

Paper for consideration by SCUFN32: a proposal to better deal with pending names

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1. Background

Considerable number of pending names in the GEBCO Gazetteer have been an issue of discussion in the past SCUFN meetings. In fact, this issue was first discussed in SCUFN22 (2009, Brest) under Agenda 11 “Any other business” at section 11.3 “Review of reserve sections”. Since SCUFN23 (2010, Lima), this issue continuously has been dealt with under Agenda 7 “Gazetteer of undersea feature names” at section 7.1 or 7.2. The table below summarizes the history of this discussion.

Year	Place	Meeting #	Agenda #	Section #	Important reference
2009	Brest	SCUFN22	11. Any other business	11.3 Review of Reserve Section	
2010	Lima	SCUFN23	7. Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names	7.1 Review of Reserve Section	
2011	Beijing	SCUFN24	7. Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names	7.1 Review of Reserve Section	
2012	Wellington	SCUFN25	7. Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names	7.1 Review of Reserve Section	
2013	Tokyo	SCUFN26	7. Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names	7.1 Review of Reserve Section	
2014	Monaco	SCUFN27	7. Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names	7.2 Review of pending names in the GEBCO Gazetteer	SCUFN27/90
2015	Niteroi	SCUFN28	7. Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names	7.2 Maintenance of the GEBCO Gazetteer database (including PENDING names)	SCUFN28-07.2B
2016	Boulder	SCUFN29	7. Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names	7.2 Maintenance of the GEBCO Gazetteer database (including PENDING names)	SCUFN29-07.2B
2017	Genoa	SCUFN30	7. Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names	7.2. Maintenance of the GEBCO Gazetteer database (including PENDING names)	SCUFN30/147
2018	Wellington	SCUFN31	7. Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names	7.2. Maintenance of the GEBCO Gazetteer database (including PENDING names)	

An in-depth discussion in fact started at SCUFN27 (2014, Monaco), resulted in an Action SCUFN27/90: “Secretary to seek on the best ways and means for progressing with PENDING names (probably establishment of a spreadsheet providing feature names/SCUFN Members involved/SCUFN meeting related action if any) and carefully monitor every year the evolution of the total number of PENDING names”.

As the reply to SCUFN27/90, a paper was submitted by the SCUFN Secretary for consideration by SCUFN28 (SCUFN28-07.2B refers). This paper was approved by SCUFN28.

Following SCUFN28-07.2B, the SCUFN Secretary submitted a paper for consideration by SCUFN29 (2016, Boulder) (SCUFN29-07.2B refers). In this paper, it was recommended that “*SCUFN reviews the current list of pending names at Annex B, noting the comments emphasized in yellow and taking into consideration the remarks made in section 7, with the objective of concluding on the best way forward for each name, including agreeing on deadlines for completion or removing from the list*”. **I notice that the idea of “deadlines for completion or removing from the list” was firstly introduced to SCUFN by this sentence.**

Finally, in SCUFN30 (2017, Genoa), SCUFN decided under Agenda 7, section 7.2 that “Proposals would remain pending for the following year, until SCUFN-31 and then would be eliminated in the absence of any progress”, resulted in decision SCUFN30/147: “All the others names that were not solved or addressed previously to be kept PENDING until SCUFN31, then DELETED if no progress”. **I again notice that the idea of “deadlines for completion or removing from the list” was again introduced to SCUFN by this sentence.**

2. Proposal of a new rule

Following the history introduced above, and considering the limited resources available within SCUFN, and in order to facilitate our day-to-day SCUFN activity, I propose to formulate the idea of “deadlines for completion or removing from the list” as a new SCUFN rule, perhaps to be included in B-6 (future revision).

A new rule for consideration: A pending name would remain pending in the absence of any progress for the following two years, and then would be eliminated from the reserve section of GEBCO Gazetteer.

An example would be something like:

SCUFN32 (2019): A name is put into pending.

SCUFN33 (2020): No progress, therefore still put into pending.

SCUFN34 (2021): Still no progress, SCUFN decides to delete the name from the reserve section of the GEBCO Gazetteer; the concerned proposal is to be deactivated.

SCUFN35 (2022) and any further future meetings: The undersea feature concerned can be proposed as a new proposal with further updated information.

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