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Report of the International Hydrographic Organization

Summary**

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is involved in two maritime geographical naming activities:

(a) The naming of undersea features in areas outside territorial seas, which is achieved through cooperation between IHO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, under a joint ocean mapping programme known as the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans. The relevant body in charge of undersea feature naming is the Subcommittee on Undersea Feature Names. All names accredited by the Subcommittee are included in the publication *Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names*;

(b) The naming of oceans, seas, gulfs and other related bodies of water, in addition to the definition of their limits. The outcome of this IHO activity is reflected in the publication *Limits of Oceans and Seas*, which was first published in 1928. An IHO working group on the publication was established in 2009 with a view to updating the current edition (1953).

The report provides information on recent work on the above two topics. The Subcommittee accredited some 100 new undersea feature names in 2011 (200 since the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names). Regarding the publication *Limits of Oceans and Seas*, although significant progress was made on issues, the working group failed to attain its goal, mainly owing to political and diplomatic lobbying by some of its members. In 2012, the eighteenth International Hydrographic Conference decided not to take any further action on the matter and the working group was disbanded.

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by the International Hydrographic Organization and is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.

