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CIRCULAR LETTER 18/2025

07 April 2025

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)

CALL FOR NOMINATION OF IHO-AFFILIATED MEMBER

Reference: SCUFN Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure – Edition 6 March 2024

Dear Hydrographer,

1. By this Circular Letter, IHO Member States are invited to nominate candidates to fill one vacancy of the IHO membership in the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), to take effect by the end of 2025. The selection of the candidates will be made on the basis of expertise and geographical distribution.
2. The establishment of SCUFN arose from the need for a uniform policy for handling geographical names and the standardization of undersea feature names. SCUFN normally consists of 12 members, preferably 6 members being appointed by the IHO and 6 members by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) acting in close consultation (Reference A, article 2.1.1 refers).
3. Each member of SCUFN shall be appointed for a five-year period, renewable for one additional five-year term by the corresponding parent organization (IHO or IOC) if so recommended by SCUFN through the GEBCO Guiding Committee as per reference - article 2.1.3 refers. The current SCUFN Membership List is provided in **Annex A**.
4. The IHO-affiliated seat will become vacant after the next SCUFN-38 meeting planned in November 2025 as **Prof. Roberta IVALDI (Italy)** will be at the end of her second five-year term. Whilst the appointment for this seat would only become effective at the end of the next SCUFN-38 meeting in November, the appointed member will be invited to prepare and attend the next SCUFN meeting as an observer.
5. Criteria for the selection of SCUFN Members include the following:
 - Profound knowledge in bathymetry, marine geomorphology, especially in state-of-the-art ocean surveying and seabed mapping,
 - Experience in topographic terrain analysis,
 - Familiarity in the compound field of international marine history and GEBCO,
 - Basic cognizance in marine Earth sciences,
 - Experience in international meetings with English as working language.

The selected experts are expected to be supported and funded by their respective national organizations to attend the SCUFN meetings.

6. IHO Member States wishing to propose a nomination are kindly invited to submit it to the IHO Secretariat, **no later than 6th June 2025**. Each application should be submitted using any of the following methods, and include the nominee's CV outlining their credentials and experience with regard to the criteria described above plus an application letter:

- the IHO Online Form accessible through the following link (recommended) :
https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/web_form_cl_18_2025
- the IHO Voting Form (see **Annex B**), to be sent back by email (cl-lc@iho.int),

7. The IHO Secretariat will examine the nominations received for the position, in liaison with the GGC and SCUFN Chairs, and will confirm nomination of the new member of SCUFN in close consultation with IOC.

8. The IHO Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank **Prof. Roberta IVALDI** for her engagement in SCUFN activities over the many years, as well as her national supporting organization for sponsoring her as member of SCUFN.

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luigi SINAPI', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luigi SINAPI
Director

Annex(es):

- A. SCUFN Membership List (as of 01 December 2024)
- B. SCUFN Nomination Form

SCUFN Membership List
(as of 01 December 2024)

| <i>IOC Parent Organization</i> | <i>IHO Parent Organization</i> |
|--|--|
| Mr. Félix FRÍAS IBARRA (Mexico) | Dr. Yasuhiko OHARA (Chair , Japan) |
| Mr. Kevin MACKAY (New Zealand) | Prof. Roberta IVALDI (Italy) |
| Dr. Sihai LI (China) | First Admiral Dr. Najhan MD SAID (Vice-Chair , Malaysia) |
| Dr. Amon KIMELI (Kenya) | Mr. Trent PALMER (USA) |
| Ms. Lorena da Fonseca SAMPAIO (Brazil) | Prof. Millard F. COFFIN (Australia) |
| Dr. Hyun Suk LEE (Republic of Korea) | Captain Dr. Oke DWIYANA P (Indonesia) |

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)

NOMINATION FORM

(to be returned to the IHO Secretariat cl-lc@iho.int by 06 June 2025)

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your answers

Member State:

nominates the following expert to be a member of SCUFN:

Name:

E-mail:

Comments:

Date:

Signature:

Attachment:

- CV of nominated expert.
- Application letter of nominated expert.