

# **GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE ON ASSESSING EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OR OTHER PARTIES FOR THE NAMING OF UNDERSEA FEATURES**

**Version 1.0, dated June 2024**

### References:

- A. IHO-IOC Publication B-6 *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names*, ed. 4.2.0, 2019.
- B. SCUFN-35 Summary Report version 1.0, 13 February 2023 (SCUFN35.1/167d; SCUFN35.2/10-14)
- C. SCUFN Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure
- D. Decision SCUFN37/03.7/02 – Adoption of the TORs.

## **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. The Terms of Reference (TOR) on Assessing the Evidence Provided by National Authorities or other parties for the Naming of Undersea Features is developed by SCUFN Sub-Group B-6 I.D that was established under the authority of SCUFN pursuant to the decision at the SCUFN 35.1 and SCUFN 35.2 meetings.
- 1.2. The TOR provide the operational procedures for assessing evidence submitted by national authorities or other parties for names of undersea features situated beyond the territorial seas which have been submitted to SCUFN but objected because the undersea features have been previously named by other national authorities or other parties.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1. To promote a common understanding of the implementation of existing procedures stipulated in IHO-IOC B-6, specifically Clause B-6 I.D.
- 2.2. To determine eligibility of evidence submitted by national authorities for an assessment review conforming with internationally accepted principles in the IHO-IOC B-6 procedures.

## **3. ASSESSMENT RULES**

- 3.1. SCUFN will review names of undersea features situated beyond the territorial sea which have been objected to (under IHO-IOC B-6 I.D) and had been categorized as pending. The relevant national authorities or other parties are required to submit evidence to the Secretariat of SCUFN no later than ninety (90) days after the relevant SCUFN meeting in digital format.
- 3.2. In considering undersea features names, SCUFN will assess the evidence below, submitted by national authorities or other parties, in the following order of priority:
  - (a) internationally recognized, peer-reviewed scientific or other academic articles published at least 25 years prior; or
  - (b) internationally accepted official charts, maps, or atlases; or

(c) official documents on undersea features produced by national authorities; or

(d) records from a publicly available official database produced by relevant national authorities.

3.3. In assessing the evidence, SCUFN shall take into consideration the authenticity and validity of the evidence submitted by national authorities or other parties.

#### **4. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

4.1. Once SCUFN objects to a submission because the undersea feature has already been named by a national authority or other parties, the Secretary of SCUFN documents the decision and requests that substantiating information be provided (evidence of the prior name to be documented by the relevant national authority or other parties) in the list of decisions and actions of the meeting, and then conveys the list of decisions and actions to the proponent according to paragraph 3.1 above (90 days).

4.2. Once the evidence is submitted, the Secretary of SCUFN shall inform SCUFN members that the evidence has been made available for assessment on the SCUFN website.

4.3. Members of SCUFN shall assess the evidence and advance to a decision, guided by the Rules of Procedure for inter-sessional work by correspondence.