convention.
2. The need to upgrade this document arose at the last SCUFN meetings to improve its efficiency in support of the SCUFN work and the preparation of name proposals. Reports and proposals from SCUFN Members and ad hoc sub-groups have resulted in a number of improvements and additions to B-6. A draft new edition 4.2.0 has been prepared, approved by SCUFN Members, and is submitted to GGC for consideration and endorsement with the aim to seek the approval of IHO Member States through the IRCC.

Analysis/Discussion

3. The following changes have been included in the draft new edition of B-6:
 - The list of national authorities (pp. 2-7 and 2-8 in the current edition) has been removed. It has been updated and is now available on the SCUFN page of the IHO website > Miscellaneous > Lists of...Naming Authorities. Thus its maintenance should be facilitated.
 - References to the GEBCO website (www.gebco.net) and to www.scufnterm.org, listing all B-6 terms and definitions, and operated by the Korean Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA), have been inserted.
 - Preference for names in relation with marine research, as choice for specific terms, has been emphasized.
 - Provision of name proposals in digital form and feature geometries as shapefiles are recommended in the proposal form.

- Use of generic terms as recommended by SCUFN only (not obsolete terms) is required.
- Definitions of some generic terms, such as Peak or Pinnacle, have been improved.
- Additional generic terms with genetic implication, such as Reef or Shoal, have been identified and marked.
- A number of historical generic terms, such as Cap, Discordance, Ground, Pass, Plain, Re-entrant or Seabight, sometimes appearing in the current GEBCO Gazetteer¹, have been included with their definitions in the list of generic terms used for harmonization with other gazetteers (not to be used in new proposals),
- The Users' Guide for Preparation of Name Proposals (Appendix A) has been improved, for example by inviting proposers to provide feature geometries as shapefiles, release and hand over their supporting bathymetric data to the IHO DCDB, or provide better informed supporting bathymetric maps.
- A Fast-Track Procedure for the adoption by SCUFN of names proposed by national geographical naming authorities has been added as new Appendix B.

Recommendations

Noting the procedure used for the approval of Ed. 4.1.0 of B-6 (IHO CL 41/2013 and 67/2013 refer), which remains applicable, it is recommended that:

4. GGC endorses the draft new edition 4.2.0 of B-6 and submit it for endorsement to the IRCC by correspondence, with the aim to seek the approval of IHO Member States later on, so the new Edition can come into force in 2019 prior to SCUFN-32, with no further delay.

Justification and Impacts

5. The draft new edition contains clarifications, improvements and additions which will reinforce the efficiency of B-6 in support of the SCUFN work and the preparation of name proposals.

6. It can be considered as an extension of the current edition of B-6 and has no impact on those names in the GEBCO Gazetteer which have been approved on the basis of the current edition.

7. It has no impact on the SCUFN Terms of Reference, so the two documents remain consistent.

Action required of GGC

8. GGC is invited to:
- a. note this paper;
 - b. consider the recommendations made in section 4.

¹ For instance, « re-entrant » is not in the Gazetteer.