



United States Board on Geographic Names

Advisory Committee on Undersea Features

314th Meeting
November 29, 2005
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Bethesda, Maryland

Minutes

1. OPENING

Mr. WALTER called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

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 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names, Acting ACUF Secretary

Visitors:

Randall FLYNN, NGA Geographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ACUF 313

The Committee approved the corrected minutes of the 313th meeting.

4. COMMUNICATION

- Prior to the approval of the minutes, Mr. FLYNN informed the Committee of recent changes involving the BGN staff at NGA. The new information now reported at the last ACUF Meeting is

that Mr. Palmer is now also the BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names. He will continue to serve as ACUF Secretary until a replacement has been identified for the Marine Geographer position.

Mr PALMER noted the following items:

- The approximate schedule for improvements to the GNDB and GNS was outlined. The Committee will continue to be kept informed of changes as they occur.
- Copies of the Access database program on CD were provided to the members at the last meeting. Secretary would appreciate any comments on the program. Mr. CAMPOS, who developed the program, is leaving NGA for employment in the private sector.
- There had been correspondence with Capt. Jim Jadul, for whom Jadul Ridge is named. Capt. Jadul was seeking to obtain a chart showing the feature. SCUFN has approved the name Montecristo Ridge for this feature.
- Members were encouraged to examine the website of the Global Volcanism Program, a Smithsonian Institution program (<http://www.volcano.si.edu/world/>).
- The final comparison between the undersea features database in the GNDB and the SeamountsOnline listing has been sent to Ms. STOCKS, San Diego State University, Project Leader of the San Diego Supercomputer Center.
- An announcement for the First Seamount Biogeoscience Network Workshop was circulated (<http://earthref.org/events/SBN/2006/>). The Workshop is to be held 23-24 March, 2006 in San Diego. It is hoped that someone from ACUF may be able to attend.

Mr. CHERKIS reported the following:

- The Glacier Society (<http://www.glaciersociety.org>) is funding the restoration of the former USS/USCGC Glacier, to be known as the MV Glacier GB4, for humanitarian efforts in the arctic.
- There is to be a International Bathymetric Chart of the North Atlantic planning meeting held at the upcoming American Geophysical Union Meeting.
- He is currently contouring International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean sheets that were assigned French responsibility.

Dr. SHOR reported the following:

- Budget news for various ocean research agencies is poor this year. The NSF academic research program ship usage is being reduced by thirty percent, primarily due to higher fuel costs and installation security costs. NOAA's sea-going budget has also been significantly reduced, including cuts to the National Undersea Research Program (NURP).
- The R/V *Marcus Langseth*, which is replacing the *Ewing*, is undergoing modifications. The schedule calls for actual operations to begin in October 2006.

Mr. ROBB noted that USGS funding is declining. The funding for the Coastal and Marine Geology group is low. The Western Region office is moving from Menlo Park to Santa Cruz, California. There is an emphasis on outsourcing.

Mr THEBERGE reported the following:

- He attended the COGNA 2005 meeting in Portland. The presentation to Mr. Lewis McArthur of the features named for his family went well.
- He presented a talk on mapping the ocean at the First Maritime Heritage Conference in Norfolk, Virginia.
- He has been invited to be involved in a Smithsonian Institution effort to produce an atlas of the oceans

5. REPORT ON THE 18TH MEETING OF IHO/IOC GEBCO SCUFN

Messrs. CHERKIS, PALMER and THEBERGE all commented on the recent SCUFN Meeting. All agreed that the meeting was successful. The 19th SCUFN Meeting is scheduled to be held 21-23 June, 2006 in Bremerhaven, Germany.

6. DATABASE REVIEW XVIII

<i>Proposed Name Change</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>ACUF Recommendation/Remarks</i>
Da Vinci Bank	BNKU	77°30'S	34°30'W	APPROVED; changed from Vinci Bank to agree with SCUFN and to clearly reflect common usage of the name of honoree Leonardo da Vinci.

The following name was accepted for removal from the undersea feature file. The feature lies within the territorial sea of Mauritania.

<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Arguin Bank	BNKU	20°22'N	17°00'W	Banc d'Arguin is now the approved form in Mauritania (MR) file.

7. CLOSING

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next ACUF meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at NGA on Wednesday, January 4, 2006.