

STANDARDIZATION OF UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES
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Proposed changes/clarifications by SCUFN Secretariat

1. Page 2-1 of B-6 *GUIDELINES FOR THE STANDARDIZATION OF UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES*

1.1 Paragraph I.A states:

“International concern for naming undersea features is limited to those features entirely or mainly (more than 50%) outside waters under the jurisdiction of states, i.e. outside territorial waters, usually limited to 12 miles from the straight baseline, in agreement with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.”

At the very least, it should be “e.g.” instead of “i.e.”, as territorial waters are an example of waters under the jurisdiction of States. There are other examples and this definition would be made more accurate and comprehensive in using UNCLOS terminology. The UNCLOS term *High Seas* seems to correctly reflect the expression “outside waters under jurisdiction of States; it is defined as follows:

High Seas ... apply to all parts of the sea that are not included in the exclusive economic zone, in the territorial sea or in the internal waters of a State. (taken from Article 86 of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea)

As a result, the following revised wording for para. I.A is proposed (changes underlined):

“SCUFN’s international concern for naming undersea features is limited to those features entirely or mainly (more than 50%) outside waters under the jurisdiction of States, e.g. in all parts of the sea that are not included in the exclusive economic zone, in the territorial sea or in the internal waters of a State, in agreement with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); those parts of the sea are termed *High Seas* in UNCLOS.”

1.2 Paragraph I.D states:

“Names approved by national names authorities in waters beyond national limits (i.e. international waters) should be accepted by other states if the names have been applied in conformance with internationally accepted principles. Names applied within the territorial limits of a state should be recognized by other states.”

The expression “international waters” is not recognized by UNCLOS. In line with the proposed changes to para. I.A, the following revised wording for I.D is proposed (changes underlined):

“Names approved by national names authorities in waters beyond national jurisdiction (e.g. in high seas) should be accepted by other States if the names have been applied in conformance with internationally accepted principles. Names applied within the waters under the jurisdiction of a State should be recognized by other States.”

2. Page 2-9 of B-6 *NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE "UNDERSEA FEATURE NAME PROPOSAL FORM" SHOULD BE SENT FOR CLEARANCE, FOR ANY FEATURE LOCATED IN TERRITORIAL WATERS*

2.1 In line with the previous proposed changes, it is proposed to amend the above title to read (changes underlined): *NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE "UNDERSEA FEATURE NAME PROPOSAL FORM" SHOULD BE SENT FOR CLEARANCE, FOR ANY FEATURE LOCATED IN WATERS UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION*.

2.2 This section of B-6 includes a list of institutions, with names, postal addresses and fax numbers, which are mostly Hydrographic Offices of IHO Member States. Some of this information is subject to frequent changes that are reflected on the IHO website. It is therefore proposed to only retain in this list the names of HOs and to refer to the IHO website for any other details. In the rare cases where the relevant institution is not an HO, then the information can be retained in full. As a result, it is proposed to have a 2nd note at the beginning of page 2-9, to read as follows (changes underlined):

- “Notes: 1) Proposals forms for features located in waters under the jurisdiction of countries not listed here should be submitted to the IHB or to the IOC (See addresses on Pages 2-6).
- 2) References for the Hydrographic Offices listed below (e.g. postal / e-mail addresses, fax / phone numbers, websites, etc.) are not provided in this publication. They can be found on the IHO website (www.iho.int).”