

30th Meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names, Genoa, Italy, 2 - 6 October 2017

The 30th meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) was hosted by the Istituto Idrografico della Marina (IIM), in Genoa, Italy, from 2 to 6 October.

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 26 participants, which consisted of nine of the 12 SCUFN members (four IOC and five IHO representatives), four members of the SCUFN Project Team on Undersea Feature Names (UFN PT) and 11 observers, including Mr Shin Tani (Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee) and Mr Tetsushi Komatsu (IOC Secretariat). Assistant Director Yves Guillam (SCUFN Secretary) and Project Officer Atilio Aste (Seconded Officer from Peru) represented the IHO Secretariat.

The meeting was opened by Captain Luigi Sinapi, Director of the IIM, who welcomed all the participants and stressed that SCUFN work is very important and strategic in order to support not only the GEBCO maps and other GIS products, but also the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project, aiming to develop a new global high resolution map of the oceans. The Chair of SCUFN introduced a new SCUFN Member: Mr Felix Frias Ibarra (Mexico, IOC representative). In accordance with the SCUFN Terms of Reference, the Secretary informed the meeting of eight anticipated changes to the membership due to occur after the meeting and mainly in 2018. He presented the timeline for the IHO and IOC Secretariats to prepare calls for nominations to fill vacancies, drawing the attention on the need to balance continuity and renewal in the selection process.



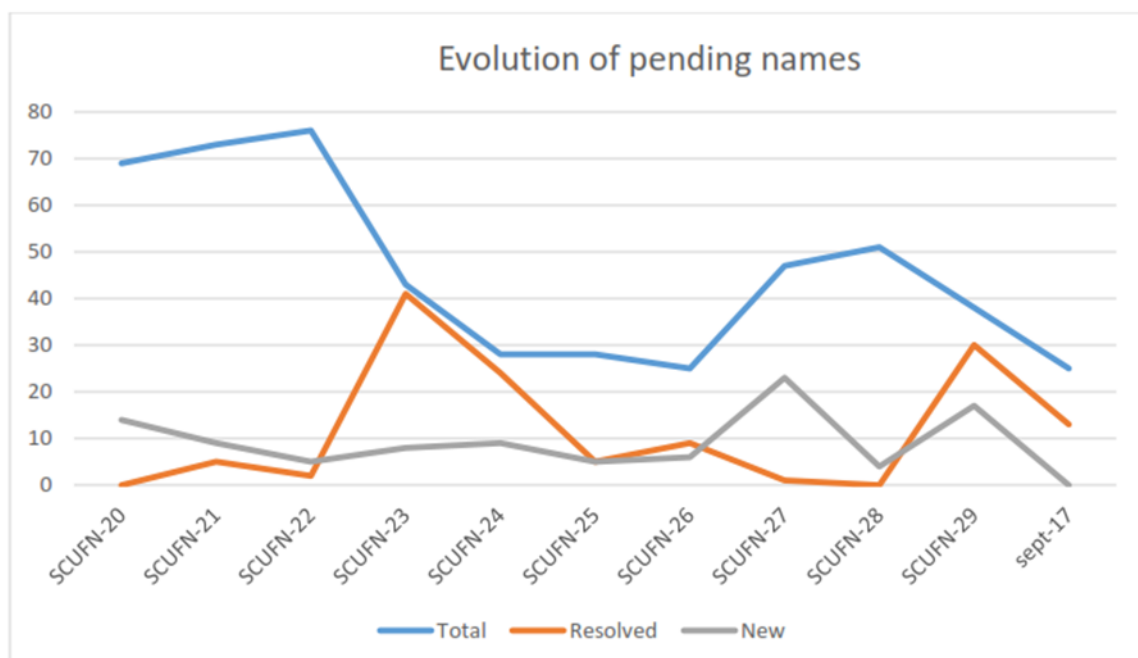
The Sub Committee considered new proposals for 113 undersea feature names, submitted by various bodies and supporting organizations from Brazil (9), China (41), Japan (36), Republic of Korea (4), Republic of Palau (17), New Zealand (2) and USA (4). The Sub Committee pursued the fast-track procedure in its review for the new proposals made by New Zealand (7) related to names that already appear on nautical charts. Finally, the Sub Committee considered the report from the New Zealand Geographic Board on the outcome of previous fast-track proposals, evaluated (10) or submitted (23) in 2016 at SCUFN29.

While a large number of the names proposed to the Sub Committee were accepted, decisions on some were postponed (38 from Japan) for further consideration for various reasons, including the increasing number of submissions now being received and the lack of time available during the meeting.

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

- The endorsement of an amendment to the SCUFN Rules of Procedure that will be submitted for approval by the GEBCO Guiding Committee at its 34th meeting,
- Benefits of participating on a more regular basis in the Sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN),
- Cooperation between Marine Regions, SCUFN and UFN PT to de-conflict naming and positions between different sources and contribute to the UFN data modelling,
- Development of a preliminary test case of the current IHO Geospatial Information Registry using the UFN Data Model (S-57) taking into account the current concept definitions in force in Ed. 4.1.0 of Publication B-6 - *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names (Guidelines, Proposal Form, Terminology)*,
- Preparation of Ed. 4.2.0 of Publication B-6, which will include the integration of the fast-track procedure for existing names which are already charted and improvements of the proposals submission in digital format (geometry, additional maps, etc.),
- 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,
- 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.

As a consequence of a contract awarded in 2016, the SCUFN Members were pleased to note a decrease in the total number of *pending* names (proposals and related actions) between 2015 and 2017.



Finally, the SCUFN Generic Term Group was also invited to prepare for the next meeting, a "straw man" paper proposing a general strategy and possible guidelines defining the optimal horizontal resolution between undersea features that are eligible for naming. The aim is to rationalize the naming process in some areas, to better manage the number of internationally-recognized features named while

new technologies offer more possibilities, limit the clutter in mapping, and improve consistency with associated existing features.



Participants of the SCUFN-30 meeting