

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

Report of the work made during the inter-sessional period

New Edition of Publication B-6 "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names"

Submitted by:	IHB (as SCUFN Secretary)
Executive Summary:	This document reports on the preparation of a new edition of B-6 <i>Standardization of Undersea Feature Names</i> , in connection with Actions SCUFN25/21, SCUFN27/80, SCUFN27/83 and SCUFN28/05, Decision SCUFN27/77, and Documents SCUFN28-03.2A1 and SCUFN28-03.2A2.
Related Documents:	Edition 4.1.0 of B-6 SCUFN28-03.2A1, SCUFN28-03.2A2, SCUFN28-07.2B
Related Projects:	N/A

Introduction / Background

1. In 2015, following the SCUFN28 meeting and considering the limited resources available within its Sub-Committee, the Secretariat of the GEBCO Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) decided to contract several tasks in order to improve the content of the IHO-IOC online GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names (the Gazetteer) and support SCUFN activities managed by the IHB. The following tasks were contracted to the former SCUFN Secretary.

Tasks	Objectives	Outcome reported in
1	<i>Update the Gazetteer from all undersea feature naming decisions and actions taken at SCUFN-28, ensuring quality control and standardization of the documentation provided as part of the relevant proposals.</i>	Doc. SCUFN29-07.2A
2	<i>Monitor the list of PENDING names (including analysis of information provided by K. Dobrolyubova during SCUFN-28 and proposal for a way forward, regarding Naletov Ridge vs Brass Ridge).</i>	Doc. SCUFN29-07.2B
3	<i>Prepare a draft new edition of Publication B-6 ("red line" version), taking into account progress made at and after SCUFN-28¹, with a view to submitting it for comments at SCUFN-29. In accordance with IHO Resolution 2/2007, conduct an impact study and prepare a submission to the 2017 IHO appropriate committees' meetings.</i>	Doc. SCUFN29-06A_B-6 Doc. SCUFN29-06A_Main_...
4	<i>Monitor, upgrade the wish-list of improvements to the Gazetteer interface and test the new developments if any.</i>	Doc. SCUFN29-07.1A

¹ This requires that Action SCUFN28/05 be completed.

2. The objective of this submission paper is to report on Task 3.

Analysis/Discussion

3. A comprehensive review and update of the on-line GEBCO Gazetteer (The Gazetteer), which was conducted in 2014-2015, revealed that a number of generic terms used in the Gazetteer were not defined nor included in the current edition of B-6, such as Cap, Ground or Discordance. This was reported in Section I of Annex to SCUFN28-06C. Further, the SCUFN Generic Term Group had been tasked to progress the following actions relating to generic terms: SCUFN25/21 (Re-entrant), SCUFN27/80 (Continental Slope, Pass, Cap, Seabight, Embayment) and SCUFN27/83 (Plain vs Abyssal Plain). Based on the above, the Generic Term Group produced Documents SCUFN28-03.2A1 and SCUFN28-03.2A2.

4. SCUFN27 agreed that the use of acronyms as generic terms should be avoided, although they could be considered on a case by case basis (Decision SCUFN27/77 refers). As a result, there was a need to reflect this new rule in B-6.

5. Using SCUFN28-03.2A1 and SCUFN28-03.2A2 as a basis, and noting Decision SCUFN27/77, the contractor has prepared a [draft "red line" new edition of B-6](#), in liaison with the Chair of the Generic Term Group and in accordance with SCUFN28/05. This opportunity was taken to clarify or update the text of B-6 as appropriate. The main changes from the current edition of B-6 are the following:

5.1 Terminology Section II at pp. 2-16 to 2-18: Addition to the list of Cap, Continental Slope, Discordance, Fracture Zone System, Ground, Pass, Plain, Re-entrant, Seabight, Seachannel, and Seamount Group. Definitions revised for Continental Margin, Continental Rise, and Median Valley.

5.2 Terminology Section I at pp. 2-13 & 2-14: Addition of '*' to Reef and Shoal, meaning that the relevant features have genetic implication.

5.3 Terminology Notes at p. 2.9: Addition of a note on Section II.

5.4 Guidelines Section II at p. 2-2: inclusion of a new Clause 6 on the use of acronyms or initials.

6. A particular case discussed with the Chair of the Generic Term Group was that of "Zone". The name Diamantina (East) Zone had wrongly been entered in the Gazetteer, although it had not been accepted by SCUFN10 in 1993 as noted by the contractor during his review in 2014-2015 of all past SCUFN reports. As a result, this name was deleted from the Gazetteer, as reported in Annex to Doc. SCUFN28-07.1A (point 21). Meanwhile, the Generic Term Group had retained "Zone" in SCUFN28-03.2A2, based on an earlier version of B-8. As Diamantina (East) Zone was the only occurrence of "Zone" in the Gazetteer prior to 2014, and that it has now been deleted, it was agreed that "Zone" should not be included in B-6.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

7. SCUFN members review this draft edition 4.2.0 of B-6 and provide their comments and/or suggested changes as needed.

8. The revised draft resulting from 7 above be circulated to the members of the GEBCO Guiding Committee for consideration / comments / endorsement.

9. Consideration be given to the impact of introducing the new generic term Plain in B-6, as described at 16 below.

10. SCUFN Members review the [revised list of allowed geometries](#), as mentioned at 17 below, and provide their comments and/or suggested changes as needed.

Justifications

11. Incorporation in B-6 of new generic terms (Terminology Section II), as reported at 5.1 above, will ensure harmonization with other gazetteers, for example ACUF or NZGB gazetteers, while reflecting any generic terms currently used in the GEBCO Gazetteer. Addition of a Note on Section II under Terminology at p. 2-9, provides an explanation of the role and objective of this complementary list of generic terms.

12. Inclusion of new Clause II.6 in the Guidelines should limit the use of acronyms or initials as generic terms in name proposals, while clarification at Clause II.4 aims at avoiding undesirable names proposed as specific terms.

13. The two generic terms Reef and Shoal have the words “unconsolidated” and “consolidated” in their respective definitions, meaning that both features have genetic implication which therefore requires adding ‘*’ to these terms.

Impacts

14. The draft new edition of B-6 is fully compatible with the existing edition 4.1.0 dated 2013, as no substantive changes are proposed to the Guidelines at pp. 2-1 to 2-3, nor to the procedures at p. 2-4, and that the list of permitted generic terms to be used in name proposals (Terminology Section I) remains unchanged. It will have no impact on the preparation of name proposals, with the exception of those proposals using the generic terms Reef or Shoal for which the proposers will now need to include appropriate supporting geological and/or geophysical evidence.

15. The changes from the existing edition, as described at 5 above, are significant enough to justify that the new edition be qualified as a “Revision” in terms of IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended, hence the proposed 4.2.0 to number the new edition.

16. As a consequence of the inclusion of the new generic term Plain in B-6, with its definition, there may be a need to reconsider the generic terms for the names Chukchi Abyssal Plain, Mendeleev Abyssal Plain and Northwind Abyssal Plain in the Gazetteer, in accordance with a request received in 2014 from the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping of the University of New Hampshire, USA.

17. The list of allowed geometries which is provided as an Excel file on the SCUFN page of the IHO website has tentatively been updated in conformance with the revised Terminology part of the new edition of B-6.

Action required of SCUFN

18. SCUFN is invited to:

a. note this report.

b. consider / agree on the recommendations made in sections 7 to 10.