**Paper for Consideration by SCUFN-35.1**

**Follow-up SCUFN34/VTC03/41:**

**SCUFN to establish rules/criteria, by which the name of living persons could be accepted by exception to the UN CSGN Rules.**

***Submitted by:*** Yasuhiko Ohara (SCUFN Vice-Chair)

***Executive Summary:*** The recommendation should clearly be included in the Cook Book.

***Related Documents:*** SCUFN33-07.2B Rev1

***Related Projects:*** None

**Introduction/Background**

1. This action came directly from a naming proposal of “G.L. Johnson Plateau” proposed by Norman Cherkis, Five Ocean Consultants, USA. The specific name “G.L. Johnson” is the name of a living scientist.
2. This action also relates with the document SCUFN33-07.2B Rev1 and action SCUN33/48. During the online discussion on action SCUFN33/48, SCUFN members noted that the list provided N. Christian Smoot includes many specific names after living persons. It should be noted that these names are already registered in the ACUF Gazetteer.
3. In B-6 1st Edition, published in October 1991, there was already an article restricting use of names of living persons: “5. *If names of living persons are used (surnames are preferable), they should be limited to those who have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences*” (page 2-2).
4. In B-6 4th Edition, published in November 2008, the article was revised, referring to UNCSGN Resolution VIII/2: “*Names of living persons will normally not be accepted, in accordance with the recommendation in UNCSGN Resolution VIII/2. In the rare cases where names of living persons are used (surnames are preferable), they will be limited to those who have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences*” (page 2-2).
5. To the contrary, there are no such principles in ACUF; ACUF still accepts specific name after living person.
6. It appears that the article of UNCSGN Resolution VIII/2 was originally submitted by the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) to the 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in 2002.

*“Ⅷ/2 Commemorative naming practices for geographical features*

*The Conference,*

*Noting that the use of names of persons or events to designate features for commemorative purposes or as geographical reminders constitutes an active practice,*

*Recognizing that the attribution of a personal name to a geographical feature during the lifetime or shortly after the death of a person is a widespread practice,*

*Recalling that, during a meeting of 1960, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names acknowledged that naming or renaming of a geographical feature to include the name of a living person could be a source of problems,*

*Recognizing that this practice is generally disadvantageous, as this type of designation is subject to subsequent changes not recommended by the Conference,*

*Noting that little guidance exists on the practice of adopting a personal name during the lifetime or shortly after the death of a person,*

*1. Recommends that the appropriate national authorities discourage the use of personal names to designate a geographical feature during the lifetime of the person in question;*

*2. Also recommends that the appropriate national authorities include in their guidelines clear statements on the length of the waiting period they wish to establish before using a commemorative name”.*

1. The GNBC also prepares a document called “Principles and Procedures for Geographical Naming” published in 2011. There is a guideline for “Use of Personal Names” as Principle 5: “*A personal name should not be given to a geographical feature unless such application is in the public interest. The person commemorated should have contributed significantly to the area where the feature is located; when such a name is applied, it should normally be given posthumously. The adoption of a personal name during the lifetime of the person concerned should only be made in exceptional circumstances. …….”.* It should be noted that the GNBC also allows some flexibility to adopt the name after a living person.

**Analysis/Discussion**

1. Considering the situations of ACUF and GBNC, the article 5 in B-6 can stay as it is. However, SCUFN may want to have criteria for a living person’s outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences.
2. SCUFN members discussed this issue some years ago, and we reached a conclusion that the meaning of “outstanding” is a case with achievements comparable to the Nobel Prize. We need to review his/her achievements on case-by-case basis if his/her achievements are comparable to the Nobel Prize, when SCUFN receives a naming proposal after living persons.

**Recommendations**

1. The article 5 in B-6 can stay as it is. When SCUFN receives a naming proposal after living persons, SCUFN will review his/her achievements on case-by-case basis if his/her achievements are comparable to the Nobel Prize.

**Justifications and Impacts**

1. The proposed recommendation would give no impact on B-6. However, the proposed recommendation would impact the draft Cook Book; the recommendation should clearly be included in the Cook Book.

**Action required of SCUFN**

1. SCUFN is invited to:
2. Note this proposal.
3. Consider the recommendations in section 10.