

Fourth session

3 October 1980

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GEBCO SUB'-COMMITTEE' ON' GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

AND NOMENCLATURE' OF OCEAN' BOTTOM' FEATURES

Fourth Session - 3 October 1980

International Hydrographic Bureau - Monaco

SUMMARY REPORT

The Sub-Committee met on Friday, October 3, 1980 - 9.30 a.m. at the IHB in Monaco. The Chairman, Mr G.N. EWING, welcomed the following members and observers :

Dr Robert L. Fisher
Ingenieur Andre Roubertou
Dr Galina Agapova-- representing Dr G. Udintsev
R/Adm. D.C. Kapoor - Secretary
Mr Dave Monahan - Canadian Hydrographic Service
Dr J. Pierce - Smithsonian Institution
Dr R. Randall - U.N. Group of Experts on Maritime and Underwater
Features
Mrs Sandra Shaw - U.S.B.G.N.

The Agenda was adopted (see Appendix A).

Item 2 : The Sub-Committee reviewed the names list for Sheet 5.16 Provided by John LaPrecque, Among the questions raised :

1. Clear delineation of Maud Rise and/or Maud Seamount.
2. "Falkland and Agulhas Fracture Zone" - Topographic continuity.
3. Terms not on list - Chasm and Arc.
4. Substantiation for use of personal names on two Seamounts, i.e. Deborah and Melissa.

All other questions were resolved by the Sub-Committee. However, the Guiding Committee members are asked to review the sheet for further critical comment.

Item 3 : The Sub-Committee reviewed the guidelines for handling geographical names on GEBCO and did not consider it necessary to make any changes.

Item 4 : The list was reviewed and the Sub-Committee did not consider any changes were necessary, However, with respect to references appearing under the definitions, Dr Fisher has undertaken an editorial review because a number of minor errors had been discovered. M. Roubertou will try again to obtain a list of references in the French literature. Dr Pierce suggested the addition of a new term "Shelf Valley" which is defined by the U.S.B.G.N. as "A Valley on the Shelf, generally the shoreward extension of a Canyon." The Sub-Committee discussed this briefly and, although it was generally felt that the definition would not apply to GEBCO at the 1:10 million scale, it was agreed to raise this point at the meeting of the Guiding Committee.

Item 5 : It was agreed to make the following change in Paragraph 4 of the Foreword to "Undersea Feature Terminology" :

Delete last sentence and substitute : "The definitions listed are based almost exclusively on a geomorphological description of the features themselves and must not be construed as having any legal or political connotation whatsoever. Nor do they necessarily conform to their hydrographic/navigational usage as appearing in 'The Hydrographic Dictionary' (IHO Special Publication 32)."

It was further agreed to make the following changes in the proposed guidelines :

Para B1, after features, add "Annex II"

Para B3, delete all after conform and substitute : "to these guidelines"

Dr Randall, as Convenor of the U.N. Group of Experts, confirmed his agreement to the Guidelines and the Terminology List and informed the Sub-Committee that he intends to circulate the agreed document to the membership of his committee with a view to its adoption at the next meeting of the U.N. Group of Experts.

The Sub-Committee expressed the view that these terms and definitions as defined do not necessarily have any relationship with the provisions of the draft Convention on the Law of the Sea.

A revised document (October 1980) containing the "Guidelines" and the "Terminology List" has been prepared and supersedes all previous editions (see Appendix B).

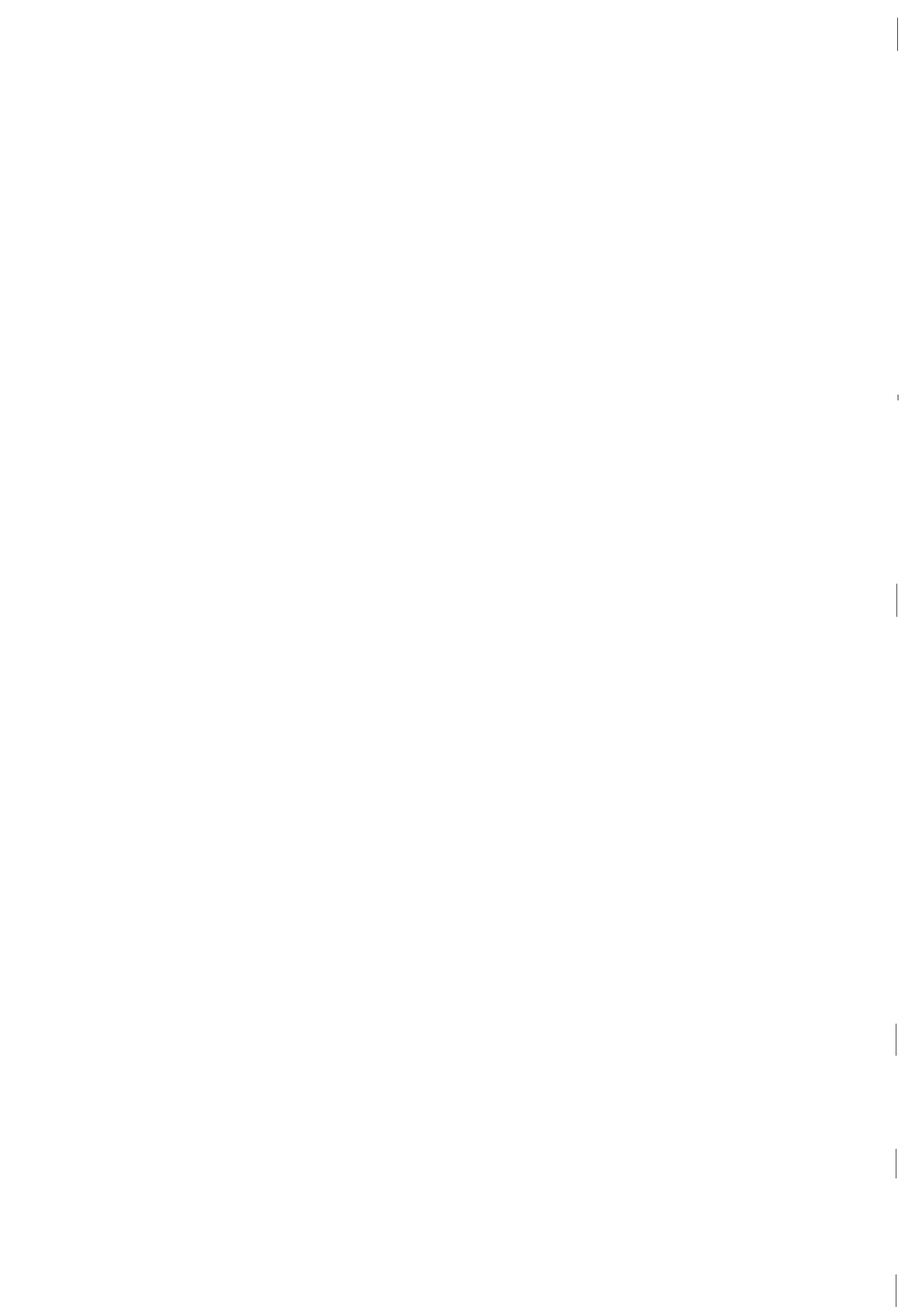
Item 6 : In conformity with the views of the Guiding Committee, the Secretary of the Sub-Committee has been cooperating with the Chief Editor of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean (IBCM) in reviewing place names and undersea feature terminology. The Secretary pointed out that this task had presented numerous difficulties, particularly in the transliteration of Arabic names. However, considerable assistance had been received through the U.N. Group of Experts. Dr Randall very kindly offered to provide the assistance of the U.S.B.G.N. in the future.

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

Fourth Session, Monaco, 3-4 October 1980

• AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Matters arising from review of GEBCO sheets
3. Consideration of policy for handling Nomenclature and Geographical Names on GEBCO sheets and review of Guidelines
4. Review of "Undersea Feature Terminology"
5. Cooperation with the U.N. Group of Experts on Standardization of Geographical Names in the adoption of a joint list of terms and definitions for undersea features
6. Cooperation with the Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean
7. Any other business
8. Approval of the Summary Report.



GUIDELINES FOR THE STANDARDIZATION OF
UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES FOR NATIONAL USE

I. General

- A. International concern for naming **undersea features is limited to those features entirely or mainly (more than 50%) outside waters under the jurisdiction** of states.
- B. "Undersea feature" is a part of the ocean **floor or seabed that has measurable relief** or is delimited by relief.
- C. Names used for many years may be accepted **even though they do not conform** to normal principles of **nomenclature**.
- D. **Names** approved by **national names authorities in waters beyond national limits (i.e., international waters)** should be accepted by other states if the names have been applied **in conformance with internationally accepted principles**. Names applied within **the territorial limits of a state** should be recognized by other states.
- E. In the event of a conflict, the persons and agencies most directly involved should resolve the matter. Where **two names have been applied to the same feature, the older name generally should be accepted**. Where a single name has been applied to two different **features, the feature named first generally should retain the name**.
- F. **Names not in the writing system of the country applying the names on maps** or other documents should be transliterated according to the system adopted by the national authority applying the names.
- G. In international programmes, it should be the policy to use forms of names applied by national authorities having responsibility for the pertinent area.
- H. States may utilize their preferred versions of exonyms.

II. Principles for Naming Features

A. Specific Terms

1. Short and simple terms (or names) are preferable.
2. The principal concern in naming is to provide effective, conveniently usable, and appropriate reference; commemoration of persons or ships is a secondary consideration.

Appendix B

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3. The first choice of a specific term, where feasible, should be one associated with a geographical feature ; e.g., Aleutian Ridge, Aleutian Trench, Peru-Chile Trench, Barrow Canyon.
4. Specific terms for other features can be used to commemorate ships or other vehicles, expeditions, or scientific institutes involved in the discovery of the feature, or to honour the memory of famous persons. Where a ship name is used, it should be that of the discovering ship, or if that has been previously used for a similar feature, it should be the name of the ship verifying the feature, e.g., San Pablo Seamount, Atlantic II seamounts.
5. If names of living persons are used (surnames are preferable) they should be limited to those who have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences.
6. Groups of like features may be named collectively for specific categories of historical persons, mythical features, stars, constellations, fish, birds, animals, etc. Ex ples are as follows :

Musicians Seamounts	Bach Seamount, Brahms Seamount, Schubert Seamount, Volta Seamount,
Electricians Seamounts	Ampere Seamount, Galvani Seamount
Ursa Minor Ridge and Trough Province	Suhail Ridge, Kocabab Ridge, Polaris Trough

8. Descriptive names are acceptable, particularly when they refer to distinguishing characteristics (e.g., Hook Ridge, Horseshoe Seamounts
9. Names of well-known or large features that are applied to other features should have the same spelling.

B. Generic Terms

1. Generic terms should be selected from the attached list of definitions to reflect physiographic descriptions of features (Annex 2)
2. Generic terms applied to features appearing on charts or other products should be in the language of the nation issuing the products. In those cases where terms have achieved international currency in a national form, that form should be retained.

3. It should be recognized that as **ocean mapping continues**, features will be discovered for which **existing terminology is not adequate**. New terms required **to describe these features should conform to these**, guidelines.

III. Procedures for Naming Features

- A. Individuals and agencies **applying names to unnamed features in international waters** should adhere to **internationally accepted principles and procedures**.
- B. The attached form (Annex 1) is recommended as a model for **new proposal***.
- C. Prior to the naming of a **feature**, **identification of its character**, extent, and position shall **have been established sufficiently for identification**. Positions should be given in terms of geographic co-ordinates. If it is necessary to refer to a feature before such a full identifiability has been established, it is suggested that the reference be by **geographic co-ordinates and generic term with the addition of (PA) -- Position Approximate -- after the co-ordinates if the position is not adequately established and (?) after the generic term if the nature of the feature is in some doubt**.
- D. New names should **be approved by the appropriate national authorities before being published**.
- E. If a national authority has reason to change the name of a feature it named originally, information explaining the change should be circulated to other concerned authorities. If there is opposition to a name change, the involved authorities should communicate with each other to resolve the question.
- F. National authorities approving names of features should regularly publicize their names decisions.
- G. National authorities naming features within their territorial jurisdiction should conform to the principles and procedures states above.

UNDERSEA FEATURE
TERMINOLOGY

NOMENCLATURE DES TERMES DE
MORPHOLOGIE SOUS-MARINE

FOREWORD

AVANT-PROPOS

The Joint IHO/IOC Guiding Committee on the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) in 1974 appointed a Sub-committee on Geographical Names and Nomenclature of Ocean Bottom Features. The purpose of this Sub-committee is to advise on names and nomenclature to be used on the GEBCO 1:10 M series of charts.

Le Comité Directeur Mixte OHI/COI de la Carte Générale Bathymétrique des Océans (GEBCO) a constitué en 1974 un Sous-comité des Noms Géographiques et de la Nomenclature des Formes du Relief Océanique. Le rôle de ce Sous-comité est de donner des conseils en ce qui concerne les noms et la nomenclature à utiliser sur la série des cartes au 1:10 M de la GEBCO.

The Sub-committee made an exhaustive study of the many lists of definitions of undersea feature terms presently found in or historically used by National Boards of Geographic Names, international and intergovernmental organizations, marine geoscience and hydrographic literature and widely recognized glossaries of geological terms.

Le Sous-comité a effectué une étude exhaustive des nombreuses listes de définitions des termes de la morphologie sous-marine actuellement en usage ou qui ont été utilisés dans le passé par les Comités Nationaux des Noms Géographiques, par les organisations internationales et intergouvernementales, dans les ouvrages de géoscience marine et d'hydrographie et dans les glossaires de termes géologiques, largement reconnus.

In response to the decisions of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Sub-committee has been collaborating with the U.N. Group of Experts in the development of this joint list of agreed terms and definitions.

En réponse aux décisions de la Troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur la Normalisation des Noms Géographiques, le Sous-comité a collaboré avec le Groupe d'Experts des N.U. dans l'élaboration de cette liste commune de termes et définitions adoptés.

The list which follows is comprised of terms, that are defined as closely as possible to correspond to their usage in the cited references taken from literature of ocean science, hydrography and exploration. In developing the definitions, it was realized that modern investigations at sea have the advantage of using very advanced instrumentation and technology that enables a more precise description of certain features than was previously possible. There has also been an attempt to limit the usage of precise physical dimensions

La liste ci-après comprend des termes qui ont été définis pour correspondre d'aussi près que possible à leur usage dans les références citées provenant d'ouvrages de science océanique, d'hydrographie et d'exploration. En développant ces définitions, il est apparu que les recherches modernes la mer ont la possibilité d'utiliser des équipements et des techniques très avancées qui permettent maintenant d'obtenir, pour certaines formes du relief, une description beaucoup plus précise qu'autrefois. On a aussi essayé de limiter l'usage de dimensions physiques

in the definition of features. In preference, words that indicate relative sizes such as extensive, large, limited and small have been used. The definitions are based almost exclusively on a geomorphological description of the features themselves and must not be construed as having any legal or political connotation whatsoever. Nor do they necessarily conform to the hydrographic/navigational usage as appearing in the Hydrographic Dictionary (IHO Special Publication N° 32).

The Sub-committee recognizes that as ocean mapping continues, features will be discovered that are not adequately defined in this list and therefore new terms will have to be added. In the same sense, the Committee is aware that many named features such as "Cap", "Deep" and "Swell" have widely accepted historical usage. However, the Committee has not attempted to define them because the description of these particular features is included among the present definitions.

Contained in the list of definitions, and marked by an asterisk, (n) are a number of synonymous and descriptive terms commonly used in literature. The underlined terms are defined and suggested for depiction on maps. The Sub-committee has also noted that many of the terms will appear on maps or charts prefixed by appropriate geographic names.

JOINT LIST OF AGREED TERMS
AND DEFINITIONS

ABYSSAL HILLS

A tract of small elevations on the seafloor.

**Ref.: REWARD, H.W. 1964,
Marine Geology of the
Pacific, McGraw-Hill,
New York, 271pp.**

precises dans la definition des formes. On a utilise de preference des qualificatifs qui indiquent des dimensions relatives, tel que etendu, grand, limite, faible. Les definitions sont basees presque exclusivement sur une description geomorphologique des formes elles-memes et ne doivent pas etre interpretees comme ayant une connotation juridique ou politique. De mime, elles ne sont pas necessairement conformes aux usages hydrographiques ou de navigation definis dans le Dictionnaire Hydrographique (Publication Speciale de l'OHI N° 32).

Le Sous-comite reconnait que la cartographie oceanique est en evolution, qu'on decouvrira des fo s qui ne sont pas definies dune fagon appropriee dans la presente liste et que p•r consequent de nouveaux termes devront y etre ajoutees. Dans le mine or° dre d'idees, le Sous-comita est convaincu que de nombreuses formes telles que "Cap" "Deep" et "Swell" ont un usage historique largement reconnu. Toutefois, le Sous-comiti ne les a pas definies parce que la description de ces formes particulieres eat d6ji incluse parmi les diverses definitions.

La liste de ces definitions, contient, marque d'un asterisque, un certain nombr e de te s synonymes et descriptifst d'un usage courant dans les bibliographies. Les te s soulignes sont Minis et suggeres pout 'etre utilises sur les cartes geographiques. Le Sous-Comite a egalcImmnt prix note que ces termes figureront sur les cartes geographiques et marines accompagnees des noms geographiques appropries.

LISTE COMMUNE DE TE S ET
DEFINITIONS ADOPTES

COLLINES

COLLINES SOUS- INES

Groupe d'414vations de fa-hie hauteur.

ABYSSAL PLAIN

x PLAIN

A flat, gently sloping or nearly level region at abyssal depths.

e.g.: Biscay Abyssal Plain.

Ref.: HEEZEN, Bruce C. and A.S. Laughton, 1963, "Abyssal Plains", in M.N. Hill (ed.), *The Sea*, Vol.3, pp 312-364.

APRON

g ARCHIPELAGIC APRON

A gentle slope with a generally smooth surface of the sea floor, particularly found around groups of islands and seamounts.

e.g. : Marquesas Archipelagic Apron.

Ref. : MENARD, H.W., 1956. Archipelagic Aprons, *Bull. Amer. Assoc. Petroleum Geol.*, V.40, pp 2195-2210.

BANK

An elevation over which the depth of water is relatively shallow, but normally sufficient for safe surface navigation.

e.g. : Georges Bank.

Ref. : See Shoal.

BASIN

A depression more or less equidimensional in plan and of variable extent.

e.g.: Brazil Basin.

Ref.: MAURY, M.P., 1854. Bathymetrical Map of the North Atlantic Basin, with contour lines drawn in at 1000, 2000, 3000 and 4000 fathoms.

This term (in French) appears in the first edition of GEBCO.

PLAINE

g PLAINE ABYSSALE

Région de grande profondeur ou le fond est sensiblement plat, horizontal ou peu incliné.

GLACIS

GLACIS PERI-INSULAIRE

Declivité de faible pente généralement unie, que l'on trouve particulièrement autour de groupements d'îles et de monts sous-marins.

BANC

Elevation au-dessus de laquelle la profondeur d'eau est relativement faible, mais ne présente pas de danger pour la navigation courante de surface.

BASSIN

Dépression de forme générale plus ou moins arrondie et d'étendue variable.

BORDERLAND^{so} CONTINENTAL BORDERLAND

A region adjacent to a continent, normally occupied by or bordering a shelf, that is highly irregular with depths well in excess of those typical of a shelf.

Region - California.

Ref. : SHEPARD, F.P., and K.O. Emery, 1941. Submarine Topography off the California Coast : Canyons and Tectonic Interpretations : Geol. Soc. America Spec. Paper 31, 171 pp.

. CANYONX SUBMARINE CANYON

A relatively narrow, deep depression with steep sides, the bottom of which generally has a continuous slope.

e.g. : Hudson Canyon.

Ref. : SHEPARD, Francis P. and Robert F. Dill, 1966. Submarine Canyons and other Sea Valleys. Rand McNally and Co. Chicago, 381 pp.

CONTINENTAL MARGIN

The zone, generally consisting of shelf, slope and rise, separating the continent from the abyssal plain or deep sea bottom.

CONTINENTAL RISE

A gentle slope rising from the oceanic depths towards the foot of a continental slope.

Ref.: HEEZEN, B.C., Tharp, M., and Ewing, M., 1959. The Floors of the Oceans, 1, The North Atlantic, Geol. Soc. Am. Spec. Paper 65, 113 pp.

BORDURE CONTINENTALE

Région adjacente à un continent, constituant ou bordant d'ordinaire une plate-forme continentale, mais offrant un aspect très irrégulier et des profondeurs bien supérieures à celles d'une plate-forme typique.

CANYONu CANYON SOUS-MARIN

Dépression relativement étroite, profonde et à flanc escarpés, dont le thalweg présente ordinairement une pente continue.

MARGE CONTINENTALEPRÉCONTINENT

Zone séparant le continent émergé d'une zone abyssale ou des grands fonds océaniques, constituée généralement de la plate-forme continentale, de la pente et du glacis.

GLACIS CONTINENTALGLACIS PRÉCONTINENTAL

Declivité de faible pente s'élevant des profondeurs océaniques jusqu'au pied d'une pente continentale.

ESCARPMENT

SCARP

An elongated and comparatively steep slope separating flat or gently sloping areas.

e.g. Mendocino Escarpment.

Ref. : MENARD, Henry W. and Robert S. Dietz, 1952. Mendocino Submarine Escarpment. Journ. Geol., V. 60, pp 266-278.

FAN

CONE

DEEP SEA FAN

DEEP SEA CONE

SUBMARINE FAN

SUBMARINE CONE

A relatively smooth feature normally sloping away from the lower termination of a canyon or canyon system.

e.g.: Ganges Cone, Delgada Fan.

Ref.: ERICSON, D.B., Ewing, M., and Heezen, B.C., 1951, "Deep Sea Sands and Submarine Canyons", Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer., Vol. 62, pp 961-966.

FRACTURE ZONE

An extensive linear zone of irregular topography of the sea floor, characterized by steep-sided or asymmetrical ridges, troughs or escarpments.

e.g.: Murray Fracture Zone.

Ref.: MENARD, H.W., 1964, op. cit.

GAP

ABYSSAL GAP

A narrow break in a ridge or a rise.

e.g.: Theta Gap.

Ref.: HEEZEN, B.C., Tharp, M., and Ewing, M., 1959, op. cit.

TALUS

ESCARPEMENT

TALUSSOUS-MARIN

Dgclivit4 de forme allongée et relativement abrupte separant des zones horizontales ou a faible pente.

CONE

CONE SOUS-MARIN

Element de forme genérale conique, faible pente, situe généralement au voisinage du debouche inferieur d'un canyon.

ZONE DE FRACTURES

LIGNE DE FRACTURES

Zone lineaire etendue, de morphologie irreguliere, caracterisee par des dorsales, des depressions ou des talus escarpes ou dissymetriques.

PASSAGE

GOULET

PASSE

Ereche étroite dans une dorsale ou un massif.

HILL

A small isolated elevation, not as high as a knoll (see Abyssal Hills).

HOLE

A small depression of the sea floor.

KNOLL

A relatively small isolated elevation of a rounded shape.

e.g.: Cantabria Knoll.

Ref.: MENARD, H.W., 1964, op. cit.

LEVEE

An embankment bordering a canyon, Valley or deep-sea channel.

e.g. : c.f. Congo Canyon.

Ref. : BUFFINGTON, Edwin C., 1952.
Submarine "Natural Levees".
Journ. Geol., V.60, pp 473-479.

MEDIAN VALLEY

RIFT

RIFT VALLEY

The axial depression of the mid-oceanic ridge system.

Ref. : WISEMAN, J.D.H., and R.B.S.
Sewell, 1937. The Floor of the
Arabian Sea. The Geological
Magazine, V.74, pp 219-230.

MOAT

:⁴ SEA MOAT

An annular depression that may not be continuous, located at the base of many seamounts, islands and other isolated elevations.

Ref. : VENING MEINESZ, F.A., 1948.
Gravity Expeditions at Sea,
V.4, Netherlands Geod. Comm.,
Delft.

COLLINE

Elevation isolge de faible hauteur, moins importante qu'un dune (voir collines sous-marines).

CUVETTE

Depression de faible gtendue du sol sous-marin.

DOME

Elevation isolee de dimensions relativement faibles et de forme arrondie.

LEVEE

*Talus bordant une valUe **un canyon ou un chenal** en eau profonde.*

I

VALLEE AXIALE

*Depression occupant la **partie axiale** d'une dorsale oceanique.*

FOSSE

DOUVE

Depression annulaire, continue ou non, situege au pied d'une fie, d'un mont sous-marin ou d'une elevation isolge d'un autre type.

MOUNTAIN

A large and complex grouping of ridges and seamounts.

PEAK

A prominent elevation either pointed or of a very limited extent across the summit.

e.g. Confederation Peak.

PINNACLE

Any high tower or spire-shaped pillar of rock, or coral, alone or cresting a summit.

PLATEAU

A fiat or nearly fiat area of considerable extent, dropping off abruptly on one or more sides.

e.g. : Blake Plateau.
Ref. : AGASSIZ, Alexander, 1888.
Three Cruises of the Blake.
Bull. Museum Comp. Zool., Harvard Univ., V.14 and 15. (Note : however, that Agassiz called what is now the "Blake Plateau" the "Pourtales Plateau").

PROVINCE

A region identifiable by a group of similar physiographic features whose characteristics are markedly in contrast with surrounding areas.
Ref.: HEEZEN, B.C., Tharp, M., and Ewing, M., 1959, op. cit.

MASSIF,
MONTAGNE

Ensemble complexe et de grandes dimensions de dorsales et de monts sous-marins.

PIC

PITON

- PITON SOUS-MARIN
- PIC SOUS-MARIN

Elevation de dimensions importantes, sommet pointu ou de très faible extension.;

AIGUILLE

Rocher ou bloc de corail effilé, en forme de colonne ou de pointe, isolé ou surmontant un sommet.

PLATEAU

Zone relativement plate et horizontale, de grande extension et limitée par une pente abrupte sur un ou plusieurs cotes.

PROVINCE

REGION

PROVINCE PHYSIOGRAPHIQUE

Région possédant un ensemble de caractères physiographiques semblables en contraste marqué avec ceux des zones avoisinantes.

REEF

Rocks lying at or near the sea surface that may constitute a hazard to surface navigation.

Ref. : DARWIN, Charles, 1842. The Structure and Distribution of Coral Reefs. Smith, Elder and Company, London.

RIDGE (The word RIDGE has several meanings)

(a) *A long, narrow elevation with steep sides.*

e.g. : The Wyville Thompson Ridge (Robert 1975).

Ref. : The term appears on the bathymetrical maps by Sir John Murray which accompany the Challenger Report. Summary of Results, Part I, published in 1895.

(b) *A long, narrow elevation often separating ocean basins.*

e.g.: Walvis Ridge.

Ref.: Schott, G., 1941, Geography of the Atlantic Ocean.

(c) *The major oceanic mountain systems of global extent.*

e.g.: Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

RISE

A broad elevation that rises gently and generally smoothly from the sea floor.

e.g. : Argentine Rise;

Ref. : MAURY (ibid) mapped the "Dolphin Rise", which later was found by Challenger to be the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

A synonym for RIDGE definition (c).

e.g.: East Pacific Rise.

Ref.: MENARD, H.W., 1960, "East Pacific Rise", Science, Vol. 132, pp 1737-1746.

SADDLE

A low part resembling in shape a saddle in a ridge or between contiguous seamounts.

e.g. : Hawke Saddle (Labrador Shelf).

RECIF

Roches affleurant ou situés à très faible profondeur pouvant représenter un danger pour la navigation de surface.

DORSALE (Le terme DORSALE a plusieurs significations)

a) *Elevation longue et étroite, à flancs escarpés.*

b) *Élévation longue et étroite séparant souvent deux bassins océaniques.*

c) *Système montagneux complet s'étendant à tout un océan.*

MASSIF

Vaste élévation offrant des pentes faibles et des formes généralement unies.

COL

Partie basse en forme de selle entre deux hauteurs d'une dorsale ou entre deux monts sous-marins.

SEACHANNEL

x CHANNEL

A continuously sloping, elongated depression commonly found in fans or abyssal plains and customarily bordered by levees on one or both sides.

SEAMOUNT

A large isolated elevation characteristically of conical form.

Ref. : MURRAY, H.W., 1941, Submarine Mountains in the Gulf of Alaska. Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer., V.52, pp 333-362.
Sir John Murray (Ibid, 1899) makes reference to "numerous volcanic cones" on the sea floor.

SEAMOUNT CHAIN

Several seamounts in a line.

e.g.: Kelvin Seamounts; Emperor Seamounts.

Ref.: NORTHROP, J. and Frosch, 1954, "Seamounts in the North American Basin", Deep Sea Research, Vol. 1, pp 252-257.
DIETZ, R.S., 1954, "Marine Geology of the Northwestern Pacific": Description of the Japanese Bathymetric chart 6901, Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer., Vol. 65, pp 1199-1224.

SHELF

• CONTINENTAL SHELF

x ISLAND SHELF

• INSULAR SHELF

A zone adjacent to a continent (or around an island) and extending from the low water Zine to a depth at which there is usually a marked increase of slope towards oceanic depths.

CHENAL

Dépression de forme allongée, à pente continue, que l'on trouve généralement sur les cônes ou les plaines abyssales, habituellement bordée de levées sur un ou sur les deux côtés.

MONT

MONT SOUS-MARIN

Élévation isolée de grandes dimensions, de forme générale conique.

CHAINE DE MONTS

CHAINON DE MONTS

Série de monts sous-marins alignés.

PLATE"FORME

PLATE°FORME CONTINENTALE

• PLATEAU CONTINENTAL

• PLATE-FORME INSULAIRE

Zone adjacente a un continent (ou entourant une Ile) et s'étendant du niveau des basses mers jusqu'à la profondeur à laquelle on note habituellement une nette augmentation de la pente vers les grands fonds.

e.g. : Scotian Shelf.

Ref. : MURRAY, Sir John and J. Hjort, 1912. The Depths of the Ocean. MacMillan, London.

Murray uses the term earlier than this, however. See MURRAY, Sir John, 1899. Present Condition of the Floor of the Ocean; Evolution of the Continental and Oceanic Areas. Rept. of Brit. Assoc. Advancement Of Sci., 1899, pp 789-802.

SHELF-EDGE

n SHELF BREAK

A narrow zone at the outer margin of a shelf along which there is a marked increase of slope.

Ref. : Murray and Hjort, 1912.
Op cit.

SHOAL

An offshore hazard to surface navigation composed of unconsolidated material.

e.g. : Georges Shoal.

Ref. : "... that but this blow
Might be the be-all and end-
all here
But here, upon this bank and
shoal of time
We'd jump the life to come".
Shakespeare, W., 1608.
Macbeth, I, vii, i.

SILL

The low part of a gap or saddle separating basins.

SLOPE

- CONTINENTAL SLOPE
- ISLAND SLOPE

The slope seaward from the shelf edge to the beginning of a continental rise or the point where there is a general reduction in slope.

Ref : Same as Shelf

REBORD

REBORD DE LA DORSALE

REBORD DE LA PLATE-FORME

Ligne le long de laquelle se marque une nette augmentation de la pente à la limite extérieure d'une plate-forme.

BASSE

HAUT-FOND

Accident du fond constitué de matériau non consolidé représentant un danger pour la navigation de surface.

SEUIL

Partie la plus basse d'un passage au d'un col séparant deux bassins océaniques.

PENTE

PENTE CONTINENTALE

PENTE INSULAIRE

Déclivité limitée par le rebord de /a plate-forme et le sommet du glacis continental, ou la ligne marquant une diminution générale de la pente vers les grands fonds.

SPUR

A subordinate elevation, ridge, or rise projecting outward from a larger feature.

TABLEMOUNT
GUYOT

*A seamount having a comparatively smooth **flat** top.*

TERRACE or BENCH
DEEP SEA TERRACE

A relatively flat horizontal or gently inclined surface, sometimes long and narrow, which is bounded by a steeper ascending slope on one side and by a steeper descending slope on the opposite side.

e.g. : Meriadzek Terrace.
Ref. : DAY, Alan A., 1959. The Continental Margin between Brittany and Ireland. Deep Sea Research, V.5, pp 249-265.

TRENCH

A long, narrow, characteristically very deep and asymmetrical depression of the sea floor, with relatively steep sided.

e.g.: Marianas Trench, Tonga Trench.
Ref.: FISHER, R.L. and Revelle, R., 1955, "Trenches of the Pacific", Sci. Amer., Vol. 193, pp 36-41.
FISHER, R.L. and Hess, H.H., 1963, "Trenches", in M.N. Hill (ed.), The Sea, Vol. 3, pp 411-436. John WILEY, New York.

TROUGH

A long depression of the sea floor characteristically flat. bottomed and steep sided and normally shallower than a trench.

e.g. : Rockall Trough.

EPERON

Relief secondaire, dorsale ou massif, en saillie d'un ensemble morphologique plus vaste.

GUYOT

Mont de sommet relativement horizontal et uni

TERRASSE

Zone relativement plate et horizontale ou faiblement inclinée, de forme quelquefois longue et étroite, bordée de chaque côté par des déclivités plus marquées, respectivement ascendante et descendantes.

FOSSE

Dépression longue, étroite, très profonde, dissymétrique, à flancs relativement escarpés.

DEPRESSION
CUVETTE

Depression de forme allongée, à fond plat et à flancs escarpés, généralement moins profonde qu'une fosse.

VALLEY

SUBMARINE VALLEY

A relatively shallow, wide depression, the bottom of which usually has a continuous gradient. This term is generally not used for features that have canyon-like characteristics for a significant portion of their extent.

e.g. : Natal Valley.

Ref. : SHEPARD, Francis P. and Robert F. Dill, 1966. Submarine Canyons and other Sea Valleys. Rand McNally, Chicago. 381 pp.

VALLEE

Dépression relativement large et peu profonde, dont le thalweg présente habituellement une pente continue. Ce terme n'est généralement pas utilisé pour des formes du relief ayant les caractéristiques d'un canyon sur une longueur importante de leur parcours.

