

been created by seafarers from distant countries or are the result of historical coincidences. For these reasons it will hardly be possible to recommend one name-form only.

For a single maritime feature different states often use different names which—in their “specific” term or in their “generic” term or even in both of them—are not equivalent to each other.

It is therefore recommended that a list should be compiled of maritime features with their names in the different languages and stating the limits of each. Should this list show that the limits understood for certain maritime features differ from state to state, an attempt should be made to agree on standard limits. A standing committee, established under United Nations auspices, would have to be entrusted with the task of compiling such a list and establishing standard limits. The same committee should also deal with “undersea features”. When a new name is given to a maritime feature, the same rules as those to be established for the renaming of “undersea features” should apply.

## UNDERSEA FEATURES

We support the recommendations submitted by the Working Group on Undersea Feature Names.

It is especially recommended:

That a list should be compiled giving the equivalents for the “generic terms” in different languages—as an example of such a list we cite the paper of the “Ständiger Ausschuss für [Geographische Namen (StAGN)”, “Bezeichnungen für] untermeerische Bodenformen”, 2nd ed. (Bonn-Bad Godesberg, December 1971); and

That a standing committee should be set up, established under United Nations auspices, with the tasks (a) of collecting the existing names and trying to reconcile the “generic terms” they contain with the accepted meaning of these terms, and (b) of collecting, verifying and approving new names and circulating them to the other states. This standing committee should co-operate as closely as possible with the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Committee of the International Hydrographic Organization, Monaco.

## MARITIME FEATURES AND UNDERSEA FEATURES

### Report presented by Japan\*

The geographical names of oceans and seas given in the nautical charts and publications issued by the Hydrographic Department of Japan are, in principle, adopted on the basis of Special Publication No. 23, “Limits of oceans and seas”, of the International Hydrographic Bureau (1953).

Geographical names of major ocean-bottom features are adopted on the basis of the Report of the Sub-Committee on Proper Geographical Names for Ocean-Bottom Features approved by the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Committee, International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Ocean (1966), for inclusion in the nautical charts and publications issued by the Hydrographic Department of Japan.

The names of 55 minor sea-bottom features in the territorial waters and adjacent seas of Japan have already been

approved by the joint meeting for geographical names of sea-bottom features. (This meeting was sponsored by the Hydrographic Department, and had as consultative member organizations the National Committee for Geophysics and the National Committee of Geography of the Science Council of Japan, the Oceanographical Society of Japan, the Association of Japanese Geographers, the Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo, the Fisheries Agency, the Meteorological Agency and the Cultural Agency.)

The Sub-Committee on Proper Geographical Names for Ocean-Bottom Features (Chairman: K. Kawakami, Chief Hydrographer of Japan), under the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Committee, will continue its co-ordination work for the standardization of minor ocean-bottom features such as seamounts.

The joint meeting for geographical names of sea-bottom features will be convened as necessary to determine geographical names of sea-bottom features in the territorial waters and the adjacent seas of Japan.

\* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.46.

## UNDERSEA FEATURES AND MARITIME FEATURES

### Report presented by Norway\*

#### UNDERSEA FEATURES

Norway wishes to register its support of the recommendations contained in the working paper prepared by the Working Group on Undersea Feature Names.

\* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.91.

However, in the lists on “Terminology of submarine relief” and “Submarine terms” prepared by the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and annexed to that working paper, a number of Norwegian generic terms are missing. Furthermore, among the terms listed, some do not represent the correct Norwegian equivalent to the English term: such is for instance the case with the term “continental slope”, which has been listed as

*sokkelskråningen* whereas the appropriate term in Norwegian would be *landbakken*. This indicates that the proper competence may not have been available to the International Hydrographic Bureau when compiling the lists.

Specialists in onomastic sciences who have dealt with nomenclatures of fishing-grounds and seabeds are aware how fishermen have applied words and terms for topographic features on land to corresponding features in the sea. Examples of this in Norwegian are *bakke* ("slope"), *berg* ("mountain"), *djup* ("deep"), *egg* ("edge of a bank"), *hammar* ("steep rock"), *klakk*, *klett* ("small mountain, mountain slope, ridge"), *stall* ("sort of table plateau"), *li* ("hill slope"), *søyle* ("off-shore mud basin") and *tå* ("toe, spur on the continental shelf").

It is therefore recommended that lists should be compiled giving full equivalents in different languages for generic terms related to undersea features (such lists must be prepared in co-operation with linguists who are familiar with the subject); and that a standing body should be set up under the auspices of the United Nations which would (a) collect the different existing names and reconcile them with generic terms in use, and (b) collect, verify and approve new names, and circulate them to the Member States. This standing body should co-operate with the General Bathymetric Chart of the

Oceans Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

#### MARITIME FEATURES

Under this topic the question of names on oceans, or parts of oceans, which are located beyond the limits of national sovereignties ought to be discussed. Such ocean areas often border the territorial waters of several States and may have been given different and totally unrelated names, some of which may have ancient origins. For such areas one may have considerable difficulties in establishing a single form of the name.

Since all parties concerned would be interested in solving such problems, it is recommended that the standing body suggested above should also be charged with the compilation of lists of names in the different languages for maritime features beyond national sovereignties.

Since the area covered by the various names of such maritime features may in some cases differ, it is suggested that the lists should also include information on the geographical extent covered by each version of the name. This might assist in solving some of the problems which exist in this field. When a new name is given to a maritime feature, the same rules as those suggested for undersea features should apply.

### THE UNDERSEA FEATURES GAZETTEER

#### Report presented by the United States of America\*

The gazetteer contains about 2,800 official standard names for undersea features of the world approved, as of 1 December 1971, by the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) and the Secretary of the Interior for use by the Government of the United States. About as many unapproved variant names are listed, with cross-references to the approved names. It is the second cumulative listing of standardized undersea feature names published by the Board for use in official publications. Although binding only on the United States Government, the names are being given the widest possible circulation, to facilitate communication among oceanographers and the public at large.

#### HOW THE NAMES ARE LISTED

The first section of this gazetteer is an alphabetical list, with cross-references, of all the names included. Unapproved variant names are cross-referenced to the approved names by means of the word "see". Users of the gazetteer should always refer to main entries for approved names. The second section lists the names within blocks bounded by parallels and meridians at 30-degree intervals, which are shown on the frontispiece.

#### DESIGNATIONS

The second column of the gazetteer contains designa-

tions that identify the kind of topographic feature to which the name applies. The designator term is usually the generic term in the approved name, but will differ when a generic that is not properly descriptive under Board on Geographic Names definitions is retained as part of a name in established usage. In names of features that constitute dangers to surface navigation, generics have been changed where necessary to make them properly descriptive and emphasize the danger.

The following are the designations and definitions currently used by the Board. Designations not appearing in this gazetteer because no names of such features had been approved by the time it was published are indicated by an asterisk.

\**Archipelagic apron* — a gentle slope with a generally smooth surface on the sea floor, particularly found around groups of islands or *seamounts*.

*Bank* — an elevation of the sea floor located on a *shelf* and over which the depth of water is relatively shallow but sufficient for safe surface navigation.

*Basin* — a depression of the sea floor more or less equidimensional in form and of variable extent.

*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*.

*Canyon* — a relatively narrow, deep depression with steep slopes, the bottom of which grades continuously downward.

\**Continental rise* — a gentle slope with a generally smooth surface, rising toward the foot of the *slope*.

*Cordillera* — an entire mountain system including all the subordinate ranges, interior *plateaus* and *basins*.

\* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.14.