

## Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

### Report of ACUF

<i>Submitted by:</i>	Trent Palmer (Executive Secretary) and Leigha Peterson (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 (BGN) since SCUFN-35.1
<i>Related Documents:</i>	SCUFN35.1-05.1A; SCUFN35.1-05.3A
<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 nine members representing the Department of Commerce, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, the Department of State, and the University of Hawai'i.
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 Secretary (replacing Mr. Bobby Jovanovski), and Mr. Ryan Moore serves as ACUF Assistant.
5. A database modernization activity that began in 2019 achieved its initial operating capability in July 2022. As a result, the new production system is based on Esri's ArcGIS Pro. There is a new dissemination site, the Geographic Names Server (GNS). 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. In addition, the ability to export data consistent with S-100 schema has been requested.
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/geonames/GNSHome/index.html> (new). More information about the BGN is available at <https://geonames.usgs.gov/>.

**Discussion**

7. Since SCUFN-35.1, ACUF has met three times (ACUF meetings 360-362). 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 3). 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.

**Action Required of SCUFN**

8. 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 35.1 (March 2022)**

	Feature Name	Position	Location	Proposer	Approval	GEBCO Gazetteer
1.	HECKLE Seamount	48°28'02"N, 130°08'07"W	North Pacific Ocean	Feature appears in Canadian Geographical Names Database (CGND)	ACUF 361 (Jul. 7, 2022); BGN 286 (Jul. 19, 2022)	NO
2.	HECK Seamount Chain	48°29'32"N, 129°30'06"W	North Pacific Ocean	Feature appears in CGND	ACUF 362 (Oct. 4, 2022); BGN 287 (Oct. 18, 2022)	NO
3.	HECKLE Seamount Chain	48°20'32"N, 129°53'48"W	North Pacific Ocean	Feature appears in CGND	ACUF 362 (Oct. 4, 2022); BGN 287 (Oct. 18, 2022)	NO

**Table 2. Undersea Feature Modifications Approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
Since SCUFN 35.1 (March 2022)**

	Feature Name	Position	Location	Comment	Approval	GEBCO Gazetteer
1.	HECK Seamount	48°24'39"N, 129°23'00"W	North Pacific Ocean	Correction of coordinate position (coordination with GNBC)	ACUF 361 (Jul. 7, 2022); BGN 286 (Jul. 19, 2022)	YES

**Table 3. Change reported at SCUFN 35.1 (March 2022) but retained in report for discussion at SCUFN 35.2**

Feature Name	Position	Location	Comment
GORDA Ridge	41°45'00"N, 127°00'00"W	North Pacific Ocean	Name changed from Gorda Ridges; adjustment of coordinate position