



SCUFN Update

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On behalf of Dr Hyun-Chul HAN
Chair of SCUFN

Agenda Item 03.4.1

Intersessional GGC Meeting 1 – 2022 (GGC IS01 2022)
2 February 2022



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CONTENT

International
Hydrographic
Organization

- 2021 Highlights and Achievements
- Work in Progress
- Important Issues
- Recommendations, Actions to be considered by GGC



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2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

International
Hydrographic
Organization

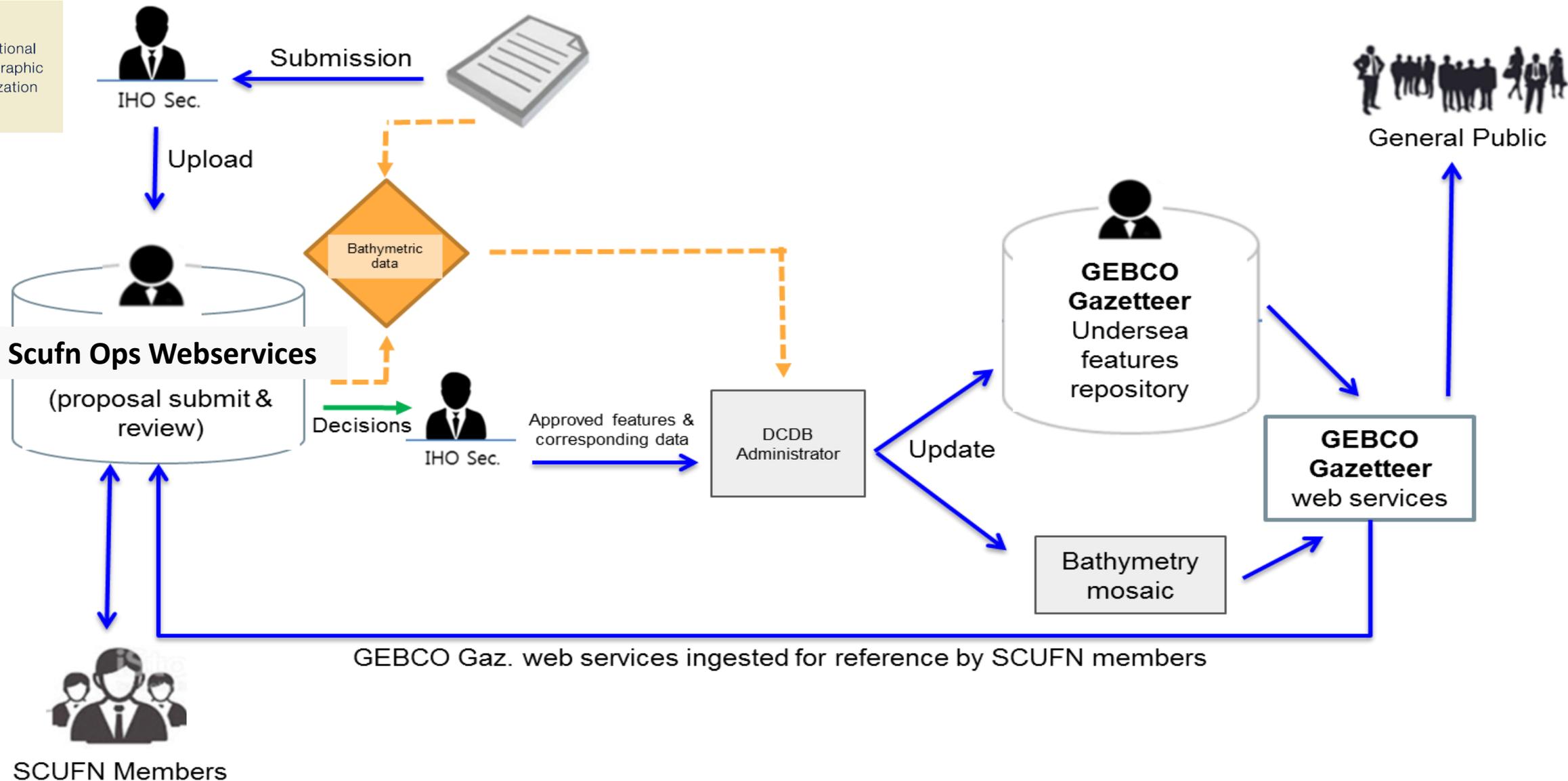
- SCUFN received **497** naming proposals in 2021, 3 VTC meetings (average per year, for one plenary meeting is < 200)
- Only **77** proposals directly **ACCEPTED** as presenting no issues, **187** deferred, **6** not accepted, **227** kept as **PENDING**
- 3 naming proposals to be noted: [*Galina*] ***Agapova Seamount***, ***Walter Munk Guyot***, and ***Glière Guyot*** (another prominent composer joins the Musician Seamounts group)
- Initial development of the SCUFN Digital Archive and Repository
- Outstanding support by KHOA (ROK) for development of SCUFN Operational Webservices and NOAA/NCEI Boulder (US) for enhancement of the [GEBCO Gazetteer](#)



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WORK IN PROGRESS

International Hydrographic Organization





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WORK IN PROGRESS

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- Internal SCUFN Cookbook with typical cases for improving robustness, sustainability of decision-making process.
- Annex to Internal SCUFN Cookbook for clarifying the technical/geometric/genetic characteristics of generic undersea features (to ease the decision-making process and facilitate the automated detection of undersea features).
- Experimentation of the strategy to optimize the horizontal resolution between named features (minor features, inflation).
- Maintenance of the [List of Naming Authorities](#) (in particular for those States willing to be kept informed when a naming proposal falls into « their » so-called areas of jurisdiction)



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IMPORTANT ISSUES (1/2)

International
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- Membership review made in November 2021 to anticipate calls for application by IOC and IHO – Chair's and Secretary's possible last meeting in Nov. 2022 – Risk management for business continuity, loss of corporate knowledge, etc.
- The back-log (PENDING, DEFERRED) is increasing → towards a decision-tree to unlock some sensitive areas and facilitate decision-making process by independent representatives of IOC and IHO... *versus* the strict application of SCUFN 2.10 (political sensitivity so SCUFN should not consider!)



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IMPORTANT ISSUES (1.5/2)

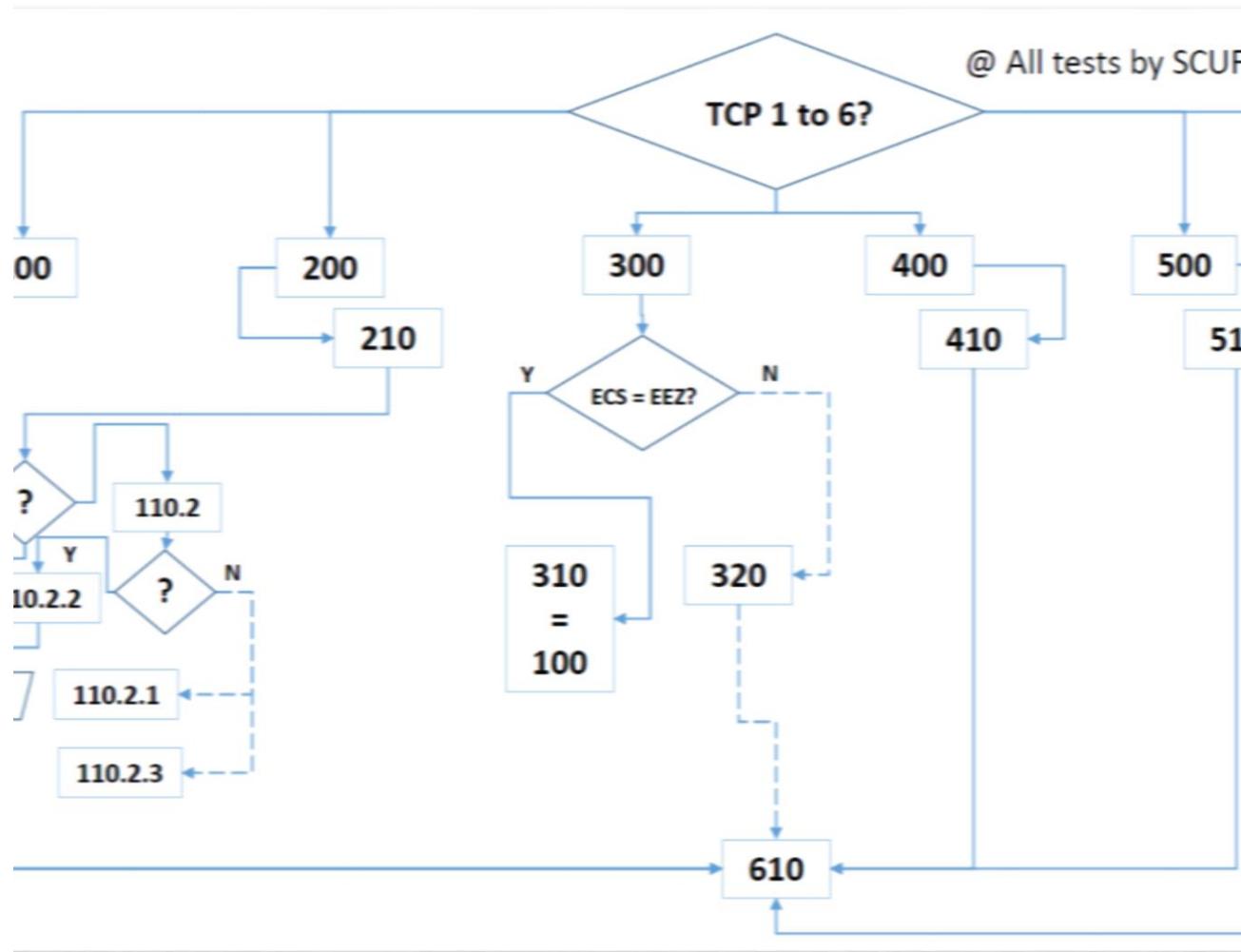
How to facilitate the work of SCUFN and the decision-making process depending on the position¹ of undersea features – Towards a decision tree

Version 0.4 dated 30 March 2021

by Yves GUILLAM, Assistant Director and SCUFN Secretary, IHO Secretariat

A. Guidelines, Rules of Procedures (not exhaustive)

1. "International concern for naming undersea features is limited to those features entirely or mainly (more than 50 %) **outside the external limits of the territorial sea, not exceeding 12 nautical miles from the baselines**, in agreement with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea." (B-6, Ed. 4.2.0, Section I.A).
2. "Names approved by national authorities in waters beyond the territorial sea should be accepted by other States if the names have been applied in conformance with internationally accepted principles." (B-6, Ed. 4.2.0, Section I.D).
3. "In the event of a conflict, the persons and/or authorities involved should resolve the matter. Where two names have been applied to the same feature, **the older name generally should be accepted**. Where a single name has been applied to two different features, **the feature named first generally should retain the name**." (B-6, Ed. 4.2.0, Section I.E).
4. "...it should be the policy to use forms of names applied by national authorities **having responsibility for the pertinent area**." (B-6, Ed. 4.2.0, Section I.G).
5. "There is significant benefit to be gained from **mutual consultation by all interested parties** in preparing and submitting proposals to SCUFN. National naming authorities are encouraged **to consult** on undersea features names **in their mutual areas of interest** prior to submitting proposals to SCUFN." (B-6, Ed. 4.2.0, Section III.D).
6. "Appointed Members of the Sub-Committee represent their parent organization [IHO or IOC] as experts..." (SCUFN ROP 2.1.2).
7. "The Sub-Committee will not consider undersea feature name proposals that are **politically sensitive**." (SCUFN ROP 2.10).
8. Since Ed. 4.2.0 of B-6, the List of Naming Authorities (per country) is maintained, as a stand-alone document, on the SCUFN webpage. This list indicates those nations who wish to be informed/consulted **when an undersea feature naming proposal is located in their areas of jurisdiction** (SCUFN32 Report, paragraph 3.1 and subsequent actions/decisions).





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IMPORTANT ISSUES (2/2)

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- Efficient procedures to be developed, interoperability between GEBCO Gazetteer and SCUFN Ops Services, direct submission interface to be commissioned after experimentation and testing
- GEBCO database quality improvement,... then a dilemma: lack of policy with regard to some changes on specific terms leading to propagation for years, decades...of spelling mistakes *versus* already established international recognition of these names



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RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY GGC

- SCUFN35.1, March 2022, IOC, Paris.
- Decision-tree to be discussed in closed session, then, GGC to endorse at GGC38 the proposed Decision-tree for 2 years experimentation...then amendments in B-6 as appropriate.
- Applicability of SCUFN ROP 2.11 in practice? As decisions are made directly and implemented by SCUFN → clarification in the application of this ROP, expected from GGC.
- Guidance expected from GGC on possible pragmatic policy with regard to database quality improvement (mistakes on specific terms, ...)
- Continuation of the contract with former SCUFN Secretary (Work Plan)