



## United States Board on Geographic Names

### *Advisory Committee on Undersea Features*

310<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
April 6, 2005  
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency  
Bethesda, Maryland

### *Minutes*

#### 1. OPENING

Mr. WALTER called the meeting to order at 10:20 am.

### *Attendance*

#### *Members:*

Norm CHERKIS, Naval Research Laboratory (retired)  
James ROBB, United States Geological Survey (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

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved a modified agenda. Mr. THEBERGE mentioned a few items that he wished to add to the agenda (see item 4).

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ACUF 309

The Committee approved the corrected minutes of the 309<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 4. COMMUNICATION

Dr. SHOR reported the following:

- He provided some additional information on the R/V *Maurice Ewing* grounding. \$200,000 was paid in coral restoration fees plus an additional fine was being imposed for not using Mexican charts.
- In Germany, two multi-beam mapping surveys in the Weddell Sea to be conducted by the *Polarstern* were blocked by a court order. The contention is that the survey work is a violation of the Antarctic Treaty.

- The NSF is assisting the Office of Polar Programs in planning the Summer Arctic cruise of the *Healy*. A seismic survey from Alaska to Norway is planned.

Mr. ROBB reported the following:

- He has digitized the photographs of the Veatch and Smith charts of the North Atlantic. However, he hasn't be able to successfully overlay them with other source data in a GIS environment.
- He retired from the USGS in January, but is still working and plans to continue serving as an ACUF Member for the short term. However, he intends to notify the USGS that a replacement should be sought, not only due to his retirement but also the budget difficulties the agency is experiencing. It would be best if a USGS employee from the Reston office could be identified to serve ACUF.

Mr. CHERKIS reported that no information on an official Japanese undersea feature file/gazetteer has yet been provided.

Mr. PALMER reported the following:

- The 22<sup>nd</sup> BGN-PCGN Conference was held 1-10 March 2005 at the Royal Geographical Society in London. Mr. PALMER attended two days of the conference. He presented papers on the activities of ACUF 2003-2004 and the Access database. A demonstration of the Access database was provided. Some additional valuable feedback and suggestions were received (PCGN website: <<http://pcgn.org.uk>>).
- The Fourth Advisory Board on Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) Biennial Scientific Conference is to be held 10-12 October 2005 in Monaco. The theme is to be Marine Scientific Research and the Law of the Sea. This conference will occur the week following the 18<sup>th</sup> SCUFN Meeting. Mr. PALMER intends to submit an abstract concerning geographic names and the Law of the Sea (ABLOS website: <http://www.gmat.unsw.edu.au/ablos/>).
- Commented on a recent series of emails concerning a "new" volcano being discovered off the coast of Alaska. The feature is located within 12 nautical miles of the Alaskan coast, thus in US waters and in the purview of US BGN Domestic Names Committee (DNC). However, it was noted that the name mentioned, if submitted to ACUF would not meet its criteria. Just another case study of the disparity between the different parts of the US BGN.
- A shapefile of the undersea features in the northeast Pacific Ocean was provided to Ms. Louisa WOOD, PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia. She is working on the justification for the designation of Bowie Seamount as an Marine Protected Area (MPA).
- An update on the progress of the Access database project was given.

Mr. THEBERGE reported the following:

- He has been asked to once again present a lecture on the history of the naming of undersea features for the 2005 COGNA Conference in Portland, Oregon. He is considering proposing naming a scarp off the coast of Oregon for Lewis MCARTHUR, who has been involved with the Oregon Geographic Names Board for many years. His grandfather was involved with early offshore surveying off the Oregon coast. Input from the committee was requested.
- Discussion continued about the possibility of proposing a name for the seamounts in the Gulf of Alaska that have been named in honor of US Coast and Geodetic Survey workers. This proposal is in light of the 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Office of Coast Survey in 2007. In the end, the committee suggested that perhaps the special chart produced for the event could highlight these names without approving new name for the group.
- In light of the *San Francisco*'s collision with a seamount, he has been going through the collection of old cable surveys. He has found significant highs marked by cable surveys that have never been named. A systematic approach to cross-checking some of these findings with other data sources may be a way to identify some other features that may pose an unknown hazard. For example, the cable survey data could be compared with NGA's bathymetric data holdings with which Dan DONNELL works. Additionally, the Smith and Sandwell dataset could be used for a

comparison. A discussion about positional accuracy ensued. It was agreed that the depth information is good and that any variability caused by the navigation uncertainties (approximately 10-15 miles) would've been true for any data collected prior to the 1960s. Mr. THEBERGE is to send a few sample locations to Mr. PALMER to walk through the process.

#### 5. DATABASE REVIEW XV

<i>Proposed Name Change</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>ACUF Recommendation/Remarks</i>
ARLIS Gap	<b>GAPU</b>	84°00'N	170°00'E	<b>ACCEPTED;</b> Capitalization reflects that the name is an acronym for the Arctic Research Laboratory Ice Station.
ARLIS Spur	<b>SPRU</b>	75°45'N	179°30'E	<b>ACCEPTED;</b> Capitalization reflects that the name is an acronym for the Arctic Research Laboratory Ice Station.

The following names were accepted for removal from the undersea feature file. All fall within the territorial sea of either Indonesia or Malaysia.

<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Alert Patches	<b>RFSU</b>	04°09'N	118°15'E	<b>Malaysia (MY)</b>
Banda Reef	<b>RFU</b>	03°50'N	118°01'E	<b>Indonesia (ID)</b>
Beaufort Reef	<b>RFU</b>	04°24'N	118°45'E	<b>Malaysia (MY)</b>
Creagh Reef	<b>RFU</b>	04°22'N	118°38'E	<b>Malaysia (MY)</b>
Friedrich Reef	<b>RFU</b>	04°14'N	118°21'E	<b>Malaysia (MY)</b>
Ligitan Reefs	<b>RFSU</b>	04°15'N	118°31'E	<b>Malaysia (MY)</b>
Padang Bank	<b>RFU</b>	04°02'N	117°56'E	<b>Indonesia (ID)</b>
Unarang Rock	<b>RFU</b>	04°01'N	118°05'E	<b>Indonesia (ID)</b>

#### 6. CONSIDERATION OF NEW NAMES

The consideration of twenty-eight new names from Japan chart 6725 was deferred.

#### 7. CLOSING

The Committee adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next ACUF meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at NGA on Tuesday, June 7, 2005.