

Letter from Bob Fisher, former Chairman of SCUFN, on the issue of "Province"

*Addressed to the SCUFN Secretary, copy to SCUFN Chair*

12 July 2011

Dear Michel,

I have continued to examine with care the report of SCUFN's 23rd meeting in Lima, last 11-14 September. Once again I am most impressed with the fine job you, Hans-Werner and probably Lisa Taylor are doing.

However, Michel, on that report's page 19 item 4.2k, you as experienced Secretary are properly justified in questioning SCUFN's approval of the name "Pirie Province". "Pirie" is an excellent choice for a specific name, particularly in that sub-antarctic region.

The generic term "province" (used alone) is not proper. In my view - in such a usage - this term should not be available in B-6 unless applied with an appropriate "variable" modifier. Dr. Ohara should be careful!

I have consulted several dictionaries and found in most cases several meanings for the word "province", chiefly having to do with historical, religious or demographic administrative operations. However, "province" is also cited in a geographical or geological - or SCUFN bathymetrical nomenclature - sense, here defined as:

"any large area or region considered as a whole, all parts of which are characterized by similar features, or history differing significantly from those of adjacent areas".

Two very familiar and perfectly proper examples are:

1. "the Gulf of Alaska seamount province" and
2. "the basin-and-range province" (western U.S.)

Hans-Werner needs to come up with one or two words that characterize, topographically, "Pirie... Province".

I'll send him a copy of this letter.

Best wishes to both of you at SCUFN XXIV in September.

Bob