Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

Report of ACUF Activities 2023

Submitted by:	Leigha Peterson (Secretary)
Executive Summary:	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-35.2
Related Documents:	N/A
Related Projects:	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 (GEBCO) Sub-Committee on Undersea Features (SCUFN) and submits this report on its recent activities. This report covers the period since SCUFN-35.2. ACUF is committed to maintaining and strengthening its close working-relationship with SCUFN.

4. Ms. Meredith Westington is the ACUF Chair, as of January 2022. Dr. Leigha Peterson is the current Secretary who will complete her tenure during the 2023 year and Mr. Ryan Moore is transitioning from the ACUF Assistant to serve as the ACUF Secretary in 2024.

5. The BGN’s database modernization activity, which first became operational in July 2022, continues operations that include periodic functionality updates to its new Esri ArcGIS Pro production system and its 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.

6. The BGN Undersea Features “gazetteer” includes approximately 10,784 names for 5,787 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. More information about the BGN is available at https://geonames.usgs.gov/.

Discussion

7. Since SCUFN-35.2, ACUF has met three times (ACUF meetings 363-365). The list of names recommended by ACUF and subsequently approved by the BGN is provided in three tables below. The first table presents the list of new undersea feature names. The second table lists modifications to existing features. The third table includes SCUFN approved names that were reviewed by ACUF and approved by BGN.

During the reporting period, ACUF has reinforced its alignment with SCUFN practices. Specifically, ACUF revalidated the approach to delineate generic feature types based on majority conditions. The features reported here were adopted with SCUFN consistent policies in mind. However, there are some instances where procedural differences remain. Of note, ACUF did discuss the adoption of the generic feature *mud volcano* and decided against a modification to the policies and procedures at this time. All three adopted features detailed in Table 1 were recognized as mud volcanoes by the proposer and adopted with current generic terms approved by the Committee. ACUF hopes to continue to discuss these differences with the intention of transparency and partnership.

ACUF adopted the *okina* (ʻ) into the list of approved characters for the Geographic Names Database and is now available in the Geographic Names Server.

Action Required of SCUFN

8. SCUFN is invited to:

a. note this report

Table 1. New Undersea Feature Names Approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names Since SCUFN 35.2 (December 2022)

	Feature Name	Position	Location	Proposer	Approval	GEBCO Gazetteer
1.	HAGA' I TASI Seamount	14°35'06"N, 147°00'30"E	Pacific Ocean	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	ACUF 365 (Oct. 4, 2023); BGN 290 (Oct. 17, 2023)	NO
2.	LAYULIYAR ARAW Hill	19°40'16"N, 146°44'11"E	Pacific Ocean	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	ACUF 365 (Oct. 4, 2023); BGN 290 (Oct. 17, 2023)	NO
3.	SUBETBIA Seamount	19°52'16"N, 146°43'36"E	Pacific Ocean	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	ACUF 365 (Oct. 4, 2023); BGN 290 (Oct. 17, 2023)	NO

Table 2. Undersea Feature Modifications Approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names Since SCUFN 35.2 (December 2022)

	Feature Name	Position	Location	Comment	Approval	GEBCO Gazetteer
1.	KAMAʻEHUAKANALOA	18°55'30"N, 155°13'18"W	Pacific Ocean	Modification of feature name	ACUF 363 (Mar. 16, 2023); BGN 289 (Apr. 18, 2023)	YES

Table 3. SCUFN approved features, newly added to the Geographic Names Database
Since SCUFN 35.2 (December 2022)

	Feature Name	Position	Approval	GEBCO Gazetteer
1.	FENSHOU Guyot	03°00'50"N, 101°55'01"W	ACUF 364 (Jun. 13, 2023); BGN 290 (Oct. 17, 2023)	YES, Approved SCUFN 29
2.	MADDEN Sea Channel	40°38'57"S, 177°19'57"E	ACUF 364 (Jun. 13, 2023); BGN 290 (Oct. 17, 2023)	YES, Approved SCUFN 29
3.	MINAMI-HATERUMA Seamount	22°56'28"N, 123°39'38"E	ACUF 364 (Jun. 13, 2023); BGN 290 (Oct. 17, 2023)	YES, Approved SCUFN 29
4.	MINAMI-SHIMOJI Seamount	23°05'00"N, 125°09'45"E	ACUF 364 (Jun. 13, 2023); BGN 290 (Oct. 17, 2023)	YES, Approved SCUFN 29
5.	NAKANOUGAN Hill	22°54'34"N, 123°26'28"E	ACUF 364 (Jun. 13, 2023); BGN 290 (Oct. 17, 2023)	YES, Approved SCUFN 29
6.	OKISAKISHIMA Ridge	22°16'42"N, 125°54'07"E	ACUF 364 (Jun. 13, 2023); BGN 290 (Oct. 17, 2023)	YES, Approved SCUFN 29