

**Twenty-third session
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

**Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda:
Reports of the Liaison Officers, Regional Meeting
and International Organizations**

Report by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

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As far as geographical naming is concerned, the IHO is involved in the following two activities, for which status reports are provided:

I. Undersea Feature Naming

The IHO participates, jointly with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO), in the work of the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) of GEBCO¹. Reports of SCUFN meetings, as well as any new editions of products issued under SCUFN responsibility, are provided to UNGEGN Chairman/Secretary on a regular basis, in accordance with SCUFN terms of reference, which include “*The Sub-Committee shall maintain close liaison with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names and national authorities concerned with the naming of undersea features*”. SCUFN-related documents are also available from the GEBCO website (www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/).

The XVIIIth meeting of the GEBCO-SCUFN was held on 3-6 October 2005 at the IHB, Monaco, under the Chairmanship of Dr. H.W. SCHENKE, Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), Germany. Admiral A. MARATOS, IHO President, welcomed the meeting participants and emphasized the importance of SCUFN work, as its recommendations on undersea feature naming issues would, in principle, be accepted by the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). In addition to the Chair, attendees included eight SCUFN members from Russia, USA, Japan, Mexico, India and IHB, and five observers from Russia, USA, Rep. of Korea and IOC Secretariat. Dr. Y. OHARA, Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD), Lic. J.L. FRIAS SALAZAR, Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática (INEGI), Mexico, LCdr. Harvinder AVTAR, National Hydrographic Office, India, and Capt. Albert E. THEBERGE, USA (NOAA) participated as new SCUFN members.



¹ General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans, a joint IHO-IOC project

About a hundred names were examined during this meeting, half of them being newly submitted. Many of these names had been proposed by Russia (HDNO and the Russian Academy of Sciences). As a result, SCUFN selected 34 new names for inclusion in the GEBCO Gazetteer. Other topics discussed at the meeting included :

- Web-based Map Interface for the Undersea Feature Names Gazetteer.
- New Version of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Gazetteer Viewing Software.
- Transliteration of Russian Geographical Names.

II. Limits of Oceans and Seas

The IHO has produced Publication S-23 “Limits of Oceans and Seas”, for the purpose of nautical cartography and in the interest of safety of navigation at sea. The edition in force is still the 3rd edition, dated 1953, which is available from the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr > Publications > S-23). The 4th edition of the publication, which will replace the current 3rd edition, has not yet been finalized.