

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

Report of the work made during the inter-sessional period

Preloading in the Gazetteer of all names from the proposals submitted to SCUFN-35.1 & 35.2

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat (as SCUFN Secretary)
Executive Summary:	This document reports on the preloading in the Gazetteer of all undersea feature names from the proposals submitted to SCUFN-35.1 & 35.2.
Related Documents:	N/A
Related Projects:	N/A

Introduction / Background

1. Following the three SCUFN34 meetings, held via video-teleconference (VTC) in 2021, and the SCUFN35.1 meeting in March 2022, considering the limited resources available within its Sub-Committee, the Secretariat of the GEBCO Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) decided to contract several tasks in order to improve the content of the IHO-IOC online GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names (the Gazetteer) and support SCUFN activities managed by the IHO Secretariat. The following tasks were contracted to the former SCUFN Secretary.

Tasks	Objectives	Outcome reported in
1	<i>Update the Gazetteer from all undersea feature naming decisions and actions taken at SCUFN-35.1, ensuring quality control and standardization of the documentation provided as part of the relevant proposals. Prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-35.2. Deadline: 31 August 2022.</i>	Doc. SCUFN35.2-07.2B
2	<i>Monitor the list of pending names. Prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-35.2. Deadline: 31 August 2022.</i>	Doc. SCUFN35.2-07.2D Doc. SCUFN35.2-07.2E
3	<i>Monitor the relationships with NCEI and KHOA to maintain and/or improve the Gazetteer, as necessary and/or appropriate. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-35.2. Deadline: 31 August 2022.</i>	Doc. SCUFN35.2-07.1A
4	<i>Launch, monitor and provide advice on the development by KHOA of the prototype UFN database and SCUFN Operations Web services (OWS), as well as the integration of the SCUFN OWS and the existing GEBCO Gazetteer. This will include testing the integrated system in operational mode for a couple of undersea feature names. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-35.2. Deadline: 30 September 2022.</i>	Doc. SCUFN35.2-07.3A

Tasks	Objectives	Outcome reported in
5	<i>Preload in the Gazetteer tentatively through the SCUFN OWS all undersea feature names from the proposals to be submitted to SCUFN-35.1 and SCUFN-35.2, in advance of the meetings. In doing so, quality control and standardization of the documentation provided will be ensured. All preloaded names to be put in Edit mode. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-35.2. Deadline: 30 September 2022.</i>	Doc. SCUFN35.2-04A
6	<i>As a complement to Task 4, monitor the development of the SCUFN OWS Repository and the transfer of the IHO SCUFN Digital Archive, the interface to move proposals (in restricted access mode before SCUFN meetings) to the Repository after SCUFN meetings (open access and links to GEBCO Gazetteer). Deadline: 30 September 2022.</i>	Doc. SCUFN35.2-???
7	<i>Train IHO Secretariat's personnel on the use of the Gazetteer for database maintenance: general presentation, uploading information from new name proposals, uploading geometries in SHP format, entering geometries provided as series of Lat-Long (use of WKT converter), standardizing the presentation of texts, changing the status of names, managing the administration pages, etc. Deadline: March 2022.</i>	Doc. SCUFN35.2-07.2F

2. The objective of this submission paper is to report on Task 5.

Analysis/Discussion

3. As would be expected, the Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on the organization of the recent SCUFN meetings, with the consequent strong limitations for SCUFN members to travel abroad. Thus, in 2021, SCUFN could only meet through three video teleconferences. The limited time available during these meetings did not allow to address all the numerous name proposals that had been submitted and preloaded on the Gazetteer (427 proposals in total). Many of them were postponed to 2022. Part of these name proposals have been considered at SCUFN-35.1 (Paris, 14-18 March). Those remaining will be addressed at SCUFN-35.2 (Monaco, 28 Nov–2 Dec). Meanwhile, some names already preloaded were the subject of revised proposals and a few new proposals have been accepted. These changes had to be reflected in the Gazetteer. Overall, consideration of any new name proposals submitted since the beginning of 2022 has been postponed to 2023. Below is a summary of the relevant actions on the Gazetteer.

- For SCUFN-35.1, new submissions were received from Indonesia (10) and revised submissions were received from USA – Caladan Oceanic (88) and the Philippines (12).
- For SCUFN-35.2, revised submissions were received from Viet Nam (10). Further, specific terms for all Vietnamese names (60) had to be put back as two words with accented characters.

4. In total, details for 180 names have been either preloaded or updated in the Gazetteer in Edit mode. In doing so, quality control of the documentation provided has been ensured - sometimes, clarifications or additional information were required from the proposers - and name details put in a standardized way in the Gazetteer. Thus, those names accepted during the two sessions of SCUFN-35 are almost ready for validation in the Gazetteer. Only ultimate changes agreed in sessions need to be adjusted in the final phase.

5. With a view to saving time during the preloading operations, it is recalled that name proposals should preferably be accompanied by shape files, and with characteristics as follows:

- WGS84 geographical coordinates *Long Lat* in signed degrees and decimal degrees, e.g. -119.707 13.928 (no UTM projection).
- Up to 50 pairs of coordinates for any geometry (polygon or line string).
- Up to 5 decimals for each coordinate, e.g. 156.20562 -36.65896.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

6. SCUFN Members communicate the characteristics mentioned in section 5 to potential name proposers that they may know.

Justification and Impacts

7. The names preloaded or updated in the Gazetteer prior to SCUFN-35.1 and 35.2 have complete and standardized details, as well as full geometries, allowing a swift validation of all names accepted by SCUFN. Further, preloading these names save considerable time to the Secretariat.

Action required of SCUFN

8. SCUFN is invited to:

- a. note this report
- b. consider the recommendations made in section 6.