

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN-35.1

Follow-up SCUFN34/VTC03/41:

Response to SCUFN35.1-03.5A (SCUFN to establish rules/criteria, by which the name of living persons could be accepted by exception to the UNCSGN Rules)

Submitted by: Trent Palmer (SCUFN Member (IHO) and ACUF Executive Secretary)

Executive Summary: A written reaction to the recommendation by the Vice-Chair

Related Documents: SCUFN33-07.2B Rev1; SCUFN35.1-03.5A

Related Projects: None

Points

1. I want to thank Dr. Ohara for preparing the useful summary of the challenging issue of naming features for living persons.
2. I agree with the recommendation that SCUFN continue to handle this sensitive matter in a case-by-case manner, using the current approach and with the possibility of including the text of the recommendation in the Cook Book, if determined to be appropriate
3. With regard to Introduction/Background item 5 “To the contrary, there are no such principles in ACUF; ACUF still accepts specific name after living person,” I wish to clarify that although the restrictions are not perhaps as strong as those found in IHO B-6, 4th edition, ACUF has in fact greatly reduced its acceptance rate of commemorative names for living persons.
4. In the early 2000s, ACUF adopted a “Statement on Commemorative Naming.” No policy change was made, but the committee resolved to more strictly apply its written guidelines.
5. Item A5 of ACUF’s “Policies and Guidelines for the Standardization of Undersea Feature Names” (2005) states that: “If names of living persons are used, surnames are preferable, and they should be limited to those who have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences.”
6. Item A11 states that: “Inappropriate names include those that are of persons occupying high offices who have not contributed directly and significantly to the knowledge of the oceans or undersea topography.”

7. As SCUFN, ACUF handles commemorative proposals on a case-by-case basis, and strongly discourages new proposals that are for living persons.
8. The U.S Board on Geographic Names' Domestic Names Committee (DNC) does not permit the naming of features after living persons. An individual must have been dead five years before a proposal will be considered.
9. Section I of Policy III of the DNC's Principles, Policies, and Procedures states: "The BGN will consider proposals to apply names or nicknames of deceased persons to geographic features in the United States and areas under its jurisdiction. The BGN will only accept proposals for names that are intended to honor a person or persons deceased at least five years. The BGN will disapprove names that could be construed to honor living persons."
10. My personal opinion is that I would favor a decision in which SCUFN no longer accepts any commemorative names after living persons, in accordance with the UNCSGN Resolution VIII/2.

Action required of SCUFN

11. SCUFN is invited to:
 - a. note this report
 - b. provide feedback