

## Paper for consideration by SCUFN

### Proposal that SCUFN undertakes a robust process for reviewing edits its members make in the GEBCO Gazetteer

<b>Submitted by:</b>	New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB)
<b>Executive summary:</b>	The NZGB is concerned that SCUFN members may have unrestricted editing rights to the GEBCO Gazetteer, and recommends a robust verification process before edits are published.
<b>Related documents:</b>	SCUFN30/121
<b>Related project:</b>	GEBCO Gazetteer

#### Introduction/background

Action SCUFN30/121 recorded at the 30<sup>th</sup> SCUFN meeting in 2017 was for SCUFN Members *"to consider the possibility of upgrading the quality of the geometry of existing major undersea features of the GEBCO Gazetteer during intersessional period (10 features /year/member), using the EDIT mode."*

In a separate email to SCUFN members on 21 June 2018, and 'on their request only' the Secretary was able to provide SCUFN members with an appropriate Username and Password to edit the Gazetteer as necessary.

#### Discussion

The NZGB notes that editing may apply to improving the geometry of major undersea features recorded in the GEBCO Gazetteer as the result of better data. However, the NZGB is concerned that an unrestricted editing function may compromise the decision making authority of SCUFN. Without controls any SCUFN member could make changes to the Gazetteer, which might not be aligned with good naming practices.

#### Recommendation

Therefore the NZGB recommends that:

- all edits must be for only the feature geometry
- all edits must remain interim until confirmed by SCUFN's Secretary
- all edits confirmed by the Secretary may be advised to relevant naming authorities for comment where appropriate
- SCUFN may confirm the edits at a future meeting before they are published in the Gazetteer for public discovery and use in GEBCO products
- the Gazetteer must record information about any edits – by whom, when, why, etc.
- if not confirmed by SCUFN, edits will be withdrawn/deleted

#### Action required from SCUFN

SCUFN is invited to consider the consequences of unrestricted editing of the GEBCO Gazetteer, and put in place a robust verification process.