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TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:
COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
on Undersea Feature Names

Submitted by the United States of America **/

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Summary. This report summarizes work since 1987 of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) regarding names of undersea features. Through the Subcommittee on Geographical Names and Nomenclature of Ocean Bottom Features (SGN) of the IOC/IHO Joint Guiding Committee for GEBCO, names were selected for various charts and were included in a gazetteer published in 1988. The work of the subcommittee is being reviewed to assure maximum participation and coordination by all national organizations involved with undersea naming.

1. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) asked me to serve as a liaison at the 6th UN Conference on Geographical Names. A principal action is to submit a report summarizing activities of those organizations in undersea feature names since the 5th UN Conference in 1987. The report supplements a paper I presented to the 15th session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names in 1991.

2. Since 1987, IOC has continued to collaborate with IHO concerning charts of world oceans which depict, among other items, undersea features and their names. IOC sponsored charts are for scientific, general information purposes while most IHO charts are for navigational use. Names assigned to features are considered by the Subcommittee on Geographical Names and Ocean Bottom Features (SGN) of the IOC/IHO Joint Guiding Committee for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO). The SGN has members from various nations and has a secretary, M. Michel Huet, at the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco. Dr. Robert Fisher, Scripps Institute of Oceanography in the US, is chairman. The undersigned has worked with SGN in an advisory capacity for several years and was named a member in 1991.

3. SGN considers both the name and the generic term associated with it from a variety of sources including those submitted by researchers using the "Undersea Feature Name Proposal Form" contained in the IHO publication BP 0006, "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names," which is available (in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, and Russian) from the IOC and the International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco. The schedule of adopting names follows programs to produce sheets of the GEBCO, the small-scale IHO navigational International (INT) Charts, and the IOC Regional Bathymetric Charts of various areas. The GEBCO, Fifth Edition, has 18 sheets covering world's oceans at 1:10 million (including two of the Polar Regions at 1:6 million); the IHO INT chart series has 79 charts at 1:3.5 million and 1:10 million covering the world's oceans; the IOC Regional Bathymetric Chart series cover selected areas, such as the Mediterranean, Caribbean, East Atlantic, West Indian Ocean, and the West Pacific, at 1:1 million. National coordinators are assigned the task of compiling the sheets and recommending names to features which the

charts depict. Since 1987, SGN has considered names carried by several GEBCO sheets (which are subject to regular revision in preparation for the 6th Edition and the creation of the GEBCO Digital Atlas) and the five Regional Bathymetric Chart series.

4. SGN meets approximately every two years to make decisions and communicates as required on name proposals. Since 1987, SGN has met twice and has agreed on 170 names for use on both GEBCO and INT charts and has approved the publication of IOH BP 0008, "Gazetteer of Undersea Features shown on GEBCO and IHO small-scale INT Charts" and BP 0008 Supplement No. 1 (IBCM) "Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names Shown on the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean and IHO small-scale INT Chart (1:2.25 million and smaller) of the Mediterranean. The first gazetteer was published in 1988 and is part of a publication in English and French that also has a set of guidelines, a names-proposal form, and a list of terms and definitions describing undersea features. Attached is a sample page from the gazetteer showing names and related information. Separate guidelines in English/French, English/Russian, and English/Japanese were published since 1987. Plans exist to issue an English-Chinese set of guidelines and a new edition of the gazetteer in 1993.

5. As noted in the report to the 15th UNEGN, the activities of the SGN are subject to review to assure the most effective involvement of collaborating organizations. Another matter is whether SGN serves as an authority for approving names of undersea features in international waters. Related to this question is the growing view that maritime nations may desire to control naming of features in their Exclusive Economic Zones. I am working with IHO and IOC on these matters.

6. The growth of bathymetric mapping, which has been substantial through application of advances in sophisticated acoustical techniques and automated processes, has generated greater interest in undersea naming. In reviewing the requirements for undersea feature names, the United Nations decided it should not serve as an authority for naming features, but instead issued guidelines which individual nations should follow. These guidelines have been adopted by SGN, with some variations. As nations and their research organizations conform to standard processes, and as they coordinate with each other and with SGN, the international requirement to identify marine topographic features will succeed.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND GENERIC TERMS	GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION	REFERENCE		REMARKS (*) Shown in the ACUF/BGM Gazetteer of Und Features
		GEBCO 5th Ed	Small Sc INT Chart	
GREAT BAHAMA Bank	23°30'N - 78°00'W	5.08	12-13 401-403	*
GREAT BARRIER Reef	15°00'S - 145°30'E to 22°00'S - 152°00'E	5.10		*
GREAT CHAGOS Bank see also CHAGOS Bank	6°15'S - 72°00'E	5.09	70-71-72 73-702 703-707	* (April 1986) GEBCO = CHAGOS Bank
GREAT FISHER Bank	56°40'N - 4°15'E	5.01		*
GREAT METEOR Bank	30°00'N - 28°30'W	5.08	11-12 14	* = Tablemount INT Charts = Tablemount
GREENLAND Abyssal Plain	75°00'N - 2°00'W	5.17	113	* = Basin INT Charts = Basin
GREENLAND-ICELAND Rise	67°00'N - 28°30'W to 66°00'N - 25°00'W	5.04 5.17		*
GREGG Seamount	39°00'N - 61°00'W		403	*
GRENADA Basin	13°30'N - 62°00'W	5.08	400-402	*
GRIDLEY Trough	16°30'N - 163°15'W		50-51	*
GRIEG Seamount	27°51'N - 162°03'W		50-51	*
GRIJALVA Ridge	5°30'S - 86°15'W 3°00'S - 82°30'W	5.11		*
GRÖLL Seamount	12°40'S - 31°50'W	5.12		* = 14°00'S-32°00'W
GUADALUPE 'Arrugado'	28°50'N - 117°35'W		802	* Undulating area
GUAFO Fracture Zone	45°45'S - 87°30'W to 44°45'S - 80°30'W	5.11		*
GUARDIAN Seamount	9°32'N - 87°40'W		51-811	*
GUATEMALA Basin	5°30'N - 100°00'W to 11°00'N - 90°00'W	5.07	51-811	* and INT Charts = 11°N - 95°W
GUAYMAS Basin	27°20'N - 111°15'W	5.07	802	*
GUEVARA Seamounts	59°25'S - 42°30'W	5.16		
GUIANA Plateau	8°20'N - 54°00'W	5.08		
GUIDE Ridge	52°22'N - 150°35'W		50-810	*