



**TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON OCEAN MAPPING (TSCOM) (former SCDB)
TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Preamble

The ~~Technical~~ Technical Sub-Committee on Ocean Mapping (TSCOM) ~~has been~~ was established in 2006 to answer the need to advise the GEBCO Guiding Committee and all associate groups interested in the building and use of the GEBCO product. In addition, TSCOM serves the greater bathymetric, hydrographic, and maritime communities as authoritative source for technical expertise in seafloor mapping and forum for discussion on emerging technologies and applications of bathymetric and hydrographic data. The importance of this advising group is further stressed by The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO the Seabed 2030 EABED 2030 initiative project. (Seabed 2030)
TSCOM co-operates with the three other GEBCO sub-committees: SCRUM (Sub-committee on regional undersea mapping) which aims at coordinating with regional mapping initiatives; SCOPE (Sub-committee on communications, outreach and public engagement) which aims at raising awareness on the GEBCO initiatives and SCUFN, the Sub-committee on underwater feature names.
In May 1977, at GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) IV, the Guiding Committee decided to form a small Sub Committee on Digital Bathymetry (SCDB) to ‘investigate... the question: Is there an advantage [in] having digital bathymetric data?’ This led to a very positive report being submitted to the Guiding Committee in May 1983, the formation of a larger and more representative Sub Committee, with revised Terms of Reference, and a recommendation leading to the establishment of the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry.

Over the years the annual meetings of this Sub-Committee have gained increasing recognition as being of growing importance to the scientific community. From a meeting of five experts in 1984, the group had grown to thirty six experts from twenty five groups in thirteen countries by June 1999.

By 2006 it was recognized that all GEBCO products and nearly all cartographic activities are “digital”, and after the SCDB XXII meeting in Bremerhaven, Germany it is proposed that, as part of the revision of the GEBCO structure, the sub-committee be renamed the “Technical Sub Committee on Ocean Mapping” (TSCOM).

1. Terms of Reference

1.1 The Sub-Committee reports to the Joint IOC-IHO GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) as its designated authority for all technical matters relevant to the goals of GEBCO as set out in the Guiding Committee Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.

1.2 The Sub-Committee shall:

1.2.1 Provide technical and methodological advices in order to Mmaintain and improve GEBCO products and supporting data such as, but not limited to:

- a) ~~the A~~ global bathymetric grid ;
- b) ~~The GEBCO Digital Atlas;~~
- eb) ~~D~~databases of soundings, shorelines, land elevations, remotely sensed and other data, generalized to a useful working scale, which as may facilitate update of GEBCO products and maintenance of product quality :-
- c) ~~P~~pioneering documentation such as the IHO/IOC GEBCO cookbook.

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TS: agree
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Commented [TSD2]: Product to be withdrawn in the future, Am I right?
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1.2.2 Monitor developments of ~~in data availability and~~ relevant technology as may impact GEBCO activities, and recommend to the GGC and subordinate bodies actions that will maintain the excellence of GEBCO products.

Commented [TSD3]: Scrum

1.2.3 Provide ~~advice~~s to GEBCO project, sub-committees and other appropriate ~~and appropriate~~ authorities on the scientific and technical aspects of bathymetric mapping, as requested.

Commented [CR4]: What is we use "provide advice to individuals, GEBCO projects and committees, and other appropriate authorities"?

That way it includes Seabed 2030 and SCRUM.

TS: IS that better ?

~~1.2.4~~

~~1.2.4~~ Concur, with SCRUM, to Encourage and facilitate the location, acquisition and exchange of sounding, shoreline, remotely sensed and other data supporting bathymetric mapping.

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~~1.2.5~~ In collaboration with SCOPE, investigate the application of GEBCO products, beyond the cartographic sciences, with the aim of producing products that are easily applied to other ocean sciences.

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1.2.66 Establish, nurture, and/or disband working groups or project teams, as needed, to carry out specific tasks or product developments that relate to the technical advance of the GEBCO Project.

~~1.2.7 Work with SCUFN on matters of joint interest, such as, but not limited to, the shapes or outlines of named features and the automatic placement of feature names.~~

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2. Rules of Procedure

2.1 Membership of the Sub-Committee is covered by the following rules:

2.1.1 Members should be encouraged to participate according to their individual technical expertise and their ability to complement the overall technical breadth of the Sub-Committee as a whole.

2.1.22 Members of the Sub-Committee are experts in their own right acting exclusively for the benefit of the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Project. ⁺

~~2.1.3 Any member of the GEBCO community interested in participating is eligible to become an active member of the sub-committee at the discretion of the Chair. After two years, if an active member does not participate in the sub-committee, then their sub-committee member will be changed to an inactive member. After four years of non-participation, their name will be removed from the sub-committee list. Following a silence of a member exceeding 2 years, the Chair may wish to withdraw his/her membership.~~

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2.2 The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Sub-Committee members. Their nominations are subject to endorsement by the GGC.

2.3 The Chair and the Vice-Chair are elected for a three years period and can serve for two consecutive terms. ~~The Chair will normally be succeeded by the Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair may be re-elected by the Sub-Committee, for additional terms (under the limit of three consecutive terms) if desired by the sub-committee members and available.~~

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⁺ So far as IOC is concerned, the Sub-Committee is classed as a Joint-Group of Experts under the IOC guidelines for subsidiary bodies.



- 2.4 The Chair, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair, shall conduct the business of the Sub-Committee. If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall assume the Chair with the same powers and duties. Meetings will usually be held every year, ideally before the GGC meeting. In the intervening period the Sub-Committee shall conduct its business via all appropriate media.
- 2.5 Individuals who can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee may attend meetings as Scientific Advisors with observer status, at the invitation of the Chair or Vice-Chair.
- 2.6 Entities and organisations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee may be represented at meetings as Expert Contributors with observer status at the invitation of the Chair or Vice-Chair.
- 2.7 Members are expected to attend every meeting of the Sub-Committee. In case of absence, apologies should be sent to the Chair prior to the meeting.
- ~~2.8 Observers from IHO and/or IOC Member States may attend meetings. Attendance shall normally be limited to one observer per Member State.~~
- 2.89 The quorum to hold a meeting shall be not less than 50% of the listed active Sub-Committee Members. The Sub-Committee shall strive to make decisions by consensus. -If consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote. Only listed active members present may cast a vote. -The Chair shall have the casting vote if there is a tie.
- 2.940 Recommendations and advice of the TSCOM Sub-Committee shall be provided directly to the appropriate subordinate bodies of GEBCO.
- ~~2.10 Recommendations subject to a decision must be submitted to the -GGC for consideration, and decision.~~
- 2.11 The Chair shall submit an annual report to the GGC.

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Commented [TSD6]: I don't think we need this one.

Commented [CR7R6]: Agreed – it's redundant with 2.6. But there might be IHO/IOC thing that has to be stated. Take a look at the addition to 2.6