

Undersea Feature Names in the Ross Sea - IHB Comments

Going through each of the points mentioned in LINZ letter dated 29 March 2004 with the Ross Sea Bathymetry Map compiled by F.J. Davey (2004, scale 1:2 million), the observations made were as follows:

1. Adare Seamounts

As noted by Dr. Davey, they seem to be part of a two Ridges complex, separated by Adare Trough. Therefore, this feature should be re-termed "Ridge" ("Rift" is not part of the GEBCO Gazetteer Nomenclature).

Positions for the two Ridges are proposed as follows:

"Ridge 1" at location: 69°42'S, 171°30'E; 70°50'S, 172°30'E (Max. Relief of about 1800m)

"Ridge 2" at location: 69°20'S, 172°15'E; 70°42'S, 173°20'E (Max. Relief of about 1000m)

It is suggested that the 1st ridge above, the more significant, be named Adare Ridge and that a suitable name be identified for the 2nd ridge.

2. Adare Trough

The proposal that North End starts at about 69°00'S, 171°30'E is supported. Positions for this feature should therefore be as follows: 69°00'S, 171°30'E; 69°30'S, 172°00'E; 70°45'S, 173°00'E.

3. Borchgrevink Trench

Agreed it is not a Trench but a possible basin, according to Dr. Davey's Map, with following location: 70°15'S, 170°15'E; 69°10'S, 168°30'E.

4. Bowers Canyon

Agreed it does not exist, according to Dr. Davey's Map. Suggest to delete from GEBCO Gazetteer.

5. Byrd Canyon

Agreed there is no canyon there, from the bathymetry available on Dr. Davey's map. Suggest to delete from GEBCO Gazetteer.

6. Franklin Shoal

Agreed there is no shoal in the area. No bathymetric evidence of a shoal at location 75°50'S, 169°00'E on Dr. Davey's Map. Suggest to delete from GEBCO Gazetteer.

7. Hallet Ridge

The proposal that this feature extends from 70°50'S to 72°00'S is supported. Positions should therefore be as follows: 70°50'S, 176°40'E; 72°00'S, 177°00'E.

8. Hillary Canyon

The proposal that there is no canyon at the position indicated in the GEBCO Gazetteer, i.e. 72°25'S, 173°00'W, is supported. The major canyon in this area is at location: 74°40'S, 177°15'W; 73°30'S, 173°00'W. Suggest to adopt these positions for Hillary Canyon.

9. Iselin Bank

Information that this name has reportedly been in existence for sometime (British Admiralty charts, Hayes and Davey 1974 map) before it was proposed by Dr. S. Cande in 1996, is noted.

Suggest to mention this in the Remarks section of the Gazetteer. Further, the following amended location is proposed: 72°30'S, 178°00'W; 73°20'S, 179°00'W

10. Iselin Seamount

This name does not appear in the current GEBCO Gazetteer. The proposal that it does not exist is therefore supported.

11. Marie Byrd Canyon

There is no bathymetric evidence for a canyon in this area from Dr. Davey's Map. Suggest to delete from GEBCO Gazetteer.

12. Nordenskjold Basin

The proposal that there is no separate basin at this location, i.e. 76°00'S, 165°00'E, is supported. From Dr. Davey's Map, it is clear that this feature is part of Drygalski Basin. The following amended positions for Drygalski Basin are suggested: 74°10'S, 169°30'E; 74°50'S, 166°30'E; 75°10'S, 164°30'E.

13. Oates Bank

There is no bathymetric evidence for a canyon at this location, i.e. 70°15'S, 165°15'E, from Dr. Davey's Map. Suggest to delete from GEBCO Gazetteer.

14. Rennick Trough

From the bathymetry available, there is no evidence for a trough at 69°25'S, 162°00'E. However, as noted by Dr. Davey, there is a small basin at location 69°50'S, 161°00'E that could be named Rennick Basin.

15. Ross Bank

The proposal that Ross Bank shallowest area is at about 76°40'S, 179°10'E is supported. It is proposed to adopt the following amended positions for this feature: 76°20'S, 180°00'E; 76°40'S, 179°10'E, 77°00'S, 175°10'E.

16. Scott Shoal

From Dr. Davey's map, there is no bathymetric evidence of a shoal at this location, i.e. 77°50'S, 170°00'W. The proposal that it is part of Pennell Bank is supported. Suggest to remove from GEBCO Gazetteer.

17. Shackleton Canyon

From Dr. Davey's map, it does not exist as a separated Canyon; it is part of Ross Canyon. From sea to shore, Ross Canyon divides into two parts; one of these parts seems to extend towards Shackleton Canyon. Location for this branch is as follows: 75°15'S, 166°00'W; 75°00'S, 164°00'W; 74°20'S, 163°00'W. However, it is questionable whether this sub division of Ross Canyon deserve a specific name?

The other part is the natural prolongation of Ross Canyon for which the following amended coordinates are proposed: 74°30'S, 166°20'W; 74°20'S, 163°00'W; 73°55'S, 160°25'W; 73°05'S, 158°40'W.

18. Whales Bay Deeps

There is no "Deeps" at that location, i.e. 77°50'S, 170°00'W, from the Bathymetry shown on Dr. Davey's Map. Suggest to delete from GEBCO Gazetteer.

19. Wilson Canyon

The remark on the position is supported and the following amended coordinates are proposed: 70°20'S, 175°45'E; 70°35'S, 175°30'E; 70°55'S, 175°30'E.

Saunders Basin

The Basin located between Saunders Bank and Shirase Bank could possibly be named Saunders Basin, as mentioned by Dr. Davey, with positions 76°30'S, 157°15'W; 77°00'S, 155°30'W.

The following positions are suggested for the proposed Hayes Bank: 76°40'S, 172°30'W; 77°40'S, 172°00'W.

The following positions are suggested for the proposed Houtz Bank: 76°20'S, 166°30'W; 77°30'S, 165°30'W.

The proposed names seem appropriate. There is however no information at all on Rennick and the two Seamounts named after Marion and Julia. Name proposals will have to be supported by explanations.