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Item 6  
of the Provisional Agenda

REPORTS OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS, REGIONAL MEETINGS AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Hydrographic Organization - Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic Commission (IHO-IOC)  
General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO):  
Activity of the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)

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Submitted by Mr. R.E. Flynn on behalf of IHO-IOC

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on Geographical Names

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Item 6 of the  
Provisional Agenda: Reports of the Liaison Officers, Regional Meetings and  
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INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION -  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEAN COMMITTEE (IHO-IOC)  
GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF THE OCEANS (GEBCO):  
ACTIVITY OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES  
(SCUFN)

By Mr. Michel Huet  
Secretary, GEBCO/SCUFN  
International Hydrographic Bureau  
Principality of Monaco

IHO - IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)  
Report 1991-1996

1. Tenth Meeting (1993)

The 10th meeting was held at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), La Jolla, California, USA, on 29 and 30 April and 1 - 3 May 1993, under the chairmanship of Dr. Robert L. FISHER, SIO.

More than 220 names, mostly resulting from proposals submitted to the Sub-Committee, were reviewed by the attendees. Also considered were names to be shown on a new edition of GEBCO sheet 5.12 which was published later, in 1994; a number of names that currently appear on the existing GEBCO sheets but have never been questioned; and all the new names which have been approved by the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) to the US Board on Geographic Names since the previous meeting. As a result, about 150 additions or amendments affected the IHO-IOC Gazetteer data base maintained at the IHB.

The Sub-Committee also gave detailed consideration to a proposed revised Terms of Reference (TOR) drafted by the IHB. After discussion, a revised draft was elaborated for submission to and approval by the GEBCO Guiding Committee. This revision was primarily intended to clarify, in its

TOR, the role of the Sub-Committee in regard to a geographical scope, the maps and charts of concern, and the relations with national authorities for naming undersea features.

On this occasion, a new procedure to be followed by the Secretary for the internal management of incoming proposals, during the intersessional period, was adopted, with a view toward improving the general efficiency of the Sub-Committee.

Last, the Sub-Committee recommended that its name be changed to the "Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)" in order to conform to terminology already in use in IHO-IOC publication B-6 "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names" and elsewhere.

## 2. Eleventh Meeting (1995)

The eleventh meeting was held at the IHB, Monaco, on 11-13 May 1995, under the chairmanship of Dr. FISHER.

About 250 proposed names were considered at the meeting, of which 90 names were in the Caribbean area (related to the International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico - IBCCA), 27 in the New Zealand region, 25 around the Hawaiian Islands, and 11 in the north-east Indian Ocean. The IHB Directing Committee had proposed that three seamounts in the central-eastern Atlantic be named after Prince Albert I of Monaco and his oceanographic ships. This gave rise to strong support from the participants. As a result of the meeting, 126 newly approved names were included in the digital GEBCO Gazetteer at the IHB.

The meeting took advantage of the presence of Mr. Norman X. CHERKIS, chairman of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF of the US Board on Geographic Names), to agree on a procedure for exchange of relevant information between SCUFN and ACUF, with a view to avoiding duplication of work and probably of naming in some places.

The increasingly common practice to propose names after living persons was noted with considerable concern. The panel urged that attention be given to fostering compliance with "Principles for Naming Features," as stipulated in IHO-IOC Publication B-6, and recalled the relevant criterion stating that "if names of living persons are used, they should be limited to those who have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences." In SCUFN practice, however, the latter use is broadened to include the marine applied earth sciences overall.

## 3. Intersessional Activities 1995-1996

During Summer 1995, IHB reviewed their archives on undersea features and extracted historical details for these names, which were incorporated in the Gazetteer data base.

Since the last meeting, 30 new names were examined, three of which have been approved. The *Sohm Abyssal Plain* was correctly renamed as *Suhm Abyssal Plain* after advice provided by the Oceanographic Library at the Musée de Monaco.

Agreement was reached between SCUFN and ACUF on the proposal to name a seamount group at the north-east end of the Guinea Rise (9°04'N 20°20'W to 8°58'N 19°52'W) as the *Grimaldi Seamounts* after the Monégasque ruling family. Additionally, three isolated seamounts in the group: *Prince Albert*, *Hirondelle* and *Princese Alice* were named after Prince Albert I of Monaco and his two research ships. It is expected that Prince Ranier will signal his approval to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the Grimaldi family.

**ANNEX**  
**MEMBERSHIP OF THE GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON**  
**UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)**

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