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Addendum 3

Guidelines for the Application of Specific Names

GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION OF SPECIFIC NAMES

I. It is long-established BGN policy to favor short and simple names as the most efficient, other things being equal.

II. Specific terms in the names of major undersea features should, wherever feasible, indicate the general location of the area in which they lie, e.g., Mariana Trench, Ninety East Ridge.

A. In some cases, this can be accomplished simply by using the same specific term in the names of adjoining features, e.g.;

Aleutian Ridge, Aleutian Basin, Aleutian Trench  
Mariana Ridge, Mariana Basin, Mariana Trench  
Bellona Plateau, Bellona Reefs, Bellona Shoal

B. In some cases, the specific term may indicate direction from a large well-known associated feature, e.g., South Honshu Ridge, West Caroline Basin.

C. In cases where extent of a long linear feature needs to be identified and the extremities can be identified by named geographic features, the names of those features may be hyphenated as the specific term, e.g., Laccadive-Chagos Ridge, Peru-Chile Trench.

D. Canyons, since they usually extend close to the shore, are normally given as specific terms the names of rivers, points or other readily identifiable named land features, e.g., Amazon Canyon, Congo Canyon, Sable Island Canyon.

III. Specific names for other features can be derived from ships or other vehicles utilized in the discovery of the feature, from expedition names, individuals associated with the discovery, organizations and institutions sponsoring the expedition or from individuals who have specifically been involved in the recognition of the uniqueness of the feature through the interpretation of the data.

A. Ships' names may be applied to features such as seamounts, knolls, canyons, tablemounts, etc. The ship name to be used should be that of the discovering ship, or if that has been previously used for a similar feature, it should be the name of the ship verifying the feature, e.g., San Pablo Seamount, Atlantis II Seamount.

B. Specific names of vehicles utilized in the discovery of a feature may be used as in the KIWI Seamount from the geomagnetic survey plan "KIWI" under Project MAGNET which discovered its existence through a magnetic anomaly.

C. Expedition names may be used, e.g., Northern Holiday Seamount.

D. Names of individuals associated with the discovery of a feature may be used, including any of the following:

1. The captain of the ship.
2. Expedition leaders, or survey party chiefs.
3. Individuals in charge at the time of discovery and recognition of the feature.

E. Individuals involved in the interpretation of data leading to the recognition of the unique character of a feature, e.g., bathymetrists, oceanographers, geologists, hydrographers.

F. Persons who have made important contributions to knowledge of the oceans, including the interpretation of oceanic data, or the preparation of charts of the oceans such as historical hydrographers, oceanographers, and scientists, e.g., Maury Channel, Ewing Seamount.

G. Organizations and institutions involved in the study of the seas, such as Scripps Canyon.

IV. It is permissible to name groups of features after specific categories of historical personages, mythical figures, stars and constellations, fish, birds, animals, etc. Such groups could be as follows:

Musicians Seamounts: Bach Seamount, Brahms Seamount,  
Schubert Seamount

Electricians Seamounts: Volta Seamount, Ampere Seamount,  
Galvani Seamount

Ursa Minor Ridge and Trough Province, Kochab Ridge, Polaris  
Trough, Suhail Ridge

V. Descriptive names will be acceptable if not duplicated, particularly when they refer to distinguishing characteristics, e.g., Hook Ridge, Horse-shoe Seamounts.