



## United States Board on Geographic Names

### *Advisory Committee on Undersea Features*

324<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
October 12, 2007  
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency  
Bethesda, Maryland

### *Draft Minutes*

#### 1. OPENING

Mr. WALTER called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

### *Attendance*

#### *Members:*

Norm CHERKIS, Naval Research Laboratory (retired)  
Jim ROBB, United States Geological Survey (retired)  
Sandy SHOR, University of Hawaii  
Gerry WALTER, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

#### *Ex Officio:*

Trent PALMER, ACUF Secretary

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ACUF 323

The Committee approved the corrected minutes of the 323<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

#### 4. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr PALMER reported the following:

- A summary was provided of two recent UN-related conferences: the 9<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, both held in New York from 19-31 August 2007. Contact was made with the New Zealand Geographical Names Board, which is looking to become involved in undersea feature name standardization. The 2007 Gazetteer of Japan, obtained through a contact met at the conference, was circulated. The gazetteer contains the names of over one hundred undersea features.

- The draft revised BGN Bylaws will be voted on at the BGN Meeting to be held on 16 October 2007. Two significant proposals included in the draft are the abolishment of the standing Publicity Committee and the elimination of the BGN Executive Secretary position.
- The new system on which the Geographic Names Database resides has now been established. An improved functionality is the ability to create somewhat customizable hard-copy style gazetteers. A gazetteer of the undersea feature file has been generated (displayed during the meeting) and will be posted at the ACUF website.

Mr. ROBB indicated that he is ending his “volunteer” work for the USGS and is seeking to identify someone from the agency to replace him on ACUF.

Mr. CHERKIS reported the following:

- Dr. John HALL, Geological Survey of Israel, is preparing a hovercraft for bathymetric data collection in the Arctic. The targeted location is the Lincoln Sea, which is generally under eight feet of ice pack.

Dr. SHOR reported the following:

- He has resigned from the National Science Foundation and taken the position of Associate Dean for Research at the University of Hawaii. He is willing to continue to participate in ACUF meetings by teleconference until a replacement can be identified. Dr. SHOR indicated that the replacement candidate pool at NSF is small to non-existent.
- He has not received any update on the Spiess proposals from Peter LONSDALE. He will continue to follow-up.

#### 5. COMMEMORATIVE NAMING

Extracts from ACUF standardization guidelines dealing with commemorative naming were distributed. The committee agreed that no additional text was required for the policy. It was agreed that a general statement would be prepared declaring ACUF’s intent to strictly apply its commemorative name policy. This statement would be provided to CNMOC and perhaps posted on the ACUF website.

#### 6. REPORT ON SCUFN 20

Mr. CHERKIS provided a report on the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint IOC/IHO General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Sub-Committee on Undersea Features Names (SCUFN) which was held July 9-12, 2007 in Monaco. Mr. CHERKIS and Mr. THEBERGE attended the meeting.

#### 7. ACUF WORK PLAN

Mr. PALMER briefly identified several projects that he would like to have the committee consider in upcoming meeting. Perhaps the first order of business will be the consideration of the new names proposed and accepted at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SCUFN. Mr. PALMER encouraged the members to be thinking about identifying issues for the committee’s consideration.

#### 8. CLOSING

The Committee adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next ACUF meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 7, 2007.