

been created by seafarers from distant countries or are the result of historical coincidences. For these reasons it will hardly be possible to recommend one name-form only.

For a single maritime feature different states often use different names which—in their “specific” term or in their “generic” term or even in both of them—are not equivalent to each other.

It is therefore recommended that a list should be compiled of maritime features with their names in the different languages and stating the limits of each. Should this list show that the limits understood for certain maritime features differ from state to state, an attempt should be made to agree on standard limits. A standing committee, established under United Nations auspices, would have to be entrusted with the task of compiling such a list and establishing standard limits. The same committee should also deal with “undersea features”. When a new name is given to a maritime feature, the same rules as those to be established for the renaming of “undersea features” should apply.

We support the recommendations submitted by the Working Group on Undersea Feature Names.

It is especially recommended:

That a list should be compiled giving the equivalents for the “generic terms” in different languages—as an example of such a list we cite the paper of the “Ständiger Ausschuss für [Geographische Namen (StAGN)”, “Bezeichnungen für] untermeerische Bodenformen”, 2nd ed. (Bonn-Bad Godesberg, December 1971); and

That a standing committee should be set up, established under United Nations auspices, with the tasks (a) of collecting the existing names and trying to reconcile the “generic terms” they contain with the accepted meaning of these terms, and (b) of collecting, verifying and approving new names and circulating them to the other states. This standing committee should co-operate as closely as possible with the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Committee of the International Hydrographic Organization, Monaco.

MARITIME FEATURES AND UNDERSEA FEATURES

Report presented by Japan*

The geographical names of oceans and seas given in the nautical charts and publications issued by the Hydrographic Department of Japan are, in principle, adopted on the basis of Special Publication No. 23, “Limits of oceans and seas”, of the International Hydrographic Bureau (1953).

Geographical names of major ocean-bottom features are adopted on the basis of the Report of the Sub-Committee on Proper Geographical Names for Ocean-Bottom Features approved by the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Committee, International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Ocean (1966), for inclusion in the nautical charts and publications issued by the Hydrographic Department of Japan.

The names of 55 minor sea-bottom features in the territorial waters and adjacent seas of Japan have already been

approved by the joint meeting for geographical names of sea-bottom features. (This meeting was sponsored by the Hydrographic Department, and had as consultative member organizations the National Committee for Geophysics and the National Committee of Geography of the Science Council of Japan, the Oceanographical Society of Japan, the Association of Japanese Geographers, the Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo, the Fisheries Agency, the Meteorological Agency and the Cultural Agency.)

The Sub-Committee on Proper Geographical Names for Ocean-Bottom Features (Chairman: K. Kawakami, Chief Hydrographer of Japan), under the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans Committee, will continue its co-ordination work for the standardization of minor ocean-bottom features such as seamounts.

The joint meeting for geographical names of sea-bottom features will be convened as necessary to determine geographical names of sea-bottom features in the territorial waters and the adjacent seas of Japan.

* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.46.

UNDERSEA FEATURES AND MARITIME FEATURES

Report presented by Norway*

UNDERSEA FEATURES

Norway wishes to register its support of the recommendations contained in the working paper prepared by the Working Group on Undersea Feature Names.

* The original text of this report was contained in document E/CONF.61/L.91.

However, in the lists on “Terminology of submarine relief” and “Submarine terms” prepared by the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and annexed to that working paper, a number of Norwegian generic terms are missing. Furthermore, among the terms listed, some do not represent the correct Norwegian equivalent to the English term: such is for instance the case with the term “continental slope”, which has been listed as