



United States Board on Geographic Names

Advisory Committee on Undersea Features

317th Meeting
May 9, 2006
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Bethesda, Maryland

Minutes

1. OPENING

Mr. WALTER called the meeting to order at 9:40 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 316

The Committee approved the minutes of the 316th meeting.

4. COMMUNICATION

Mr. THEBERGE informed the group that he will be presenting a talk on the history of seafloor mapping at the NOAA Fisheries Lab in Woods Hole, Massachusetts on May 22, 2006.

Mr. WALTER, noting the upcoming retirement of BGN Executive Secretary Roger PAYNE, proposed that the committee draft a letter of appreciation to be sent to Mr. PAYNE. All were in favor of the idea and agreed that Mr. WALTER would draft and sign the letter.

Mr CHERKIS commented that the International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Editorial Board Meeting is scheduled for Cartagena, Colombia. He does not think that he will be able to attend.

Dr. SHOR reported the following:

- Dr. Roger LARSON, University of Rhode Island, passed away on May 4, 2006.
- Dr. SHOR is now fully relieved of duties related to marine mammal and environmental permitting issues.
- His plans for at sea research work have been delayed until the fall.

Mr. ROBB reported the following:

- Mr. Mark MYERS, the former state geologist of Alaska, has been nominated by President BUSH to be the next director of the United States Geological Survey.
- The Hudson Canyon area bathymetric map has been submitted for printing. It includes the four names that were approved at ACUF Meeting 306.

Mr PALMER noted the following items:

- BGN Items:
 - BGN golf shirts are available for any who are interested. He is currently taking orders and will send out an email with information on pricing and color choices.
 - The most recent ACUF Quarterly Report, as submitted to the BGN, was circulated.
- United Nations
 - He attended the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names 23rd session, held 28 March – 4 April in Vienna, Austria.
 - At the UNGEGN session he became aware of United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names Resolution VIII/2 which recommends that national authorities discourage the use of commemorative naming for living persons.
 - Very little new information was obtained concerning national names authority work on the standardization of undersea feature names. However, he has made contact with someone working with Indonesia's undersea feature working group.
 - A Hungarian version of the IHO's Publication B-6 (Standardization of Undersea Features) found online was circulated.

5. PREPARATIONS FOR SCUFN 19

MESSRS. Cherkis, Palmer and Theberge will be attending the 19th Meeting of SCUFN to be held 21-23 June, 2006 in Bremerhaven, Germany. Several issues in relation to the upcoming meeting were discussed.

- SCUFN Summary Reports are now available on the internet.. The ACUF Minutes submitted to SCUFN are also included as annexes to the reports. Secretary asked the Members if this was in any way a concern for them. No objections to this practice were made.
- Minutes for ACUF Meetings 312-316 have been submitted to SCUFN Secretary Michel HUET for addition to the SCUFN 19 documentation. It was noted that there are only two new name proposals for SCUFN to consider from these meetings.
- The Agenda and accompanying documents for SCUFN 19 are now available at <http://www.iho.int/>. The agenda reports only five new name proposals (all from Russia) as having been thus far submitted.
- An item on the agenda calls for a review of a proposal concerning IHO publication B-6. The proposal is that SCUFN reduce its scope of work to the *high seas*. This is defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as being those areas outside of the exclusive economic zones of nations. There was a discussion on the merits and complications if so approved.

6. JAPAN-IZU-MARIANA TRENCH SYSTEM

During the review of Japan chart 6726 the issue was raised about the BGN names along this trench system being out of step with SCUFN. An action was taken to take a look at some references and history to attempt to either resolve the difference or maintain the BGN position. Various printings of International series chart 510 were brought to today's meeting (French, British and US versions). The original Japanese chart was also consulted but not presented at the meeting. All four charts use the names as approved by SCUFN.

SCUFN		BGN	
Kuril-Kamchatka Trench	41°N, 145°E to 54°N, 163°E	Kuril Trench	47°N, 155°E
Japan Trench	36°N, 142°50'E to 40°30'N, 144°30'E	Japan Trench	37°N, 143°E
Izu-Ogasawara Trench	32°N, 142°10'E	Izu Trench	31°N, 142°E
Mariana Trench	11°N, 141°30'E to 24°30'N, 143°30'E	Bonin Trench	23°N, 145°E
		Mariana Trench	15°N, 147°30'E

All were in agreement to provisionally approve names changes to agree with international practice. Dr. SHOR is going to consult some references at his office to verify the usage of the names. The action is presented as follows:

<i>Proposed Name Change</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>ACUF Recommendation/Remarks</i>
Kuril-Kamchatka Trench	TRNU	47°00'N	155°00'E	provisionally APPROVED; changed from Kuril Trench
Izu-Ogasawara Trench	TRNU	31°00'N	142°00'E	provisionally APPROVED; changed from Izu Trench
<i>delete:</i> Bonin Trench	TRNU	23°00N	145°00'E	No longer to be considered a separate feature; to be made a variant of Mariana Trench

7. CLOSING

The Committee adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next ACUF meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at NGA on Tuesday, July 25, 2006.