



United States Board on Geographic Names

Advisory Committee on Undersea Features

300th Meeting

December 16, 2003

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Bethesda, Maryland

Minutes

1. OPENING

Mr. WALTER called the meeting to order at 0945 hrs. Special note was made concerning this being the 300th meeting of the committee. Three guests are in attendance and a luncheon is planned following the conclusion of the meeting.

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:

Harley NYGREN, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (retired)

Richard RANDALL, US BGN Executive Secretary Emeritus

James ROBB, United States Geological Survey

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ACUF 299

The Committee approved the minutes of the 299th meeting. Secretary noted that there is a coordinate correction for MARTINO Seamount approved at ACUF Meeting 298.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. THEBERGE reported the following items:

- He reported that the new national Hydrographer is CAPT Robert PARSONS, NOAA.
- Informed the group of collaboration with Russian colleagues on a possible online Arctic Atlas.

Mr. CHERKIS reported that he still has received no response from the new Hydrographer of Japan, Mr. Hideo NISHIDA, concerning the status of an official Japanese undersea feature name database.

Mr. PALMER reported the following items:

- The National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) is now the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). The wording to enact this name change was included in the 2004 Defense Authorization Bill, signed on 24 November 2003 by President BUSH.
- The geographic names staff at NGA have been reorganized/consolidated into one organization (branch) as of 1 October 2003. Mr. Brian HAGAN is the Branch Chief. Mr HAGAN and approximately nine analysts are in NGA St. Louis office. There are approximately 20 Branch members in Bethesda.
- One of today's guests is Mr. James ROBB, United States Geological Survey. Mr. ROBB works at Woods Hole, MA and is a candidate for ACUF membership. He will be recommended for membership at the next meeting of the BGN, scheduled for 20 January 2004.
- Ms. Stephanie WATSON, California Department of Fish and Game, used the GEONet Names Server (GNS) to research ACUF-approved undersea feature names located off the California coast. Her findings included the fact that there are 44 features in the database that are actually within 12 nautical miles of the California coast, and therefore officially under the purview of the US BGN's Domestic Name Committee (DNC). This is further evidence of communications and cooperation that needs to occur between ACUF and DNC.
- Related to DNC cooperation, Mr. Palmer recently received an inquiry about the origin of Schmieder Bank. Research indicates that the feature is in the US territorial sea. DNC policy prohibits commemorative naming for an individual who is alive. The feature is named for the still living Dr. Robert Schmieder.
- Mr. Theberge and Mr. Palmer responded to an inquiry from LT Mark Boland and Matt Eagleton, NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region. They were interested in the named seamounts in the Alaska EEZ, primarily in the Gulf of Alaska.
- Mr. Palmer attended a public briefing held 4 November 2003 at the National Academies. The topic was the future of Ocean Exploration. The US Congress asked the National Research Council to look into the feasibility of an international ocean exploration program. The resulting report is entitled "Exploration of the Seas: Voyage into the Unknown" (see <http://www.nap.edu/>).
- National Geographic will have an article about the Arctic Ocean in the January 2004 issue.
- The International Hydrographic Organization's General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) has issued the Summary Report from Meeting XVI held in April of this year. SCUFN Secretary Mr. Michel Huet has also responded to a list of comments submitted by Mr. Palmer at that meeting.
- This being the 300th Meeting several documents that relate to ACUF were circulated. These included:
 - ACUF History: lists the chronology of the meetings; membership, chair and secretariat changes and major policy actions
 - Detailed List of Database Review Findings
 - Meeting By Meeting
 - ACUF Projects

5. REPORT ON THE COGNA MEETING

Mr. THEBERGE and Mr. PALMER reported on the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) Meeting held Sept 30-Oct. 2 in Pacific Grove, California. The 2004 meeting will be held in Jacksonville, Florida and both hope to be able to attend.

6. REPORT ON ABLOS MEETING

Mr. PALMER reported on his attendance at the 3rd Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) Biennial Scientific Conference. The conference was held 28-30 October at the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) in Monaco.

7. CONSIDERATION OF ONE NEW NAME

A name in honor of the USCGC *Healy*. Name proposed by Dr. Larry Mayer, University of New Hampshire. This feature was just discovered during this year's *Healy* expedition in the Arctic Ocean.

Healy Seamount	SMU	78°40'N	158°00'W	APPROVED
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8. CLOSING

The Committee adjourned at 11:40 a.m. to enjoy lunch together at the China Pavilion restaurant located in the shopping center across the street from the NGA complex.