
**United Nations
Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**

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**Item 18
of the Provisional Agenda**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND THE AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

**National Standardization Office Treatment
Of Names**

Off-Shore Features

Prepared by Roger L. Payne, United States of America

TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP
OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION
OFFICE TREATMENT OF NAMES

Off-Shore Features

Submitted by: United States of America

Prepared by Roger L. Payne (USA)

Off-Shore Features

Roger L. Payne (USA)

A proposal was submitted to the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) to apply the name NR-1 Hole to an unnamed submarine sinkhole in the Straits of Florida, midway between Key West and the Dry Tortugas. The proposed name would recognize the discovery in October 1994 of this previously unknown feature by the Navy Research submarine, the NR1. Although initially submitted to ACUF, this proposal was forwarded to the Domestic Names Committee for action because the feature lies within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United States and the proponent specifically requested the action.

The ACUF recommended approval of this name, but the Board deferred approval pending an examination of the proposal by the Board's Domestic Names Committee. A subcommittee was formed to examine the policy of the Domestic Names Committee regarding offshore features. The policy in existence indicated that offshore features would be considered under the purview of domestic activity only if the feature lies within the previous limit of three miles. Since, the jurisdiction of territorial waters of the United States extends to 12 miles, the Board agreed that offshore features within this 12-mile limit is within the domestic purview, and the policy was amended accordingly. However, beyond the range of three miles, the State Names Authority would not be asked for a recommendation. Further, the revised policy indicates that offshore features beyond 12 miles, but within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States will remain under the purview of ACUF.