

22nd SCUFN MEETING
Brest, France, 22-26 September 2009

Report of ACUF Activities since SCUFN 21

The United States Board on Geographic Names (US BGN) Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) is pleased to be invited to participate in the annual meetings of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Sub-Committee on Undersea Features (SCUFN) and would like to provide a report on its activities since the 21st SCUFN Meeting. ACUF has met five times in the past year. Actions from only four of the meetings have been presented to the US BGN for approval. ACUF does not have approval authority, but rather recommends actions for approval by the US BGN. The minutes from ACUF Meetings 328-331 are included as Attachments 1-4. From the four meetings under consideration, there are only two new name proposals to submit to SCUFN for consideration; Fred Spiess Seamount and Spiess Seamount Chain (please see submitted proposals and supporting documentation).

During the past year ACUF has focused its time on a review of Arctic undersea feature names and a review of the US BGN's *Policy and Guidelines for the Standardization of Undersea Feature Names*. The policy review included the creation of a Terms of Reference document modeled after the SCUFN version. As SCUFN has done, ACUF intends to re-examine its proposal form and list of features. The policy review process is nearing completion and should be finalized and approved before the 2010 SCUFN meeting. ACUF Membership increased by one since the last report and the addition of a second new member is anticipated by the end of 2009.

Other names actions of interest include the following: the approval of three names already in the GEBCO Gazetteer (Kuchеров Terrace, North Kanin Bank, and Voronov Terrace); three feature name changes (Fletcher Plain to Siberia Abyssal Plain, Hovgaard Fracture Zone to Hovgaard Ridge, and Santos Plateau to São Paulo Plateau); and the rejection of a commemorative name proposal from the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanographic Command.

A new ACUF Gazetteer dated 1 September 2009 is now available in PDF form. More information about ACUF, access to the undersea feature names database, and additional resources are available on the Internet at <http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>.