

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

Report of the work made during the inter-sessional period

Monitoring the relationships with NCEI and KHOA to maintain and/or improve the Gazetteer

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat (as SCUFN Secretary)
Executive Summary:	This document reports on the monitoring of relationships with NCEI and KHOA to maintain and/or improve the Gazetteer.
Related Documents:	None
Related Projects:	KHOA Beta Gazetteer -GEBCO Gazetteer Interoperation

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
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</i>	Doc. SCUFN35.2-04A

	<i>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>	
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 3.

Analysis/Discussion

3. A new version 4.3.7 of the Gazetteer interface was made available in August 2022 by NOAA’s NCEI¹ Gazetteer Project Team, the responsible body for the maintenance of the Gazetteer. This was the last release of Gazetteer 4 with the intent that releases in the future will be for Gazetteer version 5.0.0 — signifying major updates including changes to the API² and a focus on KHOA OWS³ integration. The contractor and the SCUFN secretary actively participated in the testing of the draft new version prior its release. Several improvements to the Gazetteer, as suggested by the contractor, have been incorporated in the new version (see Annex B to Doc. SCUFN35.2-07.2F). The spirit of cooperation and the efficient work of the NCEI Gazetteer Project Team must be highlighted.

4. Link with the SCUFN OWS, operated by KHOA, is ensured through the KHOA’s officer posted to the IHO Secretariat. Thanks to his effective action, any new name proposals, or revisions, which are received by the Secretary, can thus easily and smoothly be incorporated into the OWS. The latter site contains and presents all submissions addressed to SCUFN. It is used by SCUFN members to assess the new name proposals that will be considered at the next SCUFN meeting, with a view to facilitating meeting decisions. A list of suggested improvements to the OWS is provided at [Annex A](#).

5. A draft flowchart detailing all interactions between the various actors involved in the processing of name proposals (Proposer, IHO Secretariat, KHOA OWS, SCUFN members, GEBCO Gazetteer, Public), was elaborated during SCUFN-35.1. Subsequent discussions by correspondence took place between the contractor, NCEI and the IHO Secretariat, leading to improvements to the flowchart so that it better reflects the reality of the operations undertaken. The current version is presented at [Annex B](#).

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that the KHOA OWS be amended as suggested in Annex A.

¹ National Center for Environmental Information

² Application Programming Interface

³ SCUFN Operational Web Site

Justification and Impacts

7. Maintaining trusting relationships with NCEI and KHOA aims at improving the Gazetteer and the OWS so that they can both best serve their purpose.

Action required of SCUFN

8. SCUFN is invited to:

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

Annex A to SCUFN35.2-07.1A

Suggested improvements to the SCUFN Operational Web Services (OWS)

1. Comments by SCUFN Members

For the sake of clarity, the following presentation of SCUFN Members is suggested:

Full name + e-mail address + date of comments

Example: Najhan SAID najhan@navy.mil.my 2022-10-18

2. List of Undersea Feature Names

In the right hand column, to replace the title “Result” with “Status” and to include “Withdrawn” as an additional option, in order to keep trace of those UFN which were once submitted then withdrawn for whatever reason.

3. List of Proposals – Meeting (e.g. SCUFN-35)

To add a new column “Status” on the right hand.

To keep only the date under “Posted Date”, e.g. 2021-09-14. The time, e.g. 04:59:25 is not needed.

4. List of Proposals – Meeting (e.g. SCUFN-35) – Column “Proposed Name”

When a new name is proposed by the proposer, with change to the specific and/or generic term(s), this should be clearly presented in the table. Below are three examples illustrating this issue.

- Names proposed by VNHO. At present there is one line for Ninhvan CANYONS in the table, and another line for Ninh Vân CANYONS at the end of the table. However, the two specific terms refer to the same feature. It is suggested to modify the presentation as follows:

Index	Name Proposal	Posted Date	Revision	Status
18	Ninhvan CANYONS	2021-09-14	-	PENDING
	Ninh Vân CANYONS	2022-09-26	Rev1	

- Names proposed by Caladan Oceanic, USA. At present, there is one line for Central Agulhas PEAK in the table, and another line for Central Agulhas HILL at the end of the table. However, the two generic terms refer to the same feature. It is suggest to modify the presentation as follows:

Index	Name Proposal	Posted Date	Revision	Status
50	Central Agulhas PEAK	2022-01-13	Rev1	PENDING
	Central Agulhas HILL	2022-01-13	Rev2	

- Names proposed by Caladan Oceanic, USA. There is one line in the table for Central Agulhas KNOLL. However, the name of this feature has been accepted as McAlinden HILL by SCUFN members by correspondence. It is suggested to modify the presentation as follows:

Index	Name Proposal	Posted Date	Revision	Status
52	Central Agulhas KNOLL	2022-01-13	Rev1	APPROVED
	McAlinden HILL	-	Rev2	

Annex B to SCUFN35.2-07.1A

Undersea Feature Names Processing Flowchart (1st November 2022)

KHOA OWS - GEBCO Gazetteer v5 Submission Flow

November 1, 2022

