

11 July 2017

Original: English

---

**Eleventh United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8-17 August 2017

Item 9 of the provisional agenda\*

**National standardization.**

**Guidelines for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names  
(Second Edition, 2016)**

Submitted by the Republic of Korea\*\*

---

\* E/CONF.101/1

\*\* Prepared by the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea

# Publication of the Revised Guidelines for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names<sup>†</sup>

## SUMMARY

The Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA) published the first edition of *Guidelines for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names* in 2004. As the principles on the international standardization of names experienced constant updating, the second edition was prepared and published in 2016, in order to facilitate the naming of marine geographical features in line with the international principles. The second edition categorizes marine geographical names into sea surface names and undersea feature names. The principles of standardizing marine geographical names are ordered through the process of naming, using and changing them, with a view to improving the application of principles in a more logical and systematic manner. It also includes principles on romanizing marine geographical names. This second edition was designed to enhance the understanding of such principles including definitions of terminology and to increase the awareness of marine geographical names by experts as well as the public, leading to standardized use. As images for each type of generic terms are included, the publication can be used as basic material for marine education.

### 1. Background

The need for standardized marine geographical names has been increased in order to ensure the safety of navigation due to the development of marine routes and the increase in fishing activities. To cope with the necessity, the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA) published the first edition of *Guidelines for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names* in 2004. However there have been several updates on the Bathymetric Publication No. 6 (B-6) of *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names*, the official document jointly published by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). The revision of the *Guidelines for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names* in accordance with the updated international guidelines was a necessary task to establish, manage and change the marine geographical names.

### 2. Objective

The purpose of the revision was to facilitate the use of systematically and legally appropriate marine geographical names, which includes establishing standardized principles for naming, registering, using, managing, and changing marine geographical names.

---

<sup>†</sup> This working paper pertains to the UNCSGN resolutions IV/3 (Systematization and generalization of experience in the sphere of the standardization of geographical names), II/22 (Standardization of maritime nomenclature), II/32 (Dissemination of decisions by national authorities) and V/6 (Promotion of national and international geographical names standardization programs).



### 3. Reasons of Revision

- 1) It was necessary to revise and supplement the definitions and classification of marine geographical names in the first edition of the guidelines according to the continual updates of the *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* published by the IHO and IOC.
- 2) The revision was needed to apply the most recent international principle because the first edition did not accommodate the recent changes in the principles.
- 3) In particular, the first edition did not mention romanization methods, which facilitate the consistent romanization of marine geographical names. It was imperative to provide a standardized romanization method in the second edition.

### 4. Achievements in Revision

To deal with the concerns addressed above, the second edition of *Guidelines for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names* was designed and published by research review and experts' consultation. The contents include definitions and classification of marine geographical names, principles for standardization of marine geographical names, romanization method, and definition for generic terms of names.

#### 1) Definition and Classification of Marine Geographical Names

Marine geographical names can be divided into sea surface feature name and undersea feature names. Sea surface feature names can be further classified into features in the sea, in waterway, low-tide elevation, and bay according to the references in the Hydrographic Dictionary of the IHO, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and American Practical Navigator. In the second edition (2016), passage and inlet were added to the list of sea surface feature names whereas ledge was excluded from the list. In sum, 10 generic names for sea surface features were identified in the second edition.

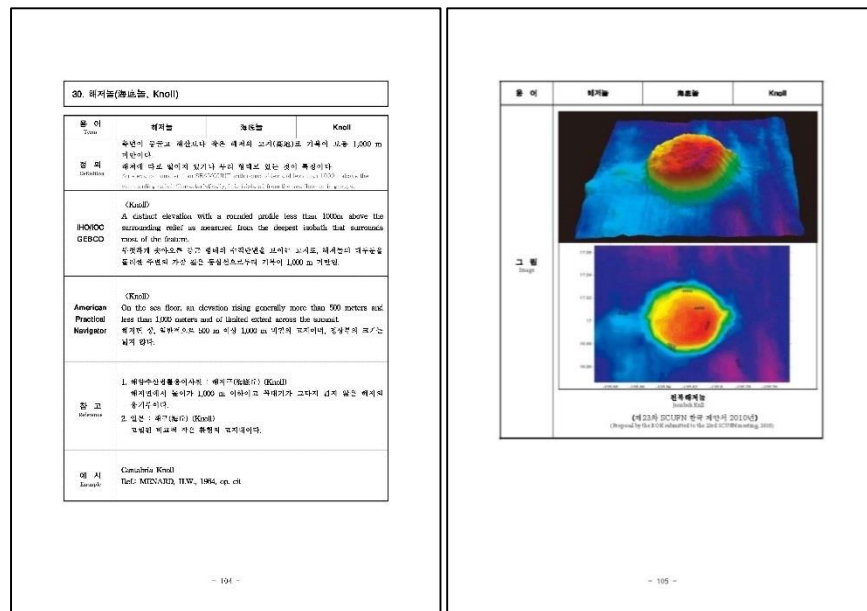
In the case of undersea feature names, 42 generic names were listed in the first edition. However, as B-6 went through continuous revision, nine generic terms were added in total and one deleted in order to comply with international standards. Furthermore, although it is not listed in B-6, a 'crater', an undersea feature in the Republic of Korea, was added to reflect the Korean environment. In total 58 marine geographical names were listed in the second edition.

In addition, efforts were made to standardize marine geographical names by categorizing them into undersea feature names that are currently in use and those that are not (Table 1).

**Table 1. Generic Terms of Sea Surface Feature Names and Undersea Feature Names: Classification and Comparison**

Marine Geographical Names	Classification (1 <sup>st</sup> edition)	Classification (2 <sup>nd</sup> edition)	Main Changes
Sea Surface Feature Names	Ocean, sea, strait, channel, rock, <b>ledge</b> , gulf, bay, bight, creek	Ocean, sea, strait, channel, <b>passage</b> , rock, gulf, bay, bight, <b>inlet</b> /creek	· Passage, inlet (added) · Ledge (excluded)
Undersea Feature Names	Guyot/tablemount, fracture zone, borderland, shelf/continental shelf, shelf-edge/shelf break, slope/continental slope, continental margin, shoal, moat, sill, abyssal hill(s), abyssal plain, saddle, apron/archipelagic apron, median valley, reef, bank, caldera, spur, trough/oceanic trough, trench, <b>oceanic ridge/oceanic rise</b> , peak, passage/gap, valley/submarine valley, promontory, hill(s), knoll, submarine terrace, plateau, basin, seamount(s), seamount chain, fan/cone, sea channel, rise/ridge, escarpment/scarp, levee, hole, canyon/submarine canyon, pinnacle	<p>&lt;Currently used&gt; Guyot, fracture zone, shelf, slope, <b>mound</b>, moat, <b>sand ridge</b>, sill, abyssal plain, saddle, <b>salt dome</b>, apron, <b>rift</b>, <b>mud volcano</b>, <b>province</b>, shoal, reef, caldera, bank, spur, trough, trench, peak, seamount, seamount chain, <b>deep</b>, gap/passage, valley, hill, knoll, terrace, plateau, basin, fan, sea channel, ridge, escarpment, levee, hole, canyon, <b>pinnacle</b>, <b>rise</b>, <b>crater</b></p> <p>&lt;not currently used&gt; Archipelagic apron, borderland, continental rise, continental shelf, shelf-edge/shelf break, continental margin, <b>mid-ocean ridge</b>, abyssal hill, median valley, tablemount, sea valley/submarine valley, promontory, cone, <b>channel</b>, scarp</p>	<p>· Classification between names that are currently used and not currently used (For the names that are not currently used, it was manifested to use suggest names)</p> <p>· In line with the revision of B-6, mound, sand ridge, salt dome, rift, mud volcano, province, deep, mid-ocean ridge, channel (added) oceanic ridge/oceanic rise (excluded)</p> <p>· Crater was added to reflect the environment of the Republic of Korea</p> <p>· Ridge and Rise were separately defined</p>

Moreover, in the first edition, there were no images for each undersea feature or even if there was, they were not followed in the next page so readers had to look them up from the annex at the back of the publication. In the second edition, however, to facilitate better understanding, definitions and images were listed consecutively. Images were replaced with those that were more standardized and easier to understand (Figure 1). For information purposes, the figures listed below contain corresponding pages translated in English.



**Figure 1. Example of the definition and explanation on generic names in the Guidelines for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names**

## 2) Principles for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names

In the second edition of the *Guidelines for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names*, the basic principles of standardization are established in the order of naming, using, and changing marine geographical names. The principles consist of 13 items for the stage of naming and registering, four items for recognition and use of names, and five items for management and changes. Several publications were referred, such as *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names* (National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea) and *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* (IHO and IOC) to establish the principles for international use.

In addition, in order to facilitate the establishment and change of marine geographical names, a flow chart for the management of names was included. The flow chart incorporated the international procedure for registering of undersea feature name (Figure 2).

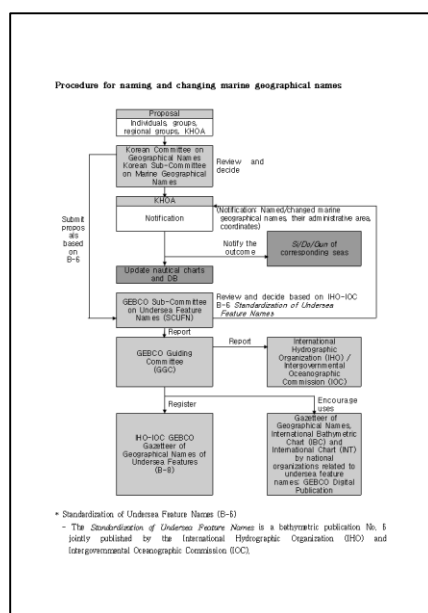


Figure 2. Flow chart for registering and changing marine geographical names

With regard to the field survey of marine geographical names, field survey forms were designed to collect more concrete information. There are two types of forms used for proposing marine geographical names. One is used when making relatively simple proposals based on field survey data and is usually for marine geographical names recognizable by local residents (Form 1) and the other is for features beyond territorial sea or undersea feature through research on undersea topography (Form 2) (Figure 3).

1. Form for in-situ survey of for marine geographical names

### Form for field survey of marine geographical names

Survey no.	Date of survey	Surveyor		
Type of marine geographical name	Characteristics			
Administrative area				
Coordinates	Type of navigation			
Relevant chart	Content of depiction on chart			
Relevant map	Content of depiction on map			
Relevant material				
Origin				
Proposed marine geographical name	(Local geographical name)	(Option 1)	(Option 2)	(Option 3)
	Name	Address	Contact	Remarks (Age/career)
Reference				
Insert charts, photos, images or tables				

국립해양조사원 KORDA

Field survey form

2. Proposal for marine geographical names  
<Form 1>  
[Proposal No. 20##-#] Naming sea surface/undersea feature name in xx Bay, xx Sea

[Proposed geographical names]

	Korean	English	Reasons of the Proposal
Option 1			
Option 2			
Option 3			

[Survey information]

Type of geographical name	Characteristics
Administrative area	
Coordinates	

Insert charts, photos, images or tables

국립해양조사원 KORDA

Proposal for marine geographical names (Form 1)

<Form 2>

### Proposal for marine geographical names

• Naming

Name proposed	
Type of marine geographical name	
Administrative or sea area	

• Geometric characteristics

Point	Line	Pattern	Multiple points	Multiple lines	Multiple surfaces	Combination of elements

• Spatial information

Coordinates	Longitude	Latitude

• Characteristics

Maximum depth	Shoalness
Minimum depth	Shape
Total relief	Dimensions/size

• Associated features

• Chart references

Shown named on chart	
Shown unnamed on chart	
Within area of chart without naming	

• Reason for choice of name

국립해양조사원 KORDA

Proposal for marine geographical names (Form 2)

• Discovery facts

Discovery date	
Discoverer (individual, ship)	

• Survey information

Date of survey	
Survey ship	
Sounding equipment	
Type of navigation	
Estimated Accuracy (sea)	Horizontal
Survey track spacing	

\* Supporting material can be submitted as Annex in electronic or printed form.

• Proposer(s)

Name	
Date	
E-mail	
Organization	
Telephone	
Address	
Contact (name, e-mail, organization, address)	

국립해양조사원 KORDA

Figure 3. Documents for registering marine geographical names in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the guidelines

### 3) Romanization of marine geographical names

One of the issues on the first edition of the guideline was it did not include concrete explanation on the romanization, which often led to confusion. Therefore, KHOA established the principle of romanization and included them in the guideline. In the case of sea surface feature names, specific and generic terms are romanized according to the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of the Republic of Korea. The space should be located between specific and generic term with the first letter of generic term should be capitalized (e.g., Gyeonggi Man). In the case of undersea feature names, names within territorial sea are romanized with space between specific and generic term along with a capitalized first letter for generic term (e.g., Matdol Cho). For the names registered in SCUFN outside of territorial sea, SCUFN principle is applied. Specific term is romanized and generic term is translated into English with a capitalized first letter (e.g., Wangdol Reef).

## 5. Conclusion and Future Plan

There are two issues to be further discussed which were identified during the revision of the second edition of *Guidelines for the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names*. First, although theoretical definition of generic terms for marine geographical features are defined, there are discrepancies between the definition and the usage in practice. For example, there are hierarchies of generic terms according to the scale, such as ocean, sea, gulf, and bay. However, examination of toponym labels in maps reveals the use of sea, gulf, and bay is not consistent. Therefore, further active discussions are needed for the standardization of sea surface names, especially the agreement in the usage of definition and application. Second, there have been arguments that generic term of marine geographical names should be translated into English rather than romanized for international communication since the name of the ocean includes not only territorial sea but also the name of the sea outside the territorial sea, and marine geographical names are used by navigators of many countries. Especially, SCUFN makes it a principle that specific term is romanized while generic term is translated into English. Considering the practice of SCUFN, it is suggested that the generic term for an undersea feature is translated in English. On the other hand, there is an opinion that it is appropriate to use romanized name for the generic terms of marine geographical features in territorial sea based on the fact that the UNGEGN has maintained its principle to romanize generic term of names and geographical name is a product reflecting national culture and history. Therefore, it is necessary to have further discussions on the principle of romanization of marine geographical features.