



United States Board on Geographic Names

Advisory Committee on Undersea Features

315th Meeting
January 4, 2006
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Bethesda, Maryland

Minutes

1. OPENING

Mr. WALTER called the meeting to order at 9:45 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, BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names, Acting ACUF Secretary

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ACUF 314

The Committee approved the corrected minutes of the 314th meeting.

4. COMMUNICATION

Mr PALMER noted the following items:

- Related news that cutbacks and an outsourcing initiative at USGS may result in the elimination of the BGN Domestic Names Committee (DNC) staff. The job functions, if maintained by USGS, will be transferred to Denver. Mr. Greg BOUGHTON, BGN Chairman, has sent a letter to USGS to present arguments against the proposed cuts which would severely impact BGN.

- Circulated an article from USGS' *Sound Waves* newsletter on a Gulf of Maine sea-floor mapping project.
- Circulated a page printed from the website of the Iranian Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names (ICSGN) about their recently-organized Working Group on Standardization of Sea and Undersea Feature Names (<http://www.khzi.com/geonames.ir/e-main.htm>).
- Informed the group of developments in the modernization of the Geographic Names Processing System (GNPS) which contains the Geographic Names Data Base (GNDB). The GNPS is to be eliminated and the GNDB will be merged with the Geospatial-Intelligence Feature Database (GIFD), which is the imagery-derived vector data that supports NGA topographic mapping. This merger is resulting in the necessity to "map" the feature designations (e.g. SMU for seamount) used in the GNDB to the closest equivalent code/word in the GIFD, which takes its attribution from the larger international effort DIGEST (Digital Geographic Information Exchange Standard). Mr. PALMER has been participating in an effort to provide guidance for the mapping of the designations. During these sessions it was learned that the designation definitions being incorporated are those, where available, from the IHO Publication B-6. This publication is the standard for GEBCO SCUFN's designations and definitions.

Mr. ROBB observed that the Google Earth program is in need of a more robust capability to display geographic names information. Perhaps this shortfall presents an opportunity for the BGN.

Mr THEBERGE informed the group that Mr. John CLOUD, NOAA, would be speaking on the discovery of the SOFAR Channel. The lecture will be held in a few months time at the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. THEBERGE would provide more details as the time approached.

5. MUD VOLCANO DESIGNATION PROPOSAL

Mr. CHERKIS introduced an informal proposal to consider the approval of a new feature designation of mud volcano (proposed designation code of MVLU). These features are a relatively recent discovery and have been receiving increased attention in scientific journals. The general consensus among the members was that it would go against the policies and practices of the committee to approve a new designation which is genetically-based, vice morphology-based. It was noted that using the current set of approved designations, mud volcanoes would usually be coded as a hill (HLLU). However, it was agreed that a formal name proposal using the designation mud volcano would be sought for the next meeting. Dr. Joan GARDNER would be requested to submit a proposal for a feature that she discovered.

6. PRESENTATION

Mr. THEBERGE presented his talk given at the 2005 COGNA Conference in Portland, Oregon. The excellent presentation related the history of coastal and undersea feature exploration and naming for the area of the Oregon coast, incorporating the commemorative naming of McArthur Escarpment and McArthur Canyon for the McArthur family (see ACUF 311).

7. CONSIDERATION OF NEW NAMES

Fifteen new names taken from Japan chart 6726 (22 March 1996). These names were considered at SCUFN XIV.

| <i>Proposed Name</i> | <i>Designation</i> | <i>Latitude</i> | <i>Longitude</i> | <i>ACUF Recommendation/Remarks</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Kayō Seamount | SMU | 29°03'N | 140°31'E | In the Shichiyo Seamount Chain; ACCEPTED |
| Kinyō Seamount | SMU | 28°03'N | 140°07'E | In the Shichiyo Seamount Chain; ACCEPTED |
| Kita Seamount | SMU | 26°35'N | 144°12'E | Designation not accepted; ACCEPTED as Kita Knoll (KNLU) |

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|------------------------|-------------|---------|----------|--|
| Minami Seamount | SMU | 25°14'N | 143°55'E | Designation not accepted; ACCEPTED as Minami Knoll (KNLU) |
| Mokuyō Seamount | SMU | 28°19'N | 140°35'E | In the Shichiyo Seamount Chain; ACCEPTED |
| Mukojima Seamount | SMU | 28°12'N | 144°44'E | ACCEPTED |
| Nichiyō Seamount | SMU | 29°29'N | 140°20'E | In the Shichiyo Seamount Chain; ACCEPTED |
| Nishi Seamount | SMU | 26°04'N | 144°12'E | Designation not accepted; ACCEPTED as Nishi Knoll (KNLU) |
| Nishi Kaikata Seamount | SMU | 26°15'N | 140°17'E | ACCEPTED |
| Ōmachi Seamount | SMU | 29°13'N | 140°46'E | In the Shichiyo Seamount Chain; ACCEPTED |
| Sawa Seamount | SMU | 27°40'N | 140°26'E | ACCEPTED |
| Suiyō Seamount | SMU | 28°34'N | 140°38'E | In the Shichiyo Seamount Chain; ACCEPTED |
| Tsuta Seamount | SMU | 27°47'N | 146°13'E | ACCEPTED |
| Uda Spur | SPRU | 25°00'N | 147°15'E | ACCEPTED |
| Yomejima Seamount | SMU | 27°53'N | 145°13'E | ACCEPTED |

8. CLOSING

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next ACUF meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at NGA on Monday, February 13, 2006.