

**THE U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (USBGN)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURES (ACUF)
REPORT TO GEBCO/ SCUFN 28; 12-16 OCT, 2015**

Greetings to the SCUFN Committee at the SCUFN28 meeting in Niteroi, Brazil. The ACUF members highly regard your work and efforts in undersea feature naming, and hope the coordination between the ACUF and SCUFN continues for many years. The following is an update on the work and efforts of the ACUF and BGN for 2014-2015 concerning undersea features.

Additionally, this has been a significant year for the USBGN, in that the Board recognized and celebrated its 125th Anniversary. In that light, I have added some background information on the USBGN for general reference. Hopefully this is helpful for any that are not familiar with the BGN and the purposes for its establishment.

Regards,
Jimmy Nerantzis
Secretary, ACUF

I. Who the USBGN is:

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I. Who the USBGN is:

The U.S. BGN is the authority for geographic names used by the U.S. Federal Government. Its members represent Federal departments and agencies, and they standardize names for geographic features in the United States and around the world to be used on U.S. products.

II. History:

President Benjamin Harrison established the BGN on September 4, 1890, to resolve conflicts in geographic names. President Theodore Roosevelt expanded the BGN's authority in 1906, to include all issues related to names. Congress re-established the BGN in its current form in 1947 under Public Law 80-242.

The initial motivations for the BGN — addressing geographic name conflicts, reducing duplication of effort among agencies, and facilitating the clear and unambiguous communication of geographic information — remain as critical today as the day the Board was conceived.

III. Significant Event:

The U.S. BGN celebrated its 125th Anniversary on 18 September, 2015, at the U.S. Library of Congress in Washington D.C. . The celebration consisted of two special events: a symposium and open house to celebrate the 'traditions and transitions' of the BGN, as well as its dedicated service to the Nation.

IV. Current members of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features/ ACUF:*Members:*

Norm CHERKIS, Naval Research Laboratory (retired)
 John McDONOUGH, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 Susan RUSSELL-ROBINSON, United States Geological Survey (USGS)
 Sandy SHOR, University of Hawaii
 Christine TAYLOR, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
 Tara WALLACE, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 Gerry WALTER, ACUF Chairman, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)

Ex Officio:

Trent PALMER, BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)
 Jimmy NERANTZIS, Acting ACUF Secretary, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)

V. Updates to Undersea Features for 2014-2015:

During this year, (422) changes were approved and/or adopted into the Geographic Names Database (GNDB). These changes include features added, removed, or records modified with updated coordinates or other coding.

The GNDB data can be accessed by the NGA GEONet Names Server (GNS) located here:

<http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>.

New Features in the GNDB:**1) (65) new features in the Gulf of Mexico:**

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1 | Abbeville Basin | 27 45N | 91 02W |
| 2 | Abbeville Mound | 27 40N | 90 49W |
| 3 | Alabama-Coushatta Basin | 27 35N | 93 45W |
| 4 | Lipan-Apache Mound | 27 39N | 94 01W |
| 5 | Aransas Bank | 27 35.5N | 96 27.1W |
| 6 | Aransas Basin | 26 24N | 94 51W |
| 7 | Assumption Basin | 27 44N | 91 30W |
| 8 | Baton Rouge Valley | 28 00N | 89 47W |
| 9 | Blackfish Bank | 26 52.7N | 96 46.6W |
| 10 | Brazos-Colorado Fan | 27 35N | 95 30W |
| 11 | Brazos-Colorado Shelf Fan | 27 55N | 95 45W |
| 12 | Brownsville Hill | 25 43N | 95 45W |
| 13 | Brownsville Ridge | 25 38N | 95 40W |
| 14 | Butterfly Basin | 26 40N | 92 53W |
| 15 | Addai Caddo Basin | 27 37N | 92 00W |
| 16 | Cherokee Basin | 27 40N | 92 30W |
| 17 | Cocodrie Basin | 27 18N | 90 45W |
| 18 | Coffee Lump Bank | 28 04N | 93 55W |
| 19 | Comanche Basin | 27 31N | 92 10W |
| 20 | Comanche Mound | 27 33N | 92 25W |
| 21 | Corpus Christi Mound | 26 02N | 95 11W |
| 22 | Dernieres Basin | 27 57N | 90 49W |
| 23 | Dream Bank | 27 02.5N | 96 42.5W |
| 24 | East Breaks Valley | 27 32N | 95 38W |
| 25 | Harlingen Canyon | 25 30N | 95 58W |
| 26 | Hoffa Bank | 28 40N | 89 49W |
| 27 | Hoffa Spur | 28 37N | 89 52W |
| 28 | Horseshoe Bank | 27 50N | 93 41W |
| 29 | Hospital Rock Bank | 27 32.5 | 96 28.5W |
| 30 | Iberia Knoll | 26 09N | 92 08W |
| 31 | Indianola Basin | 27 36N | 92 47W |
| 32 | Isabel Hill | 26 07N | 95 41W |
| 33 | Jackson Mound | 27 31N | 91 12W |

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| 34 | Jackson Valley | 27 35N | 91 10W |
| 35 | Jeanerette Valley | 27 33N | 91 46W |
| 36 | Kaskida Basin | 26 41N | 92 35W |
| 37 | La Palma Dome | 26 55N | 95 41W |
| 38 | Los Cuates Basin | 26 45N | 95 50W |
| 39 | Los Fresnos Mound | 25 58N | 95 45W |
| 40 | Matamoros Spur | 25 15N | 96 10W |
| 41 | McAllen Hill | 25 49N | 95 36W |
| 42 | Mid-Canyon Knoll | 28 33N | 89 55W |
| 43 | Mysterious Bank | 26 46.1N | 96 42W |
| 44 | North Hospital Bank | 27 34.4N | 96 28.6W |
| 45 | Perdido Canyon | 26 10N | 94 53W |
| 46 | Perdido Escarpment | 25 35N | 95 15W |
| 47 | Perdido Ridge | 26 00N | 95 02W |
| 48 | Rio Grande Fan | 26 20N | 95 56W |
| 49 | Rio Grande Shelf Fan | 26 18N | 96 42W |
| 50 | San Benito Dome | 26 56N | 95 54W |
| 51 | South Baker Bank | 27 40.5N | 96 16.4W |
| 52 | Southern Bank | 27 26.4N | 96 31.5W |
| 53 | Thibodaux Dome | 27 27N | 90 57W |
| 54 | Thirty-Two Fathom Bank | 28 04N | 94 32W |
| 55 | Thomas Bank | 28 45N | 94 24W |
| 56 | TSC Mound | 27 42N | 94 24W |
| 57 | TSC Seachannel | 27 38N | 94 19W |
| 58 | Tunica-Biloxi Basin | 27 45N | 92 15W |
| 59 | Twenty-Eight Fathom Bank | 27 53.5N | 93 27W |
| 60 | Twenty-Nine Fathom Bank | 28 08.3N | 93 29.5W |
| 61 | Victoria Dome | 27 02N | 95 54W |
| 62 | Wendish Ridge | 27 10N | 94 32W |
| 63 | Wichita Mound | 27 43N | 91 57W |

2) (3) Plateaus on Shatsky Rise; Northwest Pacific Ocean, about 1,000 miles East/ Southeast of Japan.

a) ORI Plateau: located at center point **36° 18' 56.8"N, 158° 30' 00.0"E**;
ORI; *Ocean Research Institute (of the Univ. of Tokyo)*

b.) Shirshov Plateau: located at center point **37° 50' 14.7"N, 162° 40' 00.0"E**
Shirshov; *P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanography (in Russia)*

c.) TAMU Plateau: located at center point **32° 34' 01.3"N, 158° 25' 00.0"E**
TAMU; *Texas A&M University*

3) (1); Axial Seamount, in the area of the Juan de Fuca Ridge

'Axial Seamount' is located on the Juan de Fuca Ridge in the NE Pacific Ocean. It is ~250 miles due west of the Oregon/ Washington border; Center Point: **45.96N, 130.01W**

4) (42) GEBCO/SCUFN features and names from SCUFN23 (2010); [adopted by the USBGN]

- 42 features were new to the GNDB, and had no conflicts with BGN-approved names.

- 7 features were already in the GNDB.

- 1 feature was not accepted; "Rio Grande Fan" had a possible conflict with the USBGN-approved name, 'Garnet Bank'.

Features/ Records adopted:

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Billings Seamount | 22 | Luiz Martins Seamount |
| 2 | Boreumdal Guyot | 23 | Maceió Norte Terrace |
| 3 | Caravelas Seamount | 24 | Maceió Sul Terrace |
| 4 | CBF Rise | 25 | Medée Hakuho <i>Mud Volcano</i> |
| 5 | Cheonghaejin Seamount | 26 | Morelli Ridge |
| 6 | Chimbote Bank | 27 | Nemilov Valley |
| 7 | Garakji Knoll | 28 | Olchaengi Knolls |
| 8 | Geupsuseon Knoll | 29 | Othon Leonardos Seamount |
| 9 | Haemirae Knoll | 30 | Perú-Máncora Bank |
| 10 | Hayes Bank | 31 | Pirie Province |
| 11 | Hegemann Hill | 32 | Polarstern Basin |
| 12 | Herrmann Canyon | 33 | Pungdengi Knoll |
| 13 | Houtz Bank | 34 | Santa Catarina Plateau |
| 14 | Irago Knoll | 35 | Senchura Spur |
| 15 | Jeonbok Knoll | 36 | Sirius Guyot |
| 16 | Kametoku Seamount | 37 | Suesaki Hill |
| 17 | Koldewey Seamount | 38 | Svarichevskiy Seamount |
| 18 | Kraul Canyon | 39 | Tierra del Fuego Spur |
| 19 | Krauss Seamount | 40 | Vancouver Knolls (central knoll of 3) |
| 20 | Krümmel Seamount | 41 | Varenius Hill |
| 21 | Kurentsova Seamount | 42 | Yeon Guyot |

Features already in the GNDB:

- 1 CBF Rift
- 2 Dowd Guyot
- 3 Ita Mai Tai Guyot
- 4 Malahoff Seamount
- 5 São Paulo Plateau
- 6 Satsuma Seamount
- 7 Uda Spur

Feature not adopted; apparent conflict:

- 1 Rio Grande Fan

VI. Current and future ACUF and BGN Considerations:

1. Commemorative Names:

The BGN and ACUF have discussed the importance of following the current policies on commemorative naming. This discussion serves to ensure that the policies and guidelines are 'rigorously' applied.

Current Policies and Statements on Commemorative Naming:

Item A5 states: "If names of living persons are used, surnames are preferable, and they should be limited to those who have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences."

Item A11 states: "Inappropriate names include those that are of persons occupying high offices who have not contributed directly and significantly to the knowledge of the oceans or undersea topography."

Additional Notes:

a) The BGN and ACUF intend to rigorously apply these policies and guidelines in the future consideration of commemorative names proposed to the committee.

b) The 'bar' for approval is high. The bar must separate those that make, or have made, truly and significant 'contributions to ocean sciences', from those just doing their 'normal job'.

2. ACUF and BGN adoption of SCUFN-approved names:

As noted in section V., the ACUF and BGN have worked to incorporate SCUFN-approved names into the GNDB.

The ACUF developed a plan and method to efficiently and effectively review the current backlog of SCUFN-approved names from previous annual meetings. This plan simplified ACUF's effort to examine, discuss and vote to approve these names for BGN 'adoption'. The ACUF plans to continue this work on other SCUFN-approved names not yet in the GNDB.