

**First session      13 - 14 March 1975**





S3/2641

GEBCO Sub-Committee on Geographical Names and  
Nomenclature of Ocean Bottom Features

First session 13 - 14 March 1975

Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Minutes

1. Attendance

The following members attended the meeting :

Mr. G.N. EWING

Mr. ROUBERTOU

Commodore KAPOOR, Secretary.

The Secretary informed the meeting that Dr. Heezen had expressed his regrets at his inability to attend.

2. Election of Chairman

Mr. G.N. Ewing, Dominion Hydrographer, Canada, was unanimously elected chairman.

3. Arrangements for the Session

The Chairman provided the necessary information and detailed the administrative arrangements for the session.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted (see Annex I).

5. Examination of background documents

The sub-committee examined the relevant IHO/UN resolutions on the subject of Geographical Names and decided to use these as general guide-lines for its future work. In this context the sub-committee strongly recommended that appropriate hydrographic representation be sought in the U.N. Group of Experts on Geographical Names in, as far as this group's work on attaining standardization of names of maritime and undersea features is concerned.

The sub-committee also examined the "Report of the Sub-committee on proper names for ocean bottom features (1966)" and decided that due to the substantial increase in the knowledge of ocean features, the 1966 report could no longer serve for naming features included on the GEBCO sheets.

As regards Nomenclature of ocean bottom features the sub-committee, whilst reviewing the definitions adopted by the GEBCO Committee in 1964, decided that the list required updating and the addition of extra terms in order to make it more comprehensive. The chairman informed the members that the Canadian Sub-committee on Undersea features had recently prepared a list of definitions and he would be sending copies of this list to the members of the GEBCO Nomenclature sub-committee. It was agreed that members review the Canadian list with a view to its adoption for GEBCO. However, as an initial step, members should send their comments to the chairman at the earliest so that the matter could be discussed during the next meeting of the GEBCO Guiding Committee.

#### 6. Policy for handling Names

The Sub-committee agreed to the following general principles :-

- a) As far as practicable geographical names on land will conform to official usage of the country having sovereignty. Where the script of the sovereign state is other than the Roman alphabet, names will be obtained by applying the various international systems for romanization approved by the United Nations.
- b) For names of countries, the geographic names (not the political designation) will be used as far as practicable. Example Madagascar not Malagasy Republic; France not Republique Frainaise.
- c) For nomenclature of undersea features and water masses the English designation will be used.

(The Committee examined the feasibility of adopting a bi-lingual system but found this to be impractical. The possibility of publishing separate English and French versions of GEBCO was also examined but found to be too costly).

- d) Names of major water masses should be shown by means of a subdued grey tint so as not to obscure bathymetric details.
- e) In general, islands would not be named unless they are island countries.

#### 7. Names appearing on sheet 5-05

The Sub-committee made a detailed examination of the names appearing on sheet 5-05 and made suitable corrections in conformity with the principles laid down in para 6 above. For sea features it was decided to accept the recommendations of the scientific co-ordinator (Dr. Laughton).

#### 8. Recommendations

The Sub-Committee recommends that for future GEBCO sheets the scientific co-ordinator, in each case, forward a list of proposed names for sea features based on the principles out-lined in para 6 above. The lists will be reviewed by the members of the nomenclature sub-committee and it was agreed that, as far as possible, a final version will be approved by correspondence.

GEBCO - SUB-COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES AND  
NOMENCLATURE ON OCEAN BOTTOM FEATURES

Dartmouth : 13-14 March 1975

AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman
  2. Arrangements for the session, documentation, etc.
  3. Adoption of the Agenda
  4. Examination of background documents and relevant UN/IHO technical resolutions on Geographic Names.
  5. Discussion of policy for handling Nomenclature of Ocean Bottom Features.
  6. Discussion of policy for handling Geographic Names.
  7. Preparation of guide-lines for Geographic Names and Nomenclature of Ocean Bottom Features appearing on GEBCO sheets.
  8. Any other business.
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