

Paper for Consideration by SCUFN

Report of the work made during the inter-sessional period

New Edition of Publication B-6 "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names"

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat (as SCUFN Secretary)
Executive Summary:	This document reports on the preparation of a new edition of B-6 <i>Standardization of Undersea Feature Names</i> , taking into consideration Decisions/Actions SCUFN30/34, SCUFN30/142, SCUFN30/143, SCUFN30/144, SCUFN30/145 and SCUFN30/151.
Related Documents:	Edition 4.1.0 of B-6, September 2013 (updated February 2017) Doc. SCUFN30-06A M-3 IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended
Related Projects:	N/A

Introduction / Background

1. Following the SCUFN30 meeting in October 2017 and considering the limited resources available within its Sub-Committee, the Secretariat of the GEBCO Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) decided to contract several tasks in order to improve the content of the IHO-IOC online GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names (the Gazetteer) and support SCUFN activities managed by the IHO Secretariat. The following tasks were contracted to the former SCUFN Secretary.

Tasks	Objectives	Outcome reported in
1	<i>Update the Gazetteer from all undersea feature naming decisions and actions taken at SCUFN-30, ensuring quality control and standardization of the documentation provided as part of the relevant proposals. Prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-31. Deadline: 31 May 2018.</i>	Doc. SCUFN31-07.2B
2	<i>Monitor the list of pending names. Prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-31. Deadline: 31 May 2018.</i>	Doc. SCUFN31-07.2C
3	<i>Monitor the draft new edition of Publication B-6 ("red line" version), taking into account SCUFN-30 decisions and any related development following SCUFN-30, with a view to submitting a consolidated draft for comments to SCUFN members. Deadline: 31 March 2018. Monitor and implement all comments from SCUFN members and prepare a draft report as a submission document to SCUFN-31, as well as a submission to the appropriate IRCC meeting, taking into consideration IHO Resolution 2/2007 on the impact study. Deadline: 30 June 2018.</i>	Doc. SCUFN31-06.2A

4	<i>Monitor / upgrade the wish-list of improvements to the Gazetteer interface and test any new developments by NCEI. Monitor the relationships with NCEI to maintain the Gazetteer, as necessary and/or appropriate. Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-31. Deadline: 30 June 2018.</i>	Doc. SCUFN31-07.1A
5	<i>Launch, monitor and provide advice on the development by KHOA of the prototype UFN database and web-based associated services (the Beta-Gazetteer). Prepare a draft status report as a submission document to SCUFN-31. Deadline: 30 June 2018.</i>	Doc. SCUFN31-07.3B

2. The objective of this submission paper is to report on Task 3.

Analysis/Discussion

3. The current edition 4.1.0 of Publication B-6 was published in September 2013. An updated version was produced in February 2017 to take account of the change from International Hydrographic Bureau to IHO Secretariat in accordance with the new IHO convention.

4. A draft “red line” new edition of B-6 was submitted to SCUFN-30 (Doc SCUFN30-06A). After discussion, Decisions/Actions SCUFN30/34, SCUFN30/142, SCUFN30/143, SCUFN30/144 and SCUFN30/151 were agreed, which have led to further changes to B-6 to improve its efficiency in support of the SCUFN work and the preparation of name proposals.

5. As a result and in accordance with Decision SCUFN30/145, the contractor has prepared a new E/F version of the draft “red line” new edition 4.2.0 of B-6 (Doc. [SCUFN31-06.2A](#)), which was submitted to, and approved by SCUFN members. It has subsequently been submitted for endorsement to the GEBCO Guiding Committee (Doc. GGC35-5.1.1) at its next meeting (Australia, November 2018). The next steps will be to seek the approval of IHO and IOC Member States. It is hoped that Edition 4.2.0 of B-6 can be published before SCUFN-32.

6. The main changes from the existing edition 4.1.0 of B-6 are the following:

6.1 The list of national authorities (pp. 2-7 and 2-8 in the current edition) has been removed. It has been updated and is now available on the SCUFN page of the IHO website > Miscellaneous > Lists of...Naming Authorities. Thus its maintenance should be facilitated.

6.2 References to the GEBCO website (www.gebco.net) and to www.scufnterm.org, listing all B-6 terms and definitions, and operated by the Korean Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA), have been inserted.

6.3 Preference for names in relation with marine research, as choice for specific terms, has been emphasized.

6.4 Provision of name proposals in digital form and feature geometries as shapefiles are recommended in the proposal form.

6.5 Use of generic terms as recommended by SCUFN only (not obsolete terms) is required.

6.6 Definitions of some generic terms, such as Peak or Pinnacle, have been improved.

6.7 Additional generic terms with genetic implication, such as Reef or Shoal, have been identified and marked.

6.8 A number of historical generic terms, such as Cap, Discordance, Ground, Pass, Plain, Re-entrant or Seabight, sometimes appearing in the current GEBCO Gazetteer¹, have been included with their definitions in the list of generic terms used for harmonization with other gazetteers (not to be used in new proposals).

6.9 The Users' Guide for Preparation of Name Proposals (Appendix A) has been improved, for example by inviting proposers to provide feature geometries as shapefiles, release and hand over their supporting bathymetric data to the IHO DCDB, or provide better informed supporting bathymetric maps.

6.10 A Fast-Track Procedure for the adoption by SCUFN of names proposed by national geographical naming authorities has been added as new Appendix B.

7. Annex A to this paper reports on the outcomes of all actions and decisions from SCUFN-30 relating to the preparation of the new edition of B-6.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

8. SCUFN members take note of the status of the draft new edition of B-6 as described in section 5.

Justifications and Impacts

9. The draft new edition of B-6 contains clarifications, improvements and additions which will reinforce the efficiency of B-6 in support of the SCUFN work and the preparation of name proposals.

10. It is fully compatible with the existing edition 4.1.0 dated 2013, as no substantive changes are proposed to the Guidelines at pp. 2-1 to 2-3, nor to the procedures at p. 2-4, and that the list of permitted generic terms to be used in name proposals (Terminology Section I) remains unchanged. It can be considered as an extension of the existing edition and has no impact on those names in the GEBCO Gazetteer which have been approved on the basis of the current edition. It will have no impact on the preparation of name proposals, with the exception of those proposals using the generic terms Reef or Shoal (see section 13) for which the proposers will now need to include appropriate supporting geological and/or geophysical evidence.

11. It has no impact on the SCUFN Terms of Reference, so the two documents remain consistent.

12. Inclusion of new Clause II.6 in the Guidelines should limit the use of acronyms or initials as generic terms in name proposals, while clarification at Clause II.4 aims at avoiding undesirable names proposed as specific terms.

13. The two generic terms Reef and Shoal have the words "unconsolidated" and "consolidated" in their respective definitions, meaning that both features have genetic implication which therefore requires adding '*' to these terms.

14. The changes from the existing edition, as described at 6 above, are significant enough to justify that the new edition be qualified as a "Revision" in terms of IHO Resolution 2/2007 as amended, hence the proposed 4.2.0 as number for the new edition.

¹ For instance, « re-entrant » is not in the Gazetteer.

15. There may be a need to requalify as Plain the generic term for the names Chukchi Abyssal Plain, Mendeleev Abyssal Plain and Northwind Abyssal Plain in the Gazetteer, in accordance with a request received in 2014 from the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping of the University of New Hampshire, USA.

Action required of SCUFN

16. SCUFN is invited to:

- a. note this report.
- b. consider / agree on the recommendation made in section 8 and the comment in section 15.

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS FROM SCUFN-30 RELATING TO TASK 3

Decision/ Action	Details	Status (Sept. 2018)	Comments & Suggestions
	Proposals Submitted during Intersessional Period		
	From New Zealand, New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB) and New Zealand Hydrographic Office (LINZ)		
SCUFN30/34	GGC to consider submitting a proposal to SCUFN by which proposers would be invited in the future to release their data for supporting Seabed 2030 and the GEBCO bathymetric database.	Complete.	Proposed amendment by SCUFN Sec. to B-6 Ed. 4.2.0 encouraging proposers to release their data to IHO DCDB.
	Standardization of Undersea Feature Names: IHO-IOC Publication B-6		
	Initial review of a draft new Edition of Publication B-6 and insertion of a fast-track procedure (Sec.)		
SCUFN30/142	SCUFN Sec. to update the list of geographical naming authorities in B-6, and consider to remove it from B-6 in the future Edition, but upload it on the IHO SCUFN webpage in order to facilitate the maintenance of this list.	Complete	List removed from B-6, updated and posted on the IHO SCUFN webpage.
SCUFN30/143	SCUFN decided that the fast-track procedure should be limited, for the time being, to undersea feature names that are in long term (25 years or longer) common use and appear on published charts, maps or in scientific literature (not applicable to new proposals).	Complete	See new draft B-6 e4.2.0 (Doc. SCUFN31-06.2A), App. B.
SCUFN30/144	SCUFN Generic Term Subgroup to review definitions highlighted in yellow in the draft Ed. 4.2.0 of B-6 (Doc. SCUFN30-06B).	Complete	See Doc. SCUFN31-06.1A .

Decision/ Action	Details	Status (Sept. 2018)	Comments & Suggestions
SCUFN30/145	<p>SCUFN Sec to circulate a new draft consolidated Ed. 4.2.0 of B-6 (including Yas' update of the example in Appendix A – bathymetric maps, profiles and 3D figure).</p> <p>SCUFN Members to consider the approval of Ed. 4.2.0 by correspondence.</p> <p>then SCUFN Sec to submit Ed. 4.2.0 to GGC for endorsement at GGC-35 (2018).</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>	<p>See Doc. SCUFN31-06.1A and SCUFN31-06.2B. New draft B-6 e4.2.0 sent to SCUFN members 30 Apr 2018.</p> <p>Draft approved by SCUFN members 4 July 2018.</p> <p>Submission doc. to GGC35.</p>
	Any Other Business – Brief overview of the activities of the Schmidt Ocean Institute (SOI)		
	Statement by Japan (Observer)		
SCUFN30/151	SCUFN took note of the statement by Japan on some attributes used in the ROK's proposals.	Complete	Implemented in draft B-6 e4.2.0 (Proposal Form).