



United States Board on Geographic Names

Advisory Committee on Undersea Features

309th Meeting
February 23, 2005
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Bethesda, Maryland

Minutes

1. OPENING

Mr. WALTER called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Attendance

Members:

Norm CHERKIS, Naval Research Lab (retired)
Sandy SHOR, National Science Foundation
Skip THEBERGE, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Gerry WALTER, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Ex Officio:

Trent PALMER, US BGN ACUF Secretary

Visitors:

Frank CAMPOS, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Steve WEISS, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved a modified agenda. The demonstration of the Undersea Feature Access database was placed ahead of Communications. Mr. THEBERGE mentioned a few items that he wished to add to the agenda (see item 8).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ACUF 308

The Committee approved the minutes of the 308th meeting with a few corrections.

4. DEMONSTRATION OF UNDERSEA FEATURE MICROSOFT® ACCESS DATABASE

Mr. PALMER provided an introduction to the project and distributed a paper on the topic that will be presented at the 22nd BGN/PCGN Conference (see Item 6). Mr. CAMPOS has designed the interface and taken the undersea feature name data provided and made it available via the Access database. A

demonstration of the database's functionality followed. At this time, only the undersea feature names beginning with the letter "A" have been most-fully "attributed" in the database. Following feedback from this meeting and the BGN/PCGN Conference, work will continue on preparing the product for its initial available version. BGN-approval and NGA Public Release approval will need to be garnered. The ACUF Members were pleased with the database and look forward to its completion. Several further enhancements related to on-screen map display of feature location were suggested. Mr. CAMPOS affirmed that the new capability could be provided.

5. COMMUNICATION

Mr. PALMER reported the following:

- The Summary Report from the 17th SCUFN Meeting has been issued. Copies may be obtained from Mr. CHERKIS or himself.
- He has obtained a data set for GIS called B2B (Baja California to Bering Sea). One of the layers of data is a file of seamounts taken from Scripps and GEBCO.
- Reported receipt of an inquiry concerning the source of the name for Louisville Ridge.
- A new undersea feature name proposal form has been created in the format of Adobe Acrobat 6.0 form.
- An article from the most recent issue of USGS' *Sound Waves* newsletter was circulated. The article, co-authored by ACUF's Jim ROBB, addresses the four canyons off the U.S. East Coast for which names were recently approved. Ironically, neither BGN nor ACUF is mentioned in the article.

Mr. WALTER mentioned the recent inquiry from Dr. Paul E. BREWIN, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, concerning the first known official usage of the term *seamount*. Mr. THEBERGE has responded that to his knowledge it was when the name Davidson Seamount was approved by the US BGN in 1937.

Dr. SHOR reported that the RV *Maurice Ewing* had recently hit a reef off the coast of Progreso, Mexico. The research vessel was on its last cruise when the grounding occurred. No damage to the ship was incurred, however some coral was displaced.

Mr. CHERKIS related his discovery of the ACUF-approved feature Coronado Bank's existence inside the territorial waters of the US. This, once again, brings attention to the interplay between the BGN Domestic Names Committee (DNC) and ACUF.

Mr. THEBERGE reported the following:

- He informed the group that Dr. Peter RONA, Rutgers University, will be speaking at NOAA on 3 March, 2005. The seminar is entitled "Volcanoes of the Deep Sea."
- He has provided ACUF Secretary with a CD containing image files of old maps/charts dated from 1853-1895. He plans to provide additional historic images in the future.
- The background notes project was discussed and related to the Access database project. In this effort, Mr. THEBERGE is compiling a history of the naming of undersea features. Relevant information includes a name's existence in publications, approval history and accurate name derivation.

6. BGN ISSUES

6.1 Mr. PALMER informed the group that the 22nd BGN-PCGN Conference would be held 1-10 March, 2005 at the Royal Geographical Society in London. Mr. PALMER will be attending two days of the conference. He will present papers on the activities of ACUF 2003-2004 and the Access database. Copies of both papers were distributed.

6.2 The ACUF Standardization guidelines have been re-distributed to the BGN. A vote on approval is expected at the next full-Board meeting in April.

7. CONSIDERATION OF NEW NAMES

7.1 Three names originally proposed to GEBCO SCUFN for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Indian Ocean Sheet (IBCWIO) 1.07. Names proposed by Prof. Werner BETTAC.

<i>Proposed Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>ACUF Recommendation/Remarks</i>
Lindi Canyon	CNYU	09°38'S	040°12'E	ACCEPTED
Nikindani Canyon	CNYU	09°49'S	040°25'E	Specific name is incorrect; ACCEPTED as Mikindani Canyon
Pantalon Canyon	CNYU	11°56'S	040°46'E	ACCEPTED

7.2 Seven names originally proposed to GEBCO SCUFN for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Eastern Atlantic (IBCEA) Sheet 1.10. Names proposed by Ing. Olivier PARVILLERS.

<i>Proposed Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>ACUF Recommendation/Remarks</i>
Aby Canyon	CNYU	04°15'N	003°40'W	ACCEPTED
Baoulé Canyon	CNYU	04°04'N	002°05'W	ACCEPTED
Cape Palmas Seamount	SMU	04°00'N	007°21'W	ACCEPTED
Côte d'Ivoire Escarpment	ESCU	04°15'N	001°30'W	ACCEPTED
Grand Cess Canyon	CNYU	03°57'N	008°20'W	ACCEPTED
Nzima Valley	VALU	03°55'N	003°08'W	ACCEPTED
Tabou Canyon	CNYU	03°54'N	007°11'W	ACCEPTED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Name change proposal submitted by Dr. James V. Gardner, University of New Hampshire. Recommends change of name from Knauss Knoll to Knauss Seamount.

<i>Proposed Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>ACUF Recommendation/Remarks</i>
Knauss Seamount	SMU	37°24'N	070°52'W	ACCEPTED ; Change in generic made because new data reveals feature relief qualifying it for designation as a seamount

8.2 Name change recommended by Mr. THEBERGE, NOAA.

<i>Proposed Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>ACUF Recommendation/Remarks</i>
Karankawa Basin	BSNU	26°23'N	091°50'W	ACCEPTED ; Approved in 1990 as Karanka; further research discovered that the American Indian tribe for which the feature was named is spelled Karankawa

9. CLOSING

The Committee adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next ACUF meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at NGA in Bethesda, Maryland on Wednesday, April 6, 2005.