





**31st Meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on
Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN),
Wellington, New Zealand, 23 - 27 October 2018**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2018			
Task 3.6.1	Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of ... associated bodies including...SCUFN		
			

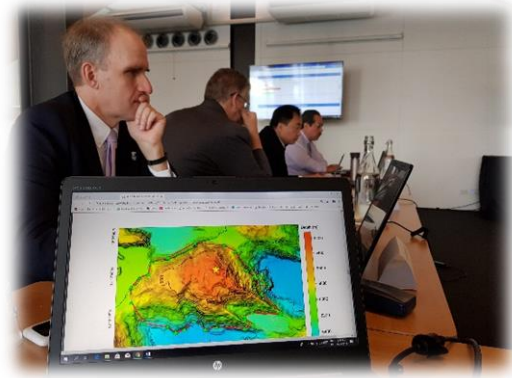
The 31st meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) was hosted by the New Zealand Geographic Board, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), GNS Science and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), in Wellington, New Zealand, from 23 to 27 October 2018.

SCUFN is tasked with the determination of the names of undersea features to appear in the products of the IHO-IOC General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) project and on international nautical charts. These names, also widely used in scientific publications, are made available in the GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Features Names (www.gebco.net → Data and products → Undersea feature names → view and download). The meeting, chaired by Dr Hans Werner Schenke (IOC representative) from the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI – Germany), was attended by 28 participants, which consisted of eight of the 12 SCUFN members (four IOC and four IHO representatives), four of the upcoming SCUFN members (two IOC and two IHO representatives), three members of the SCUFN Project Team on Undersea Feature Names (UFN PT) and 12 observers, including Dr Geoffroy Lamarche, Head of the Seabed 2030 South and West Pacific Centre and Mr Tetsushi Komatsu (IOC Secretariat). Assistant Director Yves Guillam (SCUFN Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat.

The meeting was opened by Mr Apanui Williams (LINZ), providing a traditional Māori welcome. In addition, welcoming remarks were given by Hon Eugenie Sage, Minister for Land Information, Ms Gill Jolly, Acting-General Manager for Strategy, GNS Science and Mr John Morgan, Chief Executive of NIWA. The representatives from the host organizations welcomed all the participants and stressed that SCUFN's work is very important and strategic in order to support not only the GEBCO maps and other GIS, but also the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project, aiming to develop a new global high resolution map of the oceans.

The Sub Committee considered proposals for 281 undersea feature names (a record in SCUFN history!), submitted by various bodies and supporting organizations from Ascension (1), Brazil (5), China (79), Costa Rica (1), Japan (76), Philippines (16), Republic of Korea (3), Republic of Palau (40), New Zealand (15) and USA (45).

While a large number of the names proposed to the Sub Committee were accepted, decisions on some were kept as pending (54 from China in particular) for further consideration for various reasons, including the need for the proposers to take into account the guidelines given in Publication B-6 - - *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names (Guidelines, Proposal Form, Terminology)* about the grouping of specific terms in the same categories. Some other proposals were not accepted (44 from NOAA, USA in particular) as they were considered as not meeting the minimum standards.



Working session at the SCUFN-31

In addition to the analysis of naming proposals, the Sub Committee considered several “corporate” issues, including:

- The endorsement of an amendment to the SCUFN Rules of Procedure and the new Edition of B-6 that will be submitted for approval by the GEBCO Guiding Committee at its 35th meeting,
- The development of a repository of typical cases in a “cook book” aiming to help for the consistency of the decision making process within SCUFN,
- The importance of multilateral consultations between proposers prior to SCUFN meetings when the feature may be located in areas of mutual interests, which are now facilitated by the availability on the SCUFN webpage of a List of Naming Authorities by country,
- The cooperation between Marine Regions, SCUFN and UFN PT to de-conflict naming and positions between different sources and contribute to the UFN data modelling,
- The current and future status of the maintenance and improvement of the GEBCO Gazetteer interface by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States, in parallel with the development of a prototype on integrated SCUFN web services and database by the Republic of Korea,
- The increasing resources needed to incorporate SCUFN naming decisions into the GEBCO Gazetteer and the fact that this can only be achieved by contracting out some work during the inter-sessional period.



Participants in SCUFN-31, Wellington, New Zealand

SCUFN elected Dr Hyun-Chul Han (Republic of Korea, IOC representative) as Chair and Dr Yasuhiko Ohara (Japan, IHO representative) as Vice-Chair. The Sub Committee also welcomed the offer made by Malaysia to host the next meeting in August 2019.

In his final address Dr Hans Werner Schenke reflected on the accomplishments of SCUFN over the last fifteen years and fondly recalled the former members who provided outstanding support to SCUFN activities. He expressed his hope that the name of Dr Galina Agapova (Geological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences), who passed away on 14 August 2018, could be given to a major undersea feature in the future.