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FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987  
Item 10 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

FEATURES BEYOND A SINGLE SOVEREIGNTY: UNDERSEA FEATURES

Brief report on the main IHO activities concerning geographical  
names of undersea features since the twelfth session of UNEGN

Paper submitted by the International Hydrographic Organization

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\* E/CONF.79/1.

1. IOC/IHO GEBCO Sub-Committee on Geographical Names and Nomenclature of Ocean Bottom Features

Extensive work by correspondence was made by the members of the Sub-Committee concerning new proposed names for undersea features received from various sources. These new proposed names were examined by the GEBCO Sub-Committee during its seventh session (Monaco, 23-25 April 1987), with the following results :

- a) Adoption of names shown on Prof. VANNEY's charts (in the northern part of Mozambique Channel and the East African coast) ;
- b) Adoption of several names in the North-East Indian Ocean and Northern Arabian Sea (Correspondence between Dr. FISHER, Chairman of the GEBCO Sub-Committee and the U.S. Board on Geographical Names) ;
- c) Adoption of 32 names proposed by Dr. Galina.AGAPOVA (Geological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR), in the Atlantic Pacific, South Pacific, Indian and Arctic Oceans ;
- d) Adoption of 14 names shown on IBCM (International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean Sea) ;
- e) Amendments to be made to several names already shown on GEBCO 5th Edition, when sheets are next taken in hand for reprinting.

All the above new geographical names and amendments will be inserted in the "List of Geographical Names of Undersea Features shown on the GEBCO 5th Edition and on the Small Scale IHO International Chart Series", compiled by the IHB.

Suggestions made by Mr. Richard R. RANDALL (Liaison Officer of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) to the IHB) regarding terminology and practices in the IHO/IOC publication "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names" have been accepted by the GEBCO Sub-Committee.

The GEBCO Sub-Committee greatly appreciated the action of Mr. Richard R. RANDALL in providing updated input on several matters and principally those raised in correspondence with the Chairman of the GEBCO Sub-Committee. No significant differences appeared with regard to names proposed by the two Groups.

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**2. XIIIth International Hydrographic Conference (5-15 May 1987)**

Proposal submitted by the IHB following a recommendation of the 10th Session of the Joint IOC/IHO Guiding Committee (23-25 April 1985). A similar proposal has also been adopted by the IOC Assembly.

**Decision N°46 adopted by the XIIIth I.H.Conference :**

" It is resolved :

1. that Member States encourage marine scientists and other persons in their country wishing to name undersea features, having checked their proposals with published Gazetteers of Undersea Feature Names, and taken into account the Guidelines contained in the IHO/IOC publication "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names" (including the use of the Undersea Feature Name Proposal Form contained therein), to submit all proposed new names for clearance, either to their appropriate national authority or, where no such national authority exists, to the IHB or IOC for consideration by the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Geographical Names and Nomenclature of Ocean Bottom Features, which may advise on any potentially confusing duplication of names.
2. that Member States invite publishers of ocean maps, and editors of scientific journals, in their country, to require compilers and authors to provide written evidence of such clearance before accepting for publication any maps or scientific articles containing new names for undersea features. "

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