

Third session 21 April 1978

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON 'GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES' AND NOMENCLATURE

OF OCEAN BOTTOM FEATURES

Third Session 21 April 1978

Institute of Ocean Sciences, Patricia Bay, Canada

SUMMARY REPORT

1. Attendance

(a) The following members attended the meeting :

Mr. G.N. Ewing - Chairman
Dr. R.L. Fisher
Monsieur A. Roubertou
Rear Admiral D.C. Kapoor - Secretary

(b) The following attended by special invitation :

Dr. Richard R. Randall - convenor U.N. Working Group on Undersea and
Maritime Feature Names
Dr. Jack W. Pierce - Member U.S. Board on Geographical Names
Mr. D. Monahan - Observer, Canadian Hydrographic Service

2. Arrangements for the Session

The Chairman briefed the members on the administrative arrangements made for the session.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted (See Annex "A")

4. Chairman's Opening Remarks

In welcoming Dr. Randall and Dr. Pierce to the meeting, the Chairman assured them of the sub-committee's fullest cooperation in developing agreed "Guidelines for Standardization of Undersea Feature Names" and a joint list of terms and definitions.

Mr. Ewing informed the meeting that the Canadian Hydrographic Service would be prepared to continue its support in scribing and printing the remaining sheets of the GEBCO 5th edition. However, efforts to establish a permanent geoscience unit should be intensified and possible sources of financial support investigated by the two sponsoring organizations of the GEBCO program.

5. Review of new GEBCO Sheets

The sub-committee reviewed GEBCO sheets 5.01 and 5.04. Mr. Monahan briefed the members on the various problems that he had encountered whilst cartographically compiling these sheets, particularly with reference to names. He stated that in the case of sheet 5.12 there had been a prolonged correspondence on the question of names and it was hoped that this matter could be resolved during the forthcoming session of the GEBCO Guiding Committee.

The comments received from Mr. Roubertou, Dr. Simpson, Rear Admiral Kapoor and the respective scientific coordinators had been incorporated in the sheets currently under publication. It was, however, recognized by the sub-committee that in order to avoid lengthy correspondence and the inherent delays, it would be desirable to hold a short meeting of the sub-committee to resolve the question of names appearing on each subsequent sheet.

Rear Admiral Kapoor displayed the compilation material and documentation received from Dr. Iwabuchi in respect of sheet 5.06. He stated that Dr. Iwabuchi had now received comments from Dr. Udintsev and was awaiting those from Dr. Fisher in order to finalize this compilation. Dr. Fisher has now completed this review.

6. Consideration of Policies and Principles

Dr. Randall outlined the work of the United Nations Group of Experts in developing Guidelines for the Standardization of Undersea and Maritime Feature Names for international use. He stated that the report of this group which contained the Principles and Policies document had been presented at the Athens Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The Conference had given approval to the report with the provision that its recommendations be coordinated with the IHO and IOC for the purpose of developing an agreed statement to meet requirements for an internationally acceptable set of guidelines.

Rear Admiral Kapoor informed the sub-committee that he represented the IHO and IOC at the Athens Conference where he had made a statement outlining the GEBCO Guiding Committee's work. On behalf of Mr. Ewing, he had presented the GEBCO terminology list as a contribution towards the work of the conference in achieving standardization of undersea feature names as well as developing terms and definitions.

The sub-committee reviewed the United Nations Principles and Policies document and it was recognized that the proposed guidelines would not be generally applicable to Maritime Features. Consequently Dr. Randall agreed to delete all reference to Maritime Features.

In the discussion on the guidelines it was stressed that rather than "sovereign states" it was generally individual scientists and institutions who were responsible for proposing names for undersea features and this fact should be reflected in the document.

After detailed discussion there was complete agreement on the principles to be embodied in the guidelines document and Dr. Randall kindly offered to complete the drafting work.

7. List of Terms and Definitions

The United Nations List of terms and definitions as well as those developed within the GEBCO program were reviewed and a fairly large measure of agreement was reached. However, complete agreement could not be reached at this meeting and it was decided that further consultations should continue with the object of arriving at a joint list of terms and definitions. In order to achieve this, it was recognized that at a joint meeting with the UN Group of Experts would facilitate the resolution of outstanding issues.

9. Membership of the Sub-committee

In responding to the letter received from the United States NOS and DMA(HC) regarding membership of the sub-committee, the Chairman stated that Dr. Pierce would be welcome to attend all future meetings and participate actively in discussions.

ANNEX

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE 'ON GEOGRAPHICAL 'NAMES' AND
NOMENCLATURE OF OCEAN BOTTOM FEATURES

Third Session, Patricia Bay, 21 April 1978

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Matters arising from review of new sheets
 - 5.01 Norwegian and Barents Seas
 - 5.04 North Atlantic
 - 5.12 South Atlantic
 3. Review of names appearing on Sheet 5.06
 4. Consideration of policy for handling Nomenclature and Geographical Names on GEBCO sheets. Review of guidelines
 5. "Undersea Feature Terminology" : Consideration of comments received
 6. Consideration of the policies and principles for the naming of new undersea features developed by the United Nations
 7. Cooperation with the U.N. Group of Experts on Standardization of Geographical Names in the development of a joint list of terms and definitions for undersea features.
 8. Membership of the Sub-Committee
 9. Approval of the Summary Report
-