

**38th Meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on
Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)
Bali, Indonesia
10 – 14 November 2025**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 3.6.1 Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of ... associated bodies including...SCUFN

High level summary

- The SCUFN 38 session reviewed 205 naming proposals from 16 IHO Member States, with 64% of direct approval for inclusion in the GEBCO Gazetteer database of undersea feature names.
- SCUFN decided to dismiss all pending naming proposals older than 2 years from recorded in its backlog (i.e. around than 300 proposals),
- SCUFN will submit a proposal to HSSC for a new S-100 compliant Product Specification on undersea features,
- The *Detection of Undersea Features* Ocean Decade Project, partnered by SCUFN, Canada (DFO) and TSCOM, showed significant progresses on using AI Deep Learning models to detect unknown seamounts and knolls using GEBCO Bathymetric Data.
- Further discussion to take place in the coming weeks with key partners to address possible development of a database for unknown undersea features.

Venue & attendance

1. The 38th meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) was held at the *Bali Dynasty Resort* Hotel in Bali (Indonesia) from 10 to 14 November 2025. The meeting was hosted by the Indonesian Hydrographic Service (*Pushidrosal*).
2. The meeting, chaired by **Dr. Yasuhiko Ohara**, IHO-affiliated Member from the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD, Japan), assisted by **Dr. Najhan Said** (SCUFN Vice-Chair), IHO-affiliated member from the National Hydrographic Centre. The meeting was attended by about 60 participants, which consisted of 7 of the 12 SCUFN members (quorum reached) plus representatives of 11 Member States: **China, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Oman, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, United States and Viet Nam**. Subject matter experts from Marine Regions, NOAA (USA) and KOSBI (ROK) also attended the meeting. **Assistant Director Eric Langlois** (SCUFN Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat.

Main outcomes

3. SCUFN welcomed the newly selected **IHO-affiliated SCUFN Member NOMIKOU**, taking over Professor IVALDI's seat after the SCUFN38 meeting. SCUFN also noted the absence of **IOC-affiliated SCUFN Member IBARRA** for the second meeting in a row, therefore subject to immediate termination of his mandate.

4. SCUFN Members considered 205 new naming proposals during the meeting, among which:
 - 131 were **ACCEPTED** or **ADOPTED**, sometimes with minor changes of the generic term,
 - 11 were **DEFERRED**, pending clarification provided by the Proposer,
 - 29 were kept **PENDING**, inviting the proposers to provide complementary information,
 - 32 were **NOT ACCEPTED**,
 - 2 proposals were **NOT CONSIDERED** in accordance with the proposal cap (25 maximum) applied to each Proposer.
5. Malaysia provided an overview of the discussions on a potential way forward for naming undersea features located in the South China Sea (SCS). This verbal report was followed by statement by the other interested parties (China, Philippines and Viet Nam). In the absence of a joint proposal regarding the SCS area, SCUFN concluded to keep on with the decision made at SCUFN-37 (Decision SCUFN37/03.4/01) in 2024, noting the need to confirm on the possibility to receive naming proposals located in the SCS area at the next SCUN meeting in 2026. As for the status of the 300 SCS pending naming proposals located in this area, SCUFN concluded on their dismissal from the SCUFN backlog, based on the fact their maximum retention duration (2 years) is now due.
6. SCUFN took note of the outcomes of the 41st and 42nd GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) Meeting that took place since the SCUFN-37 Meeting in June 2024, principally:
 - Approval of SCUFN proposed budget for 2026,
 - Task upon SCUFN to review the B-6 publication to align with current practices and lessons learnt
 - Task upon SCUFN Chair to report on Strategy for bringing down the backlog of naming requests.
7. SCUFN discussed a set of proposals for review and process improvements, and therefore decided to plan a revision of the B-6 publication as part of the 2025-2026 Work Plan. A dedicated review working group was established, under the leadership of the SCUFN Vice-Chair.
8. Very useful updates were provided by the subject matter experts from Marine Regions, particularly on the use of a persistent Marine Regions Geographic Identifier (MRGID) for their database features, and the recent release of *Maritime Boundaries version 12 derived products*:
 - *World High Seas (version 2)*,
 - *World Extended Continental Shelves (version 2)*,
 - *Union of World Country Boundaries and EEZs (version 4)*.
9. The overview on SCUFN OWS platform's development confirmed the need to consolidate the next platform version prior to initiate the next test phase by some SCUFN Member States, particularly:
 - Finalize the integration of the online submission module,
 - Implement the bridge module (proposals export to the Gazetteer), with the support of NOAA/NCEI and access to the Gazetteer Development environment for advanced tests.
10. The continuous maintenance by NOAA/NCEI of the GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names under the leadership of the Director of the DCDB was also reported and commended.
11. A draft data model for a new S-100 compliant Product Specification to carry information on Undersea features was submitted by experts contributors Bonneville (Marine Regions, VLINZ), Slater (NOAA/NCEI, University of Colorado) and Hendi (CHS). SCUFN commended the experts for their work and tasked the SCUFN Members through the SCUFN Naming 2030 Working Group to request

the allocation of a S-100 Product Specification number out of the 100 range of numbers, consolidate the key aspects of that model (use of unique identifier, machine readability, compliancy with SCUFN rules) before submitting a finalized version by the next SCUFN meeting in 2026.

12. Being a partner of the Ocean Decade Canada-GEBCO Project on AI detection of Undersea Features, SCUFN noted the report by CHS, particularly the tangible progresses on AI-powered tool to detect unnamed features within existing bathymetric datasets derived from satellite imagery (SDB) or from the IHO DCDB database. SCUFN noted the connection between the specific S-100 data model and the need to develop a specific database to store all detected (unnamed) undersea features. Further discussion with key partners will take place in the coming weeks to address possible development of a database able to store such unnamed undersea features.

Group Photo



Upcoming meetings

SCUFN accepted Japan's offer to host its 39th meeting in Tokyo from 9 to 13 November 2026, as well as the kind offer by Belgium (Marine Regions/VLINZ) to host the 40th SCUFN Meeting in Oostende.