



## United States Board on Geographic Names

### *Advisory Committee on Undersea Features*

323<sup>rd</sup> Meeting  
May 25, 2007  
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency  
Bethesda, Maryland

### *Draft Minutes*

#### 1. OPENING

Mr. WALTER called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

#### *Attendance*

##### *Members:*

Norm CHERKIS, Naval Research Laboratory (retired)  
Jim ROBB, United States Geological Survey (retired)  
Skip THEBERGE, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Gerry WALTER, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

##### *Ex Officio:*

Trent PALMER, ACUF Secretary

##### *Observer:*

Sarah CHANDLER, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ACUF 322

The Committee approved the corrected minutes of the 322<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

#### 4. COMMUNICATION

Mr PALMER reported the following:

- The revised BGN Bylaws are scheduled to be made available to the BGN one month prior to the July Full Board Meeting.
- The 23<sup>rd</sup> BGN/PCGN Conference was successful. The biannual conference is to become an annual event with the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference to be held next spring in London.

- Since the last ACUF meeting, two new name proposals were received from CNMOC. The ACUF recommendation for approval was handled by electronic mail and submitted for approval at the 17 April BGN Meeting.

<i>Proposed Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>ACUF Recommendation/Remarks</i>
Byus Seamount	SMU	21°05'S	152°19'W	<b>ACCEPTED</b>
McGee Seamount	SMU	24°07'S	156°27'W	<b>ACCEPTED</b>

Mr. THEBERGE reported that the Smithsonian Institution's *Atlas of the Oceans* is scheduled for publication at the end of June 2007.

Ms. CHANDLER was introduced by Mr. PALMER. She has been working as a geospatial analyst in the Political Geography Division for about a year. She has just recently begun to assist Mr. PALMER in working marine geography issues.

#### 5. COMMEMORATIVE NAMING

In consideration of the two most recent CNMOC proposals it was noted that a rigorous application of ACUF principles for commemorative naming would result in only one of the proposals being recommended for BGN approval. The issue of commemorative naming has received a good deal of attention in recent years in ACUF's cooperative efforts with SCUFN. Mr. WALTER stressed that ACUF has the policies in place to enforce a strict commemorative name policy. Mr. PALMER brought up the issue at the April BGN Meeting seeking advice from the Board. The BGN consensus opinion was that it has entrusted these decisions to ACUF and expects the advisory committee to make the appropriate recommendation. The committee discussed several options related to CNMOC and commemorative naming:

- Revision of the standardization guidelines
- A direct letter to CNMOC, expressing ACUF's intent to strictly follow existing guidelines
- Advise potential proponents of specific suggestions (e.g., honoree's involvement in area where feature is located)

Mr. PALMER agreed to compile the applicable portions of the current standardization guidelines, distribute them and encourage the discussion to continue.

#### 6. PREPARATION FOR SCUFN 20

The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint IOC/IHO General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Sub-Committee on Undersea Features Names (SCUFN) is scheduled for July 9-12, 2007 in Monaco. Messrs. CHERKIS, PALMER and THEBERGE plan to attend. Mr. PALMER will be submitting the minutes from ACUF meetings 317-322 and all the new name proposals processed during those meetings.

#### 7. DEMONSTRATION OF GEOMAPAPP

GeoMapApp is a free downloadable "data exploration and visualization tool" that is extremely easy to use. The software is provided at the site of the Marine Geoscience Data System <http://www.marine-geo.org/geomapapp/>, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Included with the software is a file of the SCUFN gazetteer and several data sets. Shapefiles and Excel spreadsheets with coordinates are easily imported into the viewer.

#### 8. OTHER

Mr. THEBERGE has provided the bibliography that accompanies his historical citations of undersea feature name occurrence in maps, charts and other publications that is posted at the GEONet Names Server.

#### 9. CLOSING

The Committee adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next ACUF meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 17, 2007.