

Report from the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa to SCUFN-30

Genoa, Italy 2-6 October 2017

Introduction

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) is New Zealand's national geographic naming authority responsible for official geographic names in New Zealand, its offshore islands and continental shelf, and the Ross Dependency of Antarctica. By actively officially naming undersea features in its jurisdiction the NZGB contributes to managing those areas for science, exploration, protection, maritime safety, etc.

Approving, altering and assigning undersea feature names as official ensures those names are used in official documents, such as scientific publications and bathymetric maps. This means that maps, charts, databases and other official documents cannot depict just any undersea feature name – they must use the official name. This also conforms to the United Nations' international naming recommendations for consistency, standardisation, accuracy and univocity (one name for one place).

The [NZGB's website](#) has comprehensive information about the requirements and process for naming undersea features, and the NZGB's [Standard for undersea feature names NZGBS60000](#) aligns with the IHO¹'s [B-6](#) guidelines.

A group of experts, the NZGB's Undersea Feature Names Committee (UFNC), chaired by the National Hydrographer Adam Greenland, meets once a year to advise and make recommendations to the NZGB. The UFNC is fortunate to have Dr Vaughan Stagpoole, who is also a member of SCUFN, as one of its members. Since 2010 the UFNC has successfully reviewed and processed 60% of the 857 existing recorded undersea feature names within its jurisdiction, including 110 within New Zealand's 12NM territorial limit this year.

SCUFN-30 proposals

The NZGB requests an opportunity to comment on any proposals SCUFN-30 considers that are within the NZGB's naming jurisdiction, in accordance with the [B-6](#) recommendation IIID. The NZGB is aware that the Republic of Korea (ROK) has proposed two names for unnamed seamounts in the Ross Dependency, which ROK has not consulted on with the NZGB. Dr Stagpoole has advised that the features have not been named or previously mapped by New Zealand.

International relationships and liaison

The NZGB works closely with SCUFN to ensure that New Zealand's undersea feature names beyond its 12 nautical mile territorial sea are accepted for use on international graphic and digital products. In response to the considerable number of proposals from New Zealand, SCUFN has successfully trialled a process for fast-tracking proposals for existing undersea feature names.

The NZGB's 2012 [Protocol for undersea feature naming](#) encourages other nations to consult with the NZGB before naming undersea features within its areas of interest, and before submitting a proposal to SCUFN. The NZGB has begun working with ROK (Korean National Committee on Geographical Names and the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency) to formalise a relationship for naming undersea features within New Zealand's jurisdiction in the Ross Sea of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. This would ensure that features already named are not named again, and that good naming practices are upheld. It would not preclude proposals from ROK for unnamed features. We might also comment on each other's name proposals in the interests of good decision making by following standardised and consistent practices that will ultimately meet the [B-6](#) guidelines.

¹ IHO: [International Hydrographic Organization](#)
SCUFN meeting 2-6 October 2017
LinZone ID: A3046205

The NZGB's consideration of SCUFN-29 outcomes

Yokosuka Seamount: Although the proposal was withdrawn from SCUFN-29, Yokosuka Seamount will remain as an official NZGB undersea feature name. There is a risk that in the future SCUFN may accept a proposal for another name for this feature. The NZGB requests that the SCUFN Secretariat notifies it if a new name for the feature is proposed. There is also a risk that SCUFN would approve the name Yokosuka Seamount for another feature elsewhere in the oceans.

Monowai Seamount: The NZGB did not agree with SCUFN-29's decision to accept Monowai Seamounts. A polygon was provided restricting the extent of the feature to one seamount, therefore the generic term 'Seamount' effectively describes the feature. Monowai Seamount remains as an official undersea feature name in the [New Zealand Gazetteer](#).

Hinepuia Seamounts: The NZGB agreed with SCUFN-29 that the feature is more than one seamount and that the generic term 'Seamounts' more correctly describes the feature. Hinepuia Seamounts is now the official name in the [New Zealand Gazetteer](#).

James Healey Seamount: The NZGB agreed to the alteration from Healey Seamount to avoid duplication with the already existing Healy Seamount in the [GEBCO Gazetteer](#).

Rose-Marie Thompson Seamount: The NZGB agreed to the alteration from Thompson Seamount to avoid duplication with the already existing Thompson Seamount in the [GEBCO Gazetteer](#).

Sonne Seamount, Tangaroa Seamount: Although they are duplicated in the [GEBCO Gazetteer](#), the NZGB agreed that they will remain as official undersea feature names in the [New Zealand Gazetteer](#). However, there is a risk that SCUFN may accept proposals in the future for other names for these features.

Cole Seamount, Gamble Seamount, Wright Seamounts: The NZGB had made an exception to its personal naming criteria when assigning these undersea feature names as official. The NZGB has agreed that they will remain as official undersea feature names in the [New Zealand Gazetteer](#). However, there is a risk that in the future SCUFN may accept proposals for other names for these features.

[SCUFN-30 agenda](#) items from the NZGB

SCUFN30-05.2A: Fast-track review of existing names by SCUFN Sub-Group (23 names submitted in 2016) [Summary of Comments](#).

SCUFN30-04.4A: Seven fast-track and two full proposals.

For any concerns during the SCUFN-30 meeting please contact the NZGB Secretariat: Jill Remnant jremnant@linz.govt.nz or Wendy Shaw wshaw@linz.govt.nz