

Report on Marine Regions activities

Report for SCUFN-36 meeting, Wollongong, November 2023

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Undersea features

GEBCO-SCUFN and ACUF gazetteers were both integrated in Marine Regions in 2014. Both gazetteers are regularly updated and the issues found are reported yearly to SCUFN. The main facts about the 2023 updates are explained in the following sections below.

1. GEBCO update

161 new features added to Marine Regions, all of which from SCUFN-34.

Issues found:

Nothing to report.

Related remarks:

- a. The web service (https://gis.ngdc.noaa.gov/arcgis/services/IHO/undersea_features/MapServer/WMSServer?) sometimes displays unstable behaviour. How could this be remedied?
- b. To date there is no clear agreement between Marine Regions and SCUFN regarding the annual integration of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names within the Marine Regions database. Under which license does the IHO-IOC GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names fall? Is it desirable to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding regarding this?

2. ACUF update

All new features were matched to an existing Marine Regions GeoObject.

Issues found:

- a. Is it possible that in the ACUF website output for Country Code 'Undersea Features', the information for Monowai Seamount (UFI = 14988298) and its synonym is being duplicated?
- b. For feature Heckle Seamount in the ACUF gazetteer (UFI = 15323309), it is not entirely clear if the placetype of the given feature (seamounts) can be considered similar to the placetype in the Canadian gazetteer (featureid = 0cc65aa5849c20c330bbccdb96a0a14b), and if the features are the same. For now, we have integrated it under the same MRGID.
- c. Please also refer to previous reports for outstanding issues.

Related remarks:

- a. To date there is no clear agreement between Marine Regions and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names Advisory Committee on Undersea Features regarding the annual integration of the BGN Undersea Features gazetteer within the Marine Regions database. Under which license does the BGN Undersea Features gazetteer fall? Is it desirable to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding regarding this?

General overview Undersea Features in Marine Regions

There are in total 11907 undersea features records in Marine Regions. The main sources for these features are the GEBCO, ACUF, SCAR, New Zealand and Canada gazetteers. Some features belong into more than one context.

Gazetteer - context	Total
ACUF Gazetteer	5907
GEBCO Gazetteer	4916
Canada Gazetteer	2258
SCAR-MarBIN	773
New Zealand Gazetteer	821
Other	680

Data products updates

Maritime Boundaries v12: In this new release, Marine Regions updates the global Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) (version 12), and launches version 4 of the datasets for Territorial Seas (TS), Contiguous Zones (CZ), Internal Waters (IW) and Archipelagic Waters (AW). This new version introduces – among others – new and adjusted line types to incorporate more detail regarding the nature of the line features, and a dedicated public GitHub forum to report issues and facilitate discussions.

Other updates

UN Ocean Decade endorsement: Marine Regions submitted a UN Ocean Decade Action entitled 'From global gazetteer to global community', which was endorsed in June. This Action focuses on engaging with multiple stakeholders (e.g. editorial community, subject experts,...) to further strengthen the gazetteer's content.

New background map: as discussed during previous SCUFN meetings, Marine Regions offers EMODnet's global bathymetry layer as a background layer for the map viewers on its website.

Short-term future activities

Update of mregions R package: the mregions R package, which combines Marine Regions gazetteer and data product functions, will be reviewed and updated. The updated package will – among others – include all (new) RESTful services provided for the gazetteer.

UN Ocean Decade activities: several activities linked to the proposed UN Ocean Decade Action (QC, gap analysis, editorial community,...) will be launched in the near future.

Maritime Boundaries v12 derived products: Marine Regions plans on updating various products depending on the Maritime Boundaries v12 datasets (e.g. High Seas, Extended Continental Shelves,...).