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Item 6  
of the Provisional Agenda

REPORTS OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS, REGIONAL MEETINGS AND INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the International Hydrographic Organisation

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**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANISATION**  
*Report to the 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*  
17-28 January 2000

**1. GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)**

The Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) of GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans - A project co-sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, of UNESCO, and the International Hydrographic Organization) is tasked to select the undersea feature names which will appear on GEBCO products (bathymetric sheets at scale 1:10 million and GEBCO Digital Atlas), on 1:1 million sheets of the regional International Bathymetric Chart projects (IBCAO, IBCCA, IBCEA, IBCM, IBCWIO, and IBCWP), and on International (INT) Charts at small scales for marine navigation (1:2 million and smaller). The names agreed by SCUFN are then submitted for approval to the IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee. All names approved by GEBCO are contained in a Gazetteer database which is maintained at the International Hydrographic Bureau, as Secretariat of SCUFN. The scope of SCUFN is limited to international waters. SCUFN works in close collaboration with the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) of the U.S. Board on Geographical Names (BGN).

SCUFN held its bi-annual meeting on 22-25 June 1999 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Robert L. FISHER, Scripps Institution for Oceanography, USA. At this occasion, SCUFN reviewed all proposals that had been submitted through its secretariat at the IHB. More than 250 names were considered by the panel. This included:

- 94 names proposed by Ing. général André Roubertou, France, Chief Editor of IBCEA, and pertaining to IBCEA sheet 1.01 (off Portugal).
- 14 names proposed by Ing. Olivier Parvillers, French Hydrographic Office, and pertaining to IBCEA sheet 1.06 (off West Africa).
- 31 names proposed by Ing. Olivier Parvillers, French Hydrographic Office, and pertaining to IBCEA sheet 1.06 (off West Africa).
- 15 names proposed by Capt. Joe J. Doyle, Australian Hydrographic Office, in the South-East Pacific (off Australia).
- Numerous names previously considered by ACUF.

SCUFN eventually selected approximately 180 new names for inclusion in the GEBCO Gazetteer.

SCUFN also made a final review of a list of definitions for undersea feature generic terms, like fracture zone, seamount, or canyon, to appear in a next edition of IHO-IOC Publication B-6 "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names".

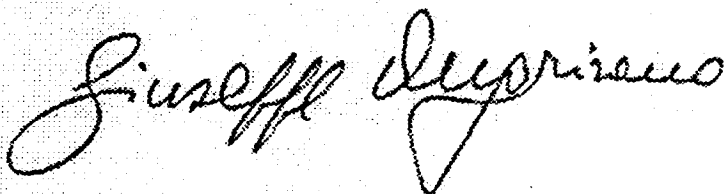
All newly approved names are being incorporated into the GEBCO Gazetteer database at the IHB. When this operation has been completed, the GEBCO Gazetteer will be posted on the IHO web-site ([www.iho.shom.fr](http://www.iho.shom.fr)) as a text file. Later on, it is planned that the Gazetteer database itself will be made available on the IHO web-site, together with a geographical presentation program.

Cooperation is being maintained with the SCAR W.G. on Geodesy and Geographic Information (WGGGI), which has produced a composite gazetteer of all Antarctic place names (South of 60°S), from existing national and international gazetteers, including the GEBCO Gazetteer for the marine side.

## 2. LIMITS OF OCEANS AND SEAS (IHO PUBLICATION S-23)

IHO Publication S-23 describes the oceans and seas, with their limits and names. The edition in force is still the 3<sup>rd</sup> one dating back to 1953. A draft 4<sup>th</sup> edition was prepared in 1986, but never materialised into an IHO publication due to the complexities of, and sometimes the controversies on, some of the issues involved.

Since 1998, the IHB has undertaken a thorough revision of S-23. The work is conducted under contract to Mr Adam Kerr, a former Director of the IHB. It is anticipated to publish a final 4<sup>th</sup> edition of S-23 in 2001. A significant progress has been the adoption by a large majority of the IHO Member States, in 1999, of the name "Southern Ocean" for the body of water surrounding Antarctica, with its Northern limit fixed at 60°S. Another issue that the IHO has to face is the Japan Sea / East Sea issue, related to naming the body of water between the Korean Peninsula and The Japanese Archipelago. The current trend would be for the IHO to recommend using both terms on relevant nautical products, as it is practised in other similar cases, e.g. English Channel / La Manche. However final decision has still to be made.



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President of the IHB Directing Committee.

*To be presented by Rear Admiral Christian Andreasen,  
Chief Hydrographer of the U.S. National Imagery and Mapping Agency,  
as designated IHO liaison to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names*

### Acronyms:

IBCAO	International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean
IBCEA	International Bathymetric Chart of the Central Eastern Atlantic
IBCCA	International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico
IBCM	International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean
IBCWIO	International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Indian Ocean
IBCWP	International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Pacific
SCAR	Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research