

33rd Meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), Video-teleconference (VTC), 9 – 10 November 2020

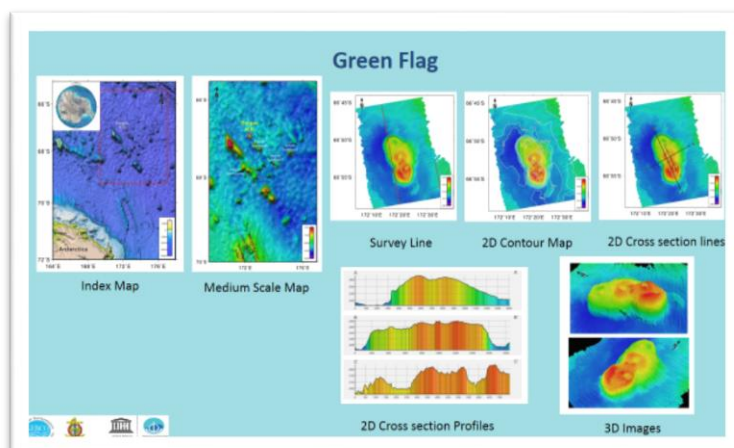
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019	
Task 3.6.1	Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of ... associated bodies including...SCUFN

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.

The meeting, chaired by Dr Hyun-Chul Han (IOC representative) from the Korean Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM – ROK), 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&answers session was arranged after the closure of the meeting on request of Ms Laura Trethewey, an ocean journalist and writer. Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Yves Guillam (SCUFN Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat.

The meeting was opened by the Chair who welcomed the two new SCUFN Members: Dr Marie-Françoise Lequentrec-Lalancette (France, IHO parent organization) and Prof Millard Coffin (Australia, IHO parent organization). This opening was followed by an address by IHO Director Luigi Sinapi who stressed 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*.

The Chair reported on the directions given a year ago to SCUFN at the last GEBCO Guiding Committee meeting. For the benefit of new Members and Observers, he also 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).



The SCUFN on-line review process criteria to get a “green” flag (Dr Han)

Thanks to the pre-review made by SCUFN members through the scufn.ops-webservices.kr assessment interface, the VTC process led by the Chair was efficient enough to approve 16 names. Most of the other names were kept with the PENDING status for reasons often encountered in SCUFN meetings: lack of good bathymetric data, absence of mutual consultation between proposer and national naming boards in some specific areas.

The Sub-Committee also considered several “corporate” issues during the meeting:

- 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 latest 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 sustained 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-01¹ (1975) until now aiming to replace the current data on the former IHO website if the supporting servers are no longer maintained;
- The development of more detailed internal guidelines which cover several criteria (dimensions, depth, steepness and length to width ratio) that are used to help classify the morphological shape and hence identify the correct Generic Term.

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 principles were agreed:

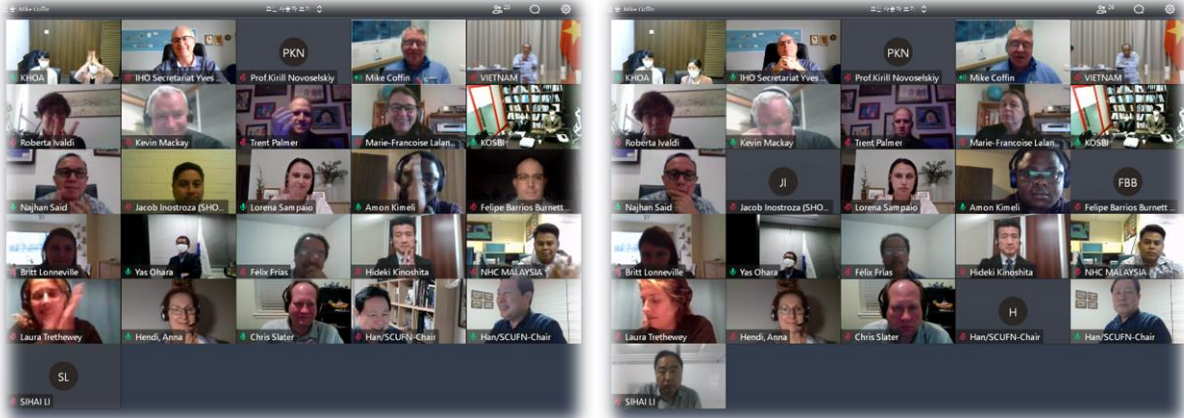
“The areal size of an undersea feature should generally be identified on the GEBCO gridded bathymetric map between 60 S and 60 N and in the IBCSO and IBCAO maps below respective above these latitudes. Features not shown at these gridded bathymetric maps, it should be an important landmark of science or hydrography” ...

...to which Dr 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.

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 backlog of accumulated proposals (more than 130) already received by the SCUFN Secretariat.

¹ SCGN: GEBCO Sub-Committee on Geographical Names and Nomenclature of Ocean Bottom Features

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.



Participants in SCUFN-33