

CIRCULAR LETTER 32/2025
24 July 2025

**GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)
- APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER**

References:

- A. IHO CL 18/2025 dated 07 April 2025 – *GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN) Call for Nomination of IHO affiliated Member.*
- B. SCUFN Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In response to Reference A, the IHO Secretariat received three nominations to fill the vacant IHO position on the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN). The three nominations were:

- Prof. Paraskevi NOMIKOU (Greece)
- Capt. Samir Shrikant GOKHALE (India)
- SubLt Mercy Modupe OGUNGBAMILA (Nigeria).

2. The IHO Secretariat expresses its gratitude to the Member States who nominated very well-qualified candidates.

3. Following previous practice, the applications were reviewed carefully by the IHO Secretariat and the SCUFN Chair. Taking into account the selection criteria listed in Reference A, and the need to find the right balance in the composition of SCUFN, the IHO Secretariat, with the agreement of the SCUFN Chair, IOC-UNESCO and the GEBCO Guiding Committee Chair, unanimously agreed on the selection of the following candidate: **Professor Paraskevi NOMIKOU (Greece).**

4. The appointment of Professor Paraskevi NOMIKOU as SCUFN member, will be effective on 1st January 2026 succeeding Professor Roberta IVALDI (Italy) who steps down from her position then. In order to facilitate the smooth transition, Professor NOMIKOU is invited to prepare and participate in the forthcoming SCUFN38 meeting in November 2025 as an observer (Reference A, paragraph 4 refers).

5. The new updated membership list of SCUFN, which is anticipated to be effective on 1st January 2026, is provided in Annex A.

On behalf of the Secretary-General
Yours sincerely,



Luigi SINAPI
Director

Annex A: SCUFN Membership List

Copy: SCUFN Chair, SCUFN Vice-Chair, IOC Secretariat.

SCUFN Membership List
(as of 24 July 2025)

<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 Pribadi (Indonesia)

For information only, SCUFN Membership List to become effective on 1st January 2026.

<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)	Professor Paraskevi NOMIKOU (Greece)
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)
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