



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 03 18
E-mail: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

IOC Circular Letter No 2883
(Available in English and French)

IOC/VR/JB/TC
24 March 2022

- To : IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC)
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
- cc. : The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)
IHO Secretariat (SCUFN Secretary)

**Subject: Call for nominations of two IOC-affiliated members to the GEBCO
Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)**

By this circular letter, IOC Member States are invited to nominate candidates to fill two vacancies of the IOC membership in the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN). The selection of the candidates will be made on the basis of expertise, geographical and gender balance as much as possible.

The establishment of SCUFN arose from the need for a uniform policy for handling geographical names and the standardization of undersea feature names. SCUFN normally consists of 12 members, preferably 6 members being appointed by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and 6 members by IOC acting in close consultation. Each member of SCUFN shall be appointed for a five-year period, renewable for one additional five-year term by the corresponding parent organization (IHO or IOC) if so recommended by SCUFN through the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC). The Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure of SCUFN are enclosed in Annex A for reference. The current membership of SCUFN is provided in Annex B.

Two positions need to be filled as follows:

- #1) Following the 34th meeting of SCUFN last November, the Chair of SCUFN was informed through a formal notification of the Russian Federation that Dr Aleksander ALEKSEEV (Russian Federation), an IOC-appointed member, needed to step down from his position due to another appointment. Therefore, **the appointment of this seat will become effective as soon as the candidate is selected.**
- #2) An additional IOC-affiliated seat will become vacant after the next meeting of SCUFN planned in November 2022 as Dr Hyun-Chul HAN (Republic of Korea) and current Chair, has indicated

Chairperson

Mr Ariel Hernan TROISI
Technical Secretary
Navy Hydrographic Service
Av. Montes de Oca 2124
C1270ABV Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE
Directrice de Recherche
Centre national de la recherche scientifique
(CNRS)
3 rue Michel Ange
75016 Paris
FRANCE

Dr Alexander FROLOV
Assistant to the President
National Research Center "Kurchatov Institute"
Academika Kurchatova pl., 1
123182 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Frederico Antonio SARAIVA NOGUEIRA
Navy Captain (Ret) Directorate
of Hydrography and Navigation
Rua Barao de Jaceguai S/N
24048-900 Niterói
BRAZIL

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA
Director
Indian National Centre for Ocean
Information Services (INCOIS)
Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO)
Hyderabad 500090
INDIA

Dr Karim HILMI
Head of Oceanography Department
Institut National de Recherche
Halieutique (INRH)
02, Boulevard Sidi Abderrahmane
Ain Diab
20180 Casablanca
MOROCCO

his intention to step down from his membership to SCUFN. Whilst the appointment for this seat would only become effective at the end of the next SCUFN meeting in November, **the appointed member will be invited to prepare and attend the next SCUFN meeting as an observer.**

The criteria for the selection of SCUFN members include:

- profound knowledge in bathymetry, especially in the state-of-the-art of ocean surveying and mapping,
- experience in topographic terrain analysis,
- familiarity in the field of international marine history,
- basic cognizance in the marine earth science disciplines, and
- very good command of English, the working language of the sub-committee.

IOC Member States wishing to propose nominations are kindly invited to complete the application form in Annex C and send a CV to my secretariat, c/o Mr Toshihiko CHIBA (t.chiba@unesco.org), by 27th April 2022. I invite you to pay particular attention that the effective date of membership is different for each of the positions. The CV should outline the credentials and experience of the nominee with regard to the criteria described above.

In my capacity as IOC Executive Secretary, I will examine the nominations received for each position, in liaison with the GGC and SCUFN Chairs, and will confirm nomination of the new members of SCUFN in close consultation with IHO.

The IOC Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank Dr Aleksander ALEKSEEV and Dr Hyun-Chul HAN for their engagement in SCUFN activities over the many years, as well as their national supporting organizations for sponsoring them as members of SCUFN. I take this opportunity to remind that the selected experts are expected to be supported and funded by their respective national organizations to attend the SCUFN meetings.

Looking forward to receiving nominations at your earliest convenience, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (3): A: GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)
Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure
B: Current composition of SCUFN
C: Nomination Form

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)
TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names reports to the Joint IOC-IHO GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) as its designated authority for all matters concerning undersea feature names.
- 1.2 It is the function of the Sub-Committee to select those names of undersea features in the world ocean appropriate for use on GEBCO graphical and digital products, on the IHO small-scale international chart series, and on the regional IBC series.
- 1.3 The Sub-Committee shall:
 - 1.3.1** Select undersea feature names from:
 - a) names provided by national and international organizations concerned with nomenclature;
 - b) names submitted to the Sub-Committee by individuals, agencies and organizations involved in marine research, hydrography, etc.;
 - c) names appearing in scientific journals or on appropriate charts and maps;
 - d) names submitted to the Sub-Committee by the Chairpersons or Chief Editors of IBC projects, in relation to the work on these projects.

All selected names shall adhere to the principles contained in IHO-IOC Publication B-6 "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names" and be supported by valid evidence. Such names shall be reviewed before they are added to the *Gazetteer*.

1.3.2 Define, where appropriate, the extent of named features.

1.3.3 Provide advice to individuals and appropriate authorities on the selection of undersea feature names located outside the external limits of the territorial sea and, on request, inside the external limit of the territorial sea.

1.3.4 Encourage the establishment of national boards on undersea feature names where such boards do not exist.

1.3.5 Prepare and maintain an international and worldwide IHO-IOC GEBCO *Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names*.

1.3.6 Encourage the use of undersea feature names included in the IHO-IOC GEBCO *Gazetteer*, on any maps, charts, scientific publications and documents by promulgating these names widely.

1.3.7 Prepare and maintain internationally agreed guidelines for the standardization of undersea feature names and encourage their use.

1.3.8 Review and address the need for revised or additional terms and definitions for submarine topographic features.

1.3.9 Maintain close liaison with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the focal point of which shall be invitations to attend meetings of the Sub-Committee, and with international or national authorities concerned with the naming of undersea features.

1.3.10 Provide, where feasible, historical information regarding the origin of pre-existing published names and historical variant names. This research will include discovery ship and/or organization, information regarding the individual or vessel being commemorated or geographic feature with which the name is associated, origin of variant names if required and source material regarding naming information.

2. Rules of Procedure

- 2.1 Membership of the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names is covered by the following rules:
 - 2.1.1 The Sub-Committee shall normally consist of 12 members, preferably 6 members being appointed by IHO and 6 by IOC acting in close consultation.
 - 2.1.2 Appointed Members of the Sub-Committee represent their parent organization as experts¹ and no substitution shall be allowed.
 - 2.1.3 Members of the Sub-Committee shall be appointed for a five-year period, renewable for one additional five-year term by the corresponding parent organization if so recommended by the Sub-Committee through the GGC. The Sub-Committee Chairperson shall inform the relevant parent organization of any foreseeable vacancy in a timely manner.
- 2.2 The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Sub-Committee subject to endorsement by the GGC. They should normally come from different parent organizations.
- 2.3 The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are elected for a five-year period but not exceeding their current membership of the Sub-Committee. The Chairperson will normally be succeeded by the Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson may be re-elected by the Sub-Committee for one additional five-year period. Should the Chairperson step down before the end of his/her term, the Vice-Chairperson shall take over as Chair till the end of the current term.
- 2.4 The Chairperson, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairperson, shall conduct the business of the Sub-Committee. Meetings will usually be held every year, ideally before the GGC meeting. In the intervening period the Sub-Committee shall conduct its business by correspondence (preferably electronic mail).
- 2.5 Members are expected to attend every meeting of the Sub-Committee. Sub-Committee Members who are absent from meetings over two consecutive years will normally be considered to have resigned and new nominations shall be sought from the relevant parent organization.
- 2.6 Representatives of non-governmental entities / organizations, or individuals that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the Sub-Committee may attend meetings with observer status. In the event that a large number of observers seek to attend a meeting, the Chairperson may restrict attendance by inviting them to act through one or more collective representatives.
- 2.7 Observers from IHO and/or IOC Member States may attend meetings. Attendance shall normally be limited to one observer per Member State.
- 2.8 Proposals which are to be considered at SCUFN meetings must be submitted 30 days before meetings if in electronic form, or 60 days if in analogue form.
- 2.9 The quorum necessary to hold a meeting shall be 7 Sub-Committee members. The Sub-Committee should strive to decide by consensus. If a vote is necessary, the majority required for acceptance is a simple majority of the total number of members. Only members present may cast a vote. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote in the case of a tie. This option will be used exceptionally if no consensus can be reached and a decision has to be made.
- 2.10 The Sub-Committee will not consider undersea feature name proposals that are politically sensitive.
- 2.11 Recommendations of the Sub-Committee shall be submitted to the GGC for consideration and decision.
- 2.12 The Chairperson is to submit an annual report to the Chairperson of the GGC.

¹ So far as IOC is concerned, the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names is classed as a Joint Group of Experts under the IOC guidelines for subsidiary bodies

Annex B

**Composition of the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (GEBCO)
(March 2022)**

1. IHO-appointed Members:		Term Period
Dr Yasuhiko OHARA (Vice-chair)	(Japan)	(2019–2023)
Prof. Roberta IVALDI	(Italy)	(2021–2025)
First Adm. Dr Najhan MD SAID	(Malaysia)	(2018–2022) ¹
Mr Trent PALMER	(USA)	(2018–2022) ¹
Prof. Millard F. COFFIN	(Australia)	(2020–2024)
Dr Marie-Françoise LEQUENTREC-LALANCETTE	(France)	(2020–2024)

2. IOC-appointed Members:		Term Period
Dr Hyun-Chul HAN (Chair)	(Rep. of Korea)	(2019–2023) ²
Mr Félix FRÍAS IBARRA	(Mexico)	(2022–2026)
Mr Kevin MACAY	(New Zealand)	(2018–2022) ¹
Dr Sihai LI	(China)	(2018–2022) ¹
Mr Amon KIMELI	(Kenya)	(2019–2023) ¹
<i>Vacant</i>	()	(2022–2026)

¹ Additional five-year period planned and recommended.

² Dr Han announced his intention to step down from his membership to SCUFN after the SCUFN 35.2 meeting scheduled in November 2022.

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)

Nomination form

(To be returned to the IOC Secretariat, c/o t.chiba@unesco.org, by 27 April 2022 together with a CV of the candidate)

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your answers

1. Proposing Member State:

--

2. Information on the candidate you would like to nominate as an expert member of SCUFN:

Full name of the candidate:	
E-mail of the candidate:	
Institution/Employer of the candidate:	

3. Please indicate by a mark [X] for which seat the candidate is proposed:

<input type="checkbox"/>	#1 – immediate membership after selection
<input type="checkbox"/>	#2 – differed membership as from November 2022
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indifferently for both (at the discretion of the Executive Secretary who will conduct the selection exercise)

4. If the nominee is selected,

It is assumed that the candidate parent institution will support his/her participation in the next SCUFN meeting (14–18 Nov. 2022)³?	Yes or No
Will the nominee be available to attend the next SCUFN meeting (14–18 Nov. 2022)?	Yes or No

5. Comments:

--

Signature and official position of the proposer:

--

Date :

--

³ Dates, venue and location to be defined.