GGC
Meeting 37
Agenda Item 2.6

GGC37/2/6
18 January 2020

SCUFN Report

Submitted by SCUFN Chair

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of the work and activities of the SCUFN33 meeting.

Action to be taken: None

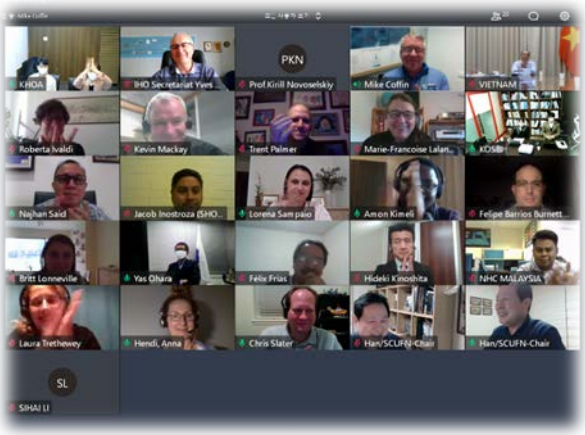
Related documents: None

1. MEETING VENUE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 33rd meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) initially scheduled in Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation, was re-arranged by video teleconference (VTC) from 9 to 10 November 2020.

2. PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended by 30 registered participants, which consisted of eleven of the 12 SCUFN members (five IOC and six IHO representatives) and 17 observers, including Mr. Evert Flier, Member of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC), Marine Regions and representatives of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russian Federation and Viet Nam. Representatives of NOAA (USA) and KHOA (ROK) in charge of the development and integration of SCUFN operational web services and GEBCO Gazetteer were also present. A special questions and answers session was arranged after the closure of the meeting on request of Ms. Laura Trethewey, and ocean journal and writer. Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Yves Guillam (SCUFN Secretary) presented the IHO Secretariat.



3. OPENING AND NEW MEMBERS

The meeting was opened by the Chair who welcomed tow new SCUFN members: Dr. Marie-Francoise Lequentrec-Lalancetter (France, IHO parent organization) and Prof. Millard Coffin (Australia, IHO parent organization). This opening was followd by IHO Director Luigi Sinapi's who stress the importance of SCUFN role and activities in particular in the context of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, inviting SCUFN at its own level, to transform the *Ocean we have to the Ocean we want.*

4. INTRODUCING ON-LINE REVIEW AND SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

For the benefit of new Members and Observers, Chair gave an "Introduction Course" on the on-line review process. Despite the VTC format of the meeting, the Sub-Committee was able to consider proposals for 35 undersea feature names, submitted by various bodies and supporting organizations from: Australia (6), Germany (15 + 1), United Kingdom (12) and the Russian Federation (1). Thanks to the pre-view made by SCUFN members through the scufn.ops-webservices.kr assessment interface, the VTC process was efficient enough to approve 16 names. Most of the other names were kept with the PENDING statute for reasons often encountered in SCUFN meetings: lack of good bathymetric data, absence of mutual consultations between proposer and national naming boards in some specific areas.

5. CORPORATE ISSUES

- The SCUFN Secretary confirmed that the list of national naming authorities that wish to be consulted with features in their areas of interest was maintained on request and available on the SCUFN webpage
- SCUFN thanked the NOAA representative for the last new release of the GEBCO Gazetteer which incorporates major enhancements
- KHOA representatives gave an overview of the actions supporting the development of different SCUFN web services. Even if the transition is not completed yet, SCUFN commended KHOA for their sustainable commitment before the operational commissioning expected in 4 years. In addition to a repository of generic terms and to scufnsubmission and scufnreview web services, this project was requested in 2020 to consider additional requirements for a true SCUFN Digital Archive (meeting reports and associated documents, proposals, data..) from SCGN-1 (1975) until now aiming to replace the current data on the former IHO website if the supporting server are no longer maintained
- The development of more detailed internal guidelines which cover several criteria (dimensions, depth, steepness, and length to width ratio, etc) that are used to help classify the morphological shape and hence identify the correct Generic Term.

6. OPTIMAL HORIZONTAL RESOLUTION ISSUE

Following the general guidance provided by the GGC, the Sub-Committee agreed on the need to further develop a general strategy and possible guidelines defining the optimal horizontal resolution between undersea features that are eligible for naming. The following general principal were agree:

"The areal size of an undersea features should generally be identified on the GEBCO gridded bathymetric map between 60 A and 60 N and in the IBCSO and IBCAO maps below respective above these latitudes. Features not shown at these gridded bathymetric maps, it should be an important landmark or hydrography"…
… to which Mr. Kevin Mackay, SCUFN member and Head of Seabed 2030 South and West Pacific Ocean Regional Center, agreed to add some annexes depicting the bathymetric grid resolutions targets around the world. This objective was noted by Ms Anna Hendi, Chair of the Undersea Feature Names Project Team (UFN PT) who leads the development of S-100 compliant UFN datasets and a national project for Canada on the automated detection of undersea features.

7. SPECIAL VTC SESSION AND THE NEXT MEETING

At the end of the meeting, the need to arrange a couple of extra special VTC sessions in January and June 2021 prior to the next formal meeting was agreed in order to clear a back log of accumulated proposals (more than 130) already received by the SCUFN Secretaiat. The Sub-Committee welcomed the renewal of the offer made by the Russian Federation to host the next meeting in November 2021 in Saint-Petersburg, and set up a go no-go decision deadline on 30 June 2021.