

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

Report of the work made during the inter-sessional period

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

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat (as SCUFN Secretary)
Executive Summary:	This document reports on the preparation of a revised edition of B-6 <i>Standardization of Undersea Feature Names</i> , taking into consideration Decisions/Actions SCUFN29/05, SCUFN29/08, SCUFN29/09, SCUFN29/20, SCUFN29/21, SCUFN29/71, SCUFN29/137 and SCUFN29/139.
Related Documents:	Edition 4.1.0 of B-6, September 2013 (updated February 2017) SCUFN29-06A
Related Projects:	N/A

Introduction / Background

1. Following the SCUFN29 meeting in September 2016 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 IHO Secretariat. 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-29, ensuring quality control and standardization of the documentation provided as part of the relevant proposals. Deadline: TO + 4 months. Prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-30. Deadline: 30 April 2017.</i>	Doc. SCUFN30-07.2A
2	<i>Monitor the list of pending names. Prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-30. Deadline: 30 May 2017.</i>	Doc. SCUFN30-07.2B
3	<i>Monitor the draft new edition of Publication B-6 ("red line" version), taking into account any related development following SCUFN-29, with a view to submitting an improved draft for comments at SCUFN-30. In accordance with IHO Resolution 2/2007, confirm the impact study already conducted and prepare a draft report as a submission</i>	Doc. SCUFN30-06A Doc. SCUFN30-06B

	<i>document to SCUFN-30, as well as a submission to the appropriate IRCC meeting. Deadline: 30 May 2017.</i>	
4 (optional)	<i>Monitor, upgrade the wish-list of improvements to the Gazetteer interface and test the new developments if any. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-30. Deadline: 30 June 2017.</i>	Doc. SCUFN30-07.1A
5	<i>Launch, monitor and provide advice on the development of the prototype UFN database and web-based associated services. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-30. Deadline: 30 June 2017.</i>	Task not carried out as no prototype available.

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

Analysis/Discussion

3. A draft “red line” new edition of B-6 was submitted to SCUFN-29 (Doc SCUFN29-06A), taking into consideration the outcomes of a comprehensive review and update of the existing GEBCO Gazetteer, as well as the results of a study by the SCUFN Generic Term Group on some particular generic terms such as Re-entrant, Plain, Pass, Cap or Seabight.

4. However, noting the current development and experimentation of a fast-track procedure for already-charted existing features, with the intention that it would form an additional appendix of B-6, SCUFN-29 decided to put on hold the preparation of a new Edition of B-6 (re: Decision SCUFN29/137), waiting for completion of this special procedure.

5. At the same time, members of the SCUFN Generic Term Group were invited to populate scufnterm.org (which is an on-line equivalent to the Terminology section of B-6) with updated generic terms and definitions, as appropriate (re: Action SCUFN29/09).

6. As part of Action SCUFN29/71 requiring an improved English-Spanish version of B-6 e4.1.0, the text of B-6 was amended to take into account the change of name from IHB to IHO Secretariat, following the adoption of a new IHO convention in the intersessional period. This change has also been reflected in the English/French version of B-6.

7. Based on the above, the contractor has prepared a new E/F version of the draft “red line” new edition 4.2.0 of B-6. The main changes from the existing edition 4.1.0 of B-6 are the following:

7.1 Terminology Section II: Addition to the list of the following generic terms: 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. The terms Plain and Re-entrant should be further discussed at SCUFN-30 (re: Action SCUFN29/09).

7.2 Terminology Section I: Addition of ‘*’ to Reef and Shoal, meaning that the relevant features have genetic implication.

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

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

7.5 Replacement of IHB with IHO or IHO Secretariat throughout the publication.

7.6 Inclusion of a new Appendix B describing a DRAFT Fast-Track Procedure, to be discussed at SCUFN-30 (re: Action SCUFN29/21). The existing Appendix has been made Appendix A. Appropriate sentences referring to Appendices A and B have tentatively been included in Clauses III.B and III.G, respectively.

7.7 Indication in the name proposal form that coordinates can also be provided in shape files; also, in Appendix A, that the number of vertices in shape files should be limited to 50 and that of decimal degrees to five.

8. Annex A to this paper reports on the outcomes of all actions and decisions from SCUFN-29 relating to the preparation of the new edition of B-6.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

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

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

11. Consideration be given to the impact of introducing the new generic term Plain in B-6, as described at 17 below.

Justifications

12. Incorporation in B-6 of new generic terms (Terminology Section II) 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.

13. 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.

14. 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

15. The draft revised 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.

16. The changes from the existing edition, as described at 7 above, are significant enough to justify that this new edition be qualified as a “Revision” in terms of IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended, hence the proposed 4.2.0 as number for the revised edition.

17. In case of acceptance 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.

Action required of SCUFN

18. SCUFN is invited to:

- a. note this report.
- b. consider / agree on the recommendations made in sections 9 to 11.

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS FROM SCUFN-29 RELATING TO TASK 3

Decision/ Action	Details	Status (Mar. 2017)	Comments & Suggestions
	Introduction by SCUFN Chair - Approval of Agenda		
SCUFN29/05	SCUFN Chair invited SCUFN Members in general, to give top priority consideration to short specific names that are in relation with marine geophysics, hydrographic and oceanographic sciences. Subsequent amendment to emphasize this statement, to be considered for inclusion in the future new Edition of B-6.	Done.	See SCUFN29-06A, §II.A.1 & II.A.4. Latest draft new edition of B-6 available as SCUFN30-06B.
	Matters remaining from Previous Meetings		
	Report and recommendations of the SCUFN Generic Term Group (Yas, Vaughan, Han)		
SCUFN29/08	Ana and Vaughan - when providing inputs to the draft fast-track procedure (See Action SCUFN29/20) - to propose a sentence that will be later included in the future new Edition of B-6 allowing some flexibility for adopting already-existing UFN with generic terms that are not fully aligned with B-6 definitions.	In progress	Last e-mail to Ana & Vaughan 22 Jun 2017.
SCUFN29/09 (former SCUFN28/06)	SCUFN Generic Term Group to provide Han with all the generic terms and definitions that need to be added to scufnterm.org.	Complete	Terms "Plain" & "Re-entrant" to be discussed at SCUFN30.
	Proposals Submitted during Intersessional Period		
	From Canada, ACUFN		

Decision/ Action	Details	Status (Mar. 2017)	Comments & Suggestions
SCUFN29/20	Draft proposal for fast-track procedure annexed to SCUFN28-05.2C to be revised by all SCUFN Members based on lessons learned from the experimentation made for NZGB's and Canada ACUF's proposals. Inputs to be provided to Vaughan and Sec.	Complete	It is intended that the agreed fast-track procedure will form an Appendix of B-6. All comments sent to Sec and Vaughan 17 Apr 2017.
SCUFN29/21	Vaughan and Sec. to consolidate the fast-track procedure, based on inputs received, for final approval by SCUFN Members at SCUFN-30.	In progress	Last e-mail to Sec and Vaughan 22 Jun 2017.
	From Dominican Republic, ANAMAR		
SCUFN29/71	Walter to provide the Sec. with an updated and consolidated version of B-6 in English/Spanish to address the fact that proposal forms have to be submitted in English (as indicated in the B-6 English/French version).	Complete	Revised Feb 2017 versions of B-6 e4.1.0 E/S and E/F posted, including editorials (new IHO logo, IHO instead of IHB, copyright statement ...). Revised forms E, F and S also posted. Draft new edition of B-6 (SCUFN30-06B) updated accordingly.
	Standardization of Undersea Feature Names: IHO-IOC Publication B-6		
SCUFN29/137	SCUFN Members agreed to put on hold the preparation of the new Edition of B-6, due to the development and experimentation of the fast-track procedure for already-charted existing features (See SCUFN29/20).	In progress	A draft Fast-Track Procedure has been included as Appendix B of the draft new edition of B-6 (SCUFN30-06B).
SCUFN29/139	Despite the existence of scufnsubmission.org and scufnreview.org, SCUFN Members decided, for the time being, not to improve the Proposal Form. Possibility for making a "clarification" to the current Edition of B-6 (to avoid the full approval process of a new Edition) to be considered at SCUFN-30.	In progress	To be considered at SCUFN30.