

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

Report of ACUF

<i>Submitted by:</i>	Trent Palmer (Executive Secretary) and Leigha Peterson (ACUF Secretary)
<i>Executive Summary:</i>	This document reports on the activities of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names since SCUFN-33
<i>Related Documents:</i>	SCUFN35-05.3A
<i>Related Projects:</i>	N/A

Introduction

1. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is the interagency organization authorized by the U.S. Congress to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government. It provides the official place names required by law for use in Federal Government publications, including maps, websites, and documents.
2. The BGN established the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) in 1963 as a committee of experts in the ocean sciences, to advise the BGN on matters related to undersea features. As an advisory committee, ACUF does not have approval authority, but rather recommends actions for approval by the BGN. Currently, ACUF has eight members representing the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, the Department of State, and the University of Hawaii.
3. ACUF is pleased to contribute to the annual meeting of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Sub-Committee on Undersea Features (SCUFN) and submits this report on its recent activities. This report covers the period since SCUFN-33. ACUF is committed to maintaining and strengthening its close working-relationship with SCUFN.
4. Ms. Meredith Westington is the new ACUF Chair, as of January 2022. Mr. Trent Palmer serves as the Executive Secretary, Dr. Leigha Peterson is the incoming Secretary (replacing Mr. Bobby Jovanovski), and Mr. Ryan Moore serves as ACUF Assistant.
5. A database modernization activity that began last summer (2019) has been delayed and is now scheduled for completion in early summer 2022. The undersea feature names are part of the larger Geographic Names Database (GNDB), which is the official repository of the BGN's foreign geographic names standardization program data. One of the items on the requirements for future development is the ability to create of polylines and polygons for the named features in the database.
6. The BGN Undersea Features "gazetteer" includes approximately 10,760 names for 5,775 features. More information about ACUF, access to the undersea feature names database, and additional resources are available at <https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/acuf.html>. More information about the BGN is available at <https://geonames.usgs.gov/>.

Discussion

7. Since SCUFN-33, ACUF has met five times (ACUF meetings 355-359). The list of names recommended by ACUF and subsequently approved by the BGN is provided in two tables below. The first table presents the list of new undersea feature names. The second table lists modifications to existing features. Several actions were made in response to feedback received from Marine Regions (indicated in the 'Comment' field). ACUF would like to discuss how to best coordinate resolution of differences between the GEBCO Gazetteer and its database (e.g., Gorda Ridge vs. Gorda Ridges – see Table 2). The answer may lie in a continued and coordinated dialog in response to the work Marine Regions does in monitoring and comparing undersea feature names data.

8. In addition, ACUF has adopted a “fast-track” recommendation process for names approved by SCUFN. In most cases, these names are adopted as is, though some exceptions do exist, for example, when names approved by SCUFN require modification to align with BGN romanization and word segmentation policies, or if alternative names for the same feature have already been approved by the BGN. Thus far, ACUF has addressed names approved at SCUFN-23 (handled in 2014), SCUFN-29, SCUFN-30, SCUFN-31, SCUFN-32, and SCUFN-33.

Action Required of SCUFN

9. SCUFN is invited to:
- a. note this report
 - b. consider the question about data differences in section 7

**Table 1. New Undersea Feature Names Approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Since SCUFN 33 (2021-2022)**

	Feature Name	Position	Location	Proposer	Approval	GEBCO Gazetteer
1.	BAHAMA Ridge	28°20'31"N, 74°05'55"W	Atlantic Ocean	M. Westington (U.S. Extended Continental Shelf Program, NOAA)	ACUF 356 (Apr. 8, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES
2.	BLAKE Ridge	30°09'56"N, 73°43'34"W	Atlantic Ocean	M. Westington (U.S. Extended Continental Shelf Program, NOAA)	ACUF 356 (Apr. 8, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES
3.	FRIENDSHIP Ridge	24°03'00"N, 145°10'00"E	North Pacific Ocean	JCUFN/ACUF joint proposal to SCUFN	ACUF 356 (Apr. 8, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES
4.	JOHNSON Plateau	82°30'00"N, 016°00'00"E	North Atlantic Ocean	Y. Kristoffersen (University of Bergen) and N. Cherkis (Five Oceans Consultants)	ACUF 355 (Jan. 26, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	NO
5.	KERAMA Gap	26°00'00"N, 126°50'00"E	North Pacific Ocean	Adopted from JCUFN	ACUF 357 (Jul. 16, 2021); BGN 283 (Oct. 19, 2021)	NO
6.	MIYAKO Saddle	North Pacific Ocean	North Pacific Ocean	Adopted from JCUFN	ACUF 357 (Jul. 16, 2021); BGN 283 (Oct. 19, 2021)	NO
7.	MUNK Guyot	20°33'00"N, 036°11'00"E	North Pacific Ocean	B. Applegate (Scripps)	ACUF 355 (Jan. 26, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES (Walter Munk)
8.	TOMODACHI Seamount	23°37'00"N, 144°26'00"E	North Pacific Ocean	JCUFN/ACUF joint proposal to SCUFN	ACUF 356 (Apr. 8, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES
9.	YŪJŌ Seamount	23°56'00"N, 144°48'00"E	North Pacific Ocean	JCUFN/ACUF joint proposal to SCUFN	ACUF 356 (Apr. 8, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES (Yujo)

	Feature Name	Position	Location	Comment	Approval	GEBCO Gazetteer
10.	YŪJŌ-FRIENDSHIP Ridge	23°45'00"N, 145°00'00"E	North Pacific Ocean	JCUFN/ACUF joint proposal to SCUFN	ACUF 356 (Apr. 8, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES (Yujo-Friendship)

Table 2. Undersea Feature Modifications Approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names Since SCUFN 33 (2021-2022)

	Feature Name	Position	Location	Comment	Approval	GEBCO Gazetteer
1.	GORDA Ridge	41°45'00"N, 127°00'00"W	North Pacific Ocean	Name changed from Gorda Ridges; adjustment of coordinate position	ACUF 358 (Oct. 7, 2021); BGN 283 (Oct. 19, 2021)	YES (Gorda Ridges)
2.	GREAT NORTH	46°18'48"N, 49°00'30"W	North Atlantic Ocean	Correction of coordinate position (Marine Regions)	ACUF 357 (Jul. 16, 2021); BGN 283 (Oct. 19, 2021)	NO
3.	IRVING Seamount	32°23'00"N, 027°27'00"W	North Atlantic Ocean	Correction of longitude from E to W (Marine Regions)	ACUF 355 (Jan. 26, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES
4.	LILIUOKALANI RIDGE	33°00'00"N, 175°18'00"W	North Pacific Ocean	Name changed from Northwest Hawaiian Ridge	ACUF 358 (Oct. 7, 2021); BGN 283 (Oct. 19, 2021)	YES
5.	MENDELEEV Plain	81°00'00"N, 171°00'00"W	Arctic Ocean	Correction of coordinate position (Marine Regions)	ACUF 356 (Apr. 8, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES (Mendeleev Abyssal Plain)
6.	MENDELEEV Rise	80°00'00"N, 178°00'00"W	Arctic Ocean	Correction of coordinate position (clerical error) (Marine Regions)	ACUF 356 (Apr. 8, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES

	Feature Name	Position	Location	Comment	Approval	GEBCO Gazetteer
7.	NIGLIK Valley	70°27'28"N, 131°06'56"W	Beaufort Sea	Correction of coordinate position (Marine Regions)	ACUF 357 (Jul. 16, 2021); BGN 283 (Oct. 19, 2021)	NO
8.	SIBERIA Abyssal Plain	87°00'00"N, 130°00'00"E	Arctic Ocean	Correction of coordinate position (Marine Regions)	ACUF 356 (Apr. 8, 2021); BGN 281 (Apr. 20, 2021)	YES
9.	SOUNDER Ridge	58°30'00"N, 178°50'00"E	North Pacific Ocean	Correction of coordinate position	ACUF 358 (Oct. 7, 2021); BGN 283 (Oct. 19, 2021)	NO
10.	TINGMIARK Valley	70°24'59"N, 131°29'24"W	Beaufort Sea	Correction of coordinate position (Marine Regions)	ACUF 357 (Jul. 16, 2021); BGN 283 (Oct. 19, 2021)	NO