

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-37

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-37.
Related Documents:	N/A
Related Projects:	N/A

Introduction / Background

1. Following the SCUFN-36 meeting, held in November 2023, 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-36, 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-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.2B
2	<i>Monitor the list of pending names. Prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.2D
3	<i>Monitor the relationships with NCEI and KHOA to maintain and/or improve the Gazetteer, as necessary and/or appropriate. As part of that work, assess the new version 5.0.0 prior to its launching during 2024. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.1B
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, also covering the direct online submission procedure. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.3B

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-37, in advance of the meeting. 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-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-04.0A
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). Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-37. Deadline: 30 April 2024.</i>	Doc. SCUFN37-07.3C
7	<i>Support to the outgoing Secretary during the hand-over with the incoming Secretary for a couple of training sessions. Deadline: October 2024.</i>	

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

Analysis/Discussion

3. Some 450 undersea feature names were preloaded in the Gazetteer, prior to SCUFN-36 which took place in November 2023. A record! This resulted, at least partly, from the accumulation of name proposals during the Covid-19 pandemic and which could not be addressed in totality at past meetings. This was also due to the recent submission of numerous names in the South China Sea (SCS). However, not all 450 names preloaded were considered at SCUFN-36. The meeting agreed “to freeze” the SCS for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties; also where mutual consultation is already in progress (JCUFN and CCUFN). As a result, “only” 223 proposed names were considered at SCUFN-36. Further, to avoid congesting the limited capacities of SCUFN meetings, it was agreed to cap the number of naming proposals to 25 per meeting for one country, with a maximum total of 250 to be reviewed at every plenary meeting of SCUFN (Fast-track procedure unchanged as described in Appendix B to Publication B-6). This was endorsed by the GEBCO Guiding Committee in March 2024 and is now reflected in new SCUFN Rule of Procedure 2.11. New name proposals uploaded to the Gazetteer in advance of their consideration at SCUFN-37, amounting to 140, are distributed as follows:

- Brazil (5)
- Canada (28)
- Chile (4)
- China (22)
- Colombia (1)
- India (7)
- Indonesia (34)
- Japan (10)
- Palau (1)
- Philippines (25)
- Portugal (1)
- Russia (1)
- USA (1)

4. Details of the 140 names have been preloaded in the Gazetteer in Edit mode. In doing so, quality control of the documentation provided has been ensured - sometimes, clarifications or additional or revised information/data were required from the proposers - and name details put in a standardized way in the Gazetteer. In particular, a number of supplied shape files contained either wrong coordinates (for example UTM) or far too many points to delimit polygons or lines (sometimes several hundredth). As a result, names that will be accepted at SCUFN-37 are almost ready for validation in the Gazetteer. Only ultimate changes agreed in session will need to be adjusted in the final phase.

5. DFO Science Canada has proposed 25 names where all specific terms are acronyms (NEPDEP 2, NEPDEP 3, ...). It may be worth reminding that the use of acronyms has been discouraged on several occasions, as reflected below during SCUFN meetings.

- SCUFN-23, 2010 (about CBF Rift and CBF Rise): "...the Sub-Committee agreed to accept both names, although the use of acronyms for specific terms is not encouraged by SCUFN"
- SCUFN-25, 2012 (about OGS Explora Mounds): "Noting that the vessel is actually named 'OGS Explora', the sub-Committee agreed that the full name be used for the feature, despite its reluctance to accept acronyms."
- SCUFN-27, 2014 : "To the issue raised by the Undersea Names Committee of the NZGB on the use of acronyms, SCUFN is in the opinion that it should be avoided unless an exception is justified." (this resulted in Action SCUFN27/77).
- SCUFN-28, 2015 (following-on Action SCUFN27/77): "Sec. to take a note for future Ed. of B-6"
- SCUFN-32, 2019 (about A.R.A. San Juan Canyon): "It was agreed that as an exceptional case, the acronym "A.R.A." (Armada de la República Argentina) would be retained as the feature is being named in honour of the submarine that sunk in November 2017"
- SCUFN-34, 2021 (Action SCUFN34/VTC01/92) : "In view of the preparation of Ed. 4.3.0 of B-6 in the future, SCUFN agreed to consider the possibility to add a clause on specific terms such as '*The use of acronyms for specific terms of undersea feature names is discouraged, but may be considered, if the suggested name is otherwise deemed appropriate*'"

6. 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:

7. SCUFN Members take into consideration the remarks in section 5.

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

Justification and Impacts

9. The names preloaded in the Gazetteer prior to SCUFN-37 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

10. SCUFN is invited to:
 - a. note this report
 - b. consider the recommendations made in sections 7 and 8.