**SCUFN37-09.2**

**Paper for Consideration by SCUFN**

**National names authority activities related to undersea feature name standardization**

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|  ***Submitted by:***  | Trent Palmer, SCUFN Member (IHO)  |
| ***Executive Summary:***  | This document reports on undersea feature name standardization activities among national names authorities |
| ***Related Documents:***  | SCUFN36-05.4A UNGEGN Report; SCUFN37-05.4B National Authorities and Undersea Feature Naming;  |
| ***Related Projects:***  | NA |

**Introduction/Background**

1, As stated on the SCUFN website, one of its objectives is to "encourage the establishment of national boards of geographical names and undersea features, and when such a board does not exist for a given coastal state, co-operate in the naming of seafloor features related to those national waters;" This goal is also repeated in section 1.3 of the Terms of Reference.

**Discussion**

2. In this brief report, I have listed the national committees that are involved in undersea feature name standardization. The related list (SCUFN37-05.4B) includes some of these (indicated with an asterisk (\*)). However, for most countries (e.g., the United States), the parent organization only is identified. One of the purposes of this report is to solicit information about extant committees and efforts. There may be inadvertent oversights or unawareness of some activities. The author recognizes that countries may be actively involved in undersea feature nomenclature activities, but may not have a specially designated committee. This is the case across toponymy in general.

**a. Canada**

Geographical Names Board of Canada

Advisory Committee on Undersea Feature Names

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/hydrography-hydrographie/acufn/index-eng.html>

**b. China**

\*Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names of China Committee on Geographical Names (CCUFN)

**c. Japan**

\*Japanese Committee for Undersea Feature Names (JCUFN)

https://www1.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/jcufn/jcufn\_e.html

**d. New Zealand**

New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

<https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/>

Published a standard for undersea feature names (2016)

**e. Philippines**

National Mapping and Resources Information Authority

Hydrography Branch

Technical Working on Undersea Feature Names

**f. Republic of Korea**

Korean Committee on Marine Geographical Names (KCMGN)

**g. Russian Federation**

A print gazetteer of worldwide undersea feature names was published in the 1980s (estimate)

**h. United States of America**

U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF)

https://geonames.nga.mil/geonames/GNSHome/index.html

**Recommendations**

3. Continue to encourage the establishment of national authorities of geographical names and undersea features.

**Action required of SCUFN**

4. SCUFN is invited to:

 a. note this report

 b. provide any missing or incorrect information