INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

User´s Guide for Preparation of Undersea Feature Name Proposals to the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names – SCUFN

(DRAFT)

1. INTRODUCTION

The preparation of undersea feature name proposals should follow the guidelines contained in IHO-IOC publication B-6 "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names" (hereinafter referred to as B-6). An Undersea Feature Name Proposal Form should be completed preferably in English in accordance with the requirements specified in B-6 and forwarded to IHO or IOC, if in a printed form, no later than two months before an annual SCUFN meeting, and, if in a digital form, no later than one month before an annual SCUFN meeting in order to be considered by SCUFN members in advance of the meeting. The address and email are given at the end of the Proposal Form.

2. PROCEDURE

2.1. Proposal Selection

- Identify unnamed features: first identify the position, extent and morphology of the feature and then certify that the selected feature has not already been named in the IHO-IOC GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names, IHO publication B-8.

- Identify supporting data: single and multibeam bathymetric data, geophysical data, present and historical nautical charts and other acquired data which can reflect the morphology of the undersea feature. This information should be based on reliable source data.

- Identify the metadata: check and ratify the metadata information regarding the supporting data, including the survey dates, name or program, vessels, entities or persons involved, type and accuracy of the instruments, and so on.

2.2. Completing the Undersea Feature Name Proposal Form

- **Names Proposed**: generally composed of specific and generic terms. The specific terms are chosen by the proposer according to the relevant provisions in B-6, item II, "Principles for Naming Features", sub-item A "Specific terms", page 2-2. The "Generic terms" (page 2-3) reflect the physiography of the feature and it should be selected from the list "Undersea Feature Terms and Definitions" in B-6, page 2-12.

- **Ocean or Sea:** name of the ocean or sea where the feature is located.

- **Geometry that best defines the feature:** geometry will be used to display and describe the undersea feature in the GEBCO database and Gazetteer. It should be a point, line, polygon, multiple points, multiple lines, multiple polygons or a combination of geometries. A primary geometry is assigned to a given generic term and, when appropriate, a secondary geometry and a tertiary geometry. See details in "SCUFN Generic terms - List of Allowed Geometries" (www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/SCUFN/SCUFN_Misc/Feature_Geometries.xls). The coordinate of a feature whose geometry is a point should be located in the centre of the feature; for a feature whose geometry is a line, the coordinates should reflect the trend of the feature and; for a feature whose geometry is a polygon, the coordinate points should show the outline feature.

- **Coordinates:** geographic coordinates in Latitude S/N and Longitude E/W (degree, minute and decimal minute), Datum WGS84. Example: Lat. 34º37.80'S - Long. 28º 52.17'W.

- **Feature Description:** specify maximum and minimum water depths over the feature; the total relief which is the difference between the maximum and minimum depths; the steepness that is the ratio of the vertical height and the horizontal distance, expressed in degrees; the shape as round, square, triangle, elliptical, or U, V in the case of a canyon; and the dimension of the feature specifying its length and width. The unit of size and depths should be metres.

- **Associated Features:** name of recognized features which are close or associated with the proposed feature.

- **Chart/Map References:** the number of the Map or Nautical Chart where the proposed feature is shown and named, or only shown, should be identified in this item. Even when none of these is available, the chart number where the feature is located must be indicated. International (INT) and/or national charts can be referred to.

- **Reason for Choice of Name:** this item must contain a detailed description as to the reason for having chosen the specific term, following the rules which appear in B-6 item II, sub-item A, page 2-2. Historical information regarding the origin of the chosen name should be provided. Names should preferably be associated with a geographical feature. When a ship name is proposed, it should preferably be the name of the discovering ship or the one that surveyed and verified the feature. In the case of a name proposed after a living person, that person should have made a recognized outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences; accordingly, his/her biography should be attached.

- **Discovery Facts:** the discovery date and discoverer ship or individual, if known.

- **Supporting Survey Data, including Track Controls:** information regarding the survey and data. Date(s) of survey(s); survey ship; sounding equipment (brand and model of the single beam or multi-beam or both); type of navigation (astronomical, Transit, GPS, etc); estimated horizontal accuracy; survey track line spacing.

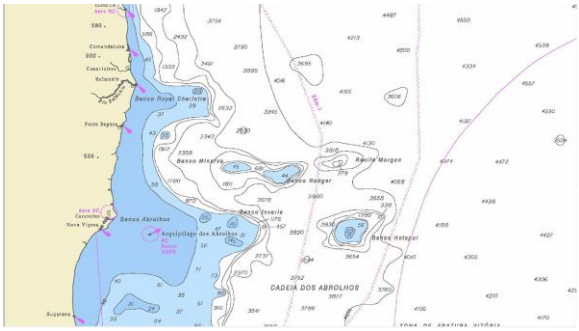
- **Proposer(s):** name of the proposer(s) or the institution who prepared and submitted the feature name; date of forwarded proposal, e-mail, organization and address.

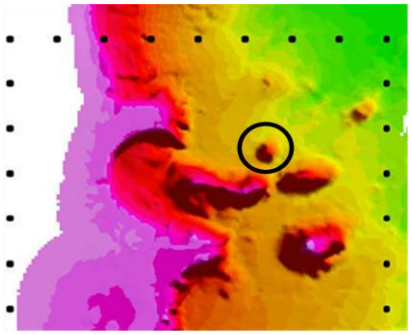
- **Remarks:** any other information considered important and supporting information such as maps, bathymetric grids, 3D model, Charts, references and so on.

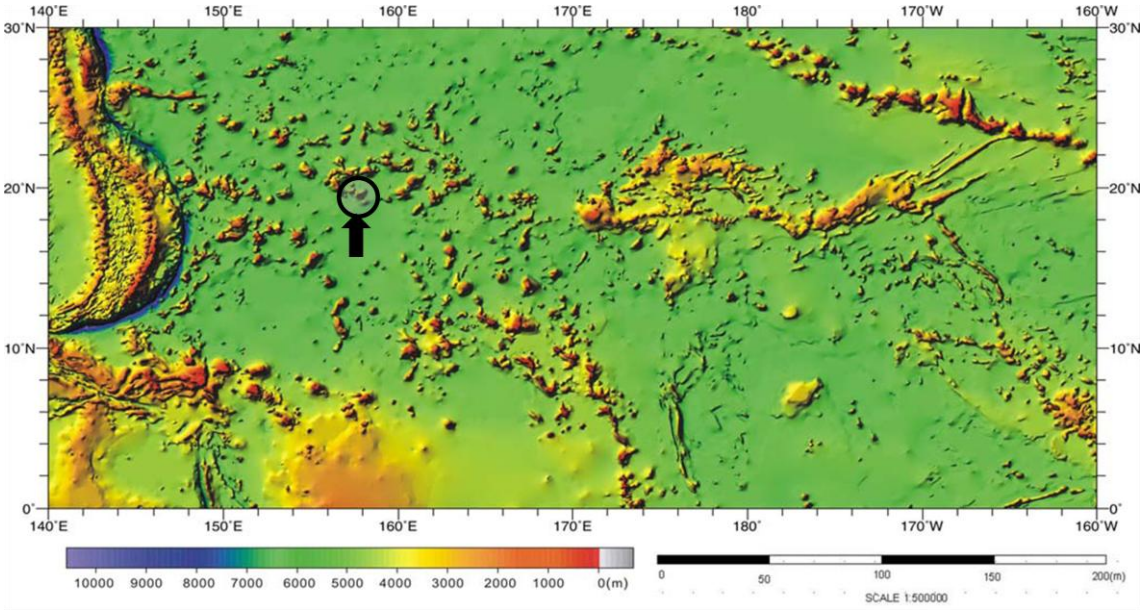
3. SUPPORTING MAPS

Proposers do not usually attend the SCUFN meetings to present their feature name proposals and so additional background documents should be provided in order to better support the proposal submitted to the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names. Therefore, some maps with specific information should be added as in the examples listed below:

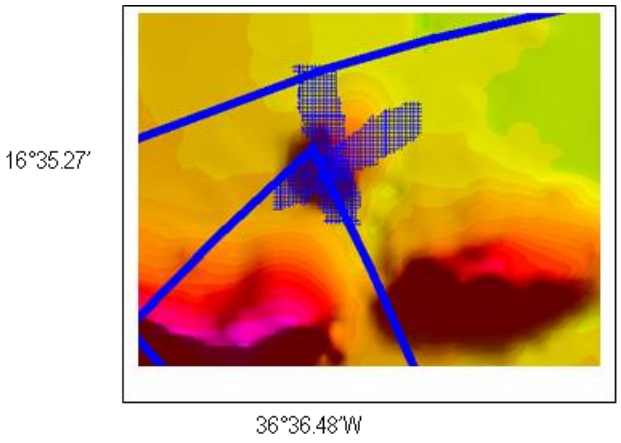
3.1. Index map showing the location of the proposed feature on a regional scale (it can also be placed in a GEBCO grid, a Nautical Chart or another regional map).

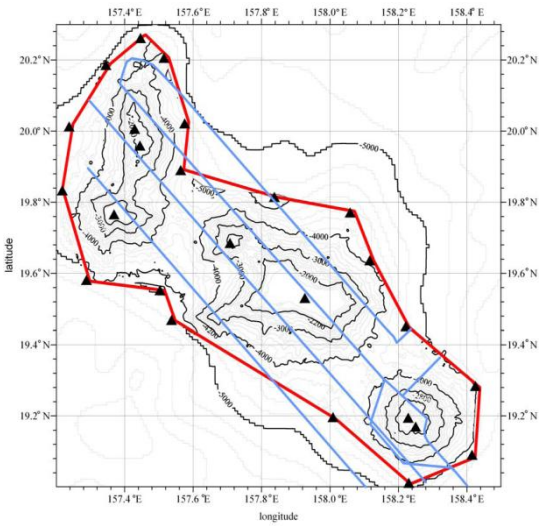


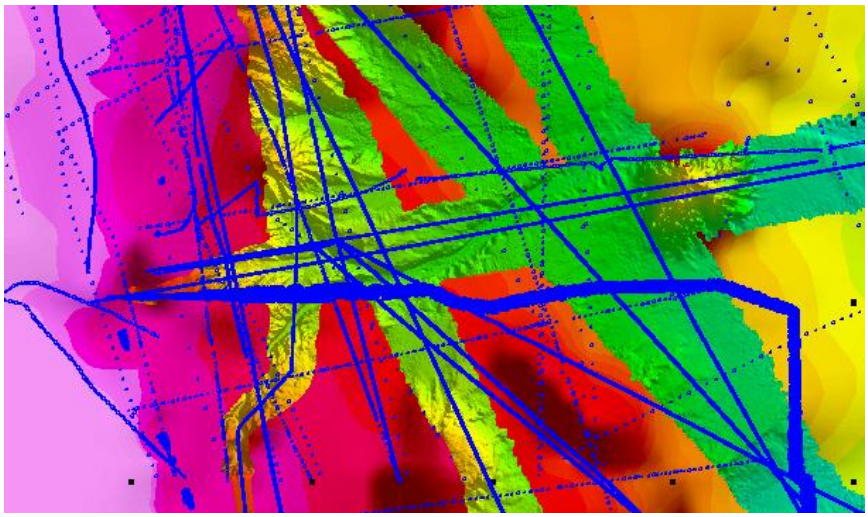




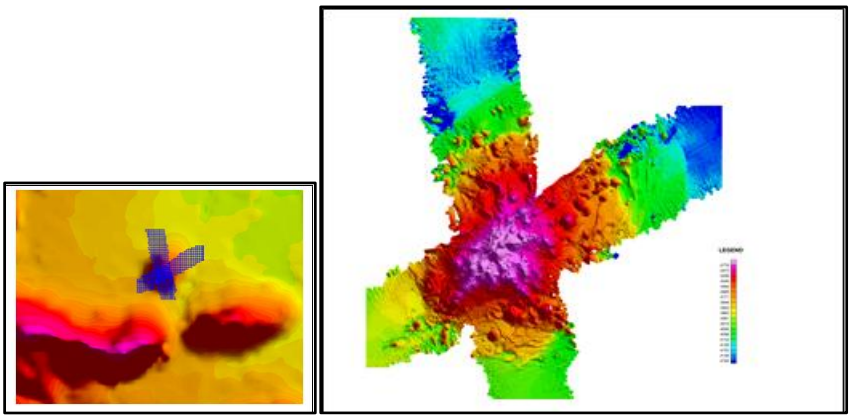
3.2. Track line map showing all existing information in the feature proposal area.

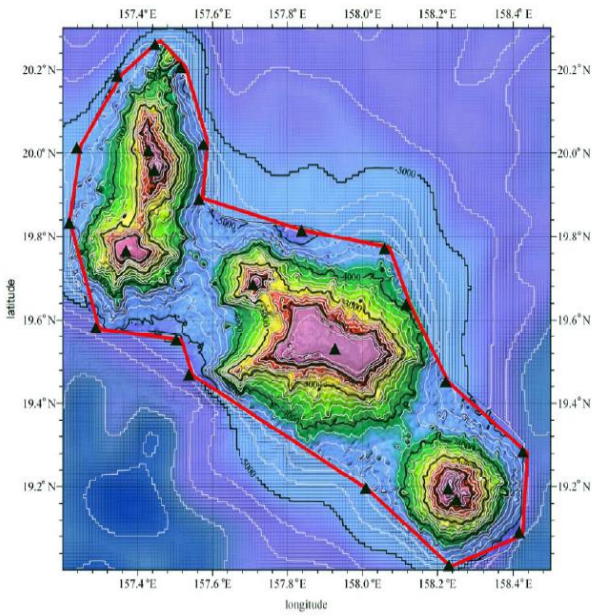


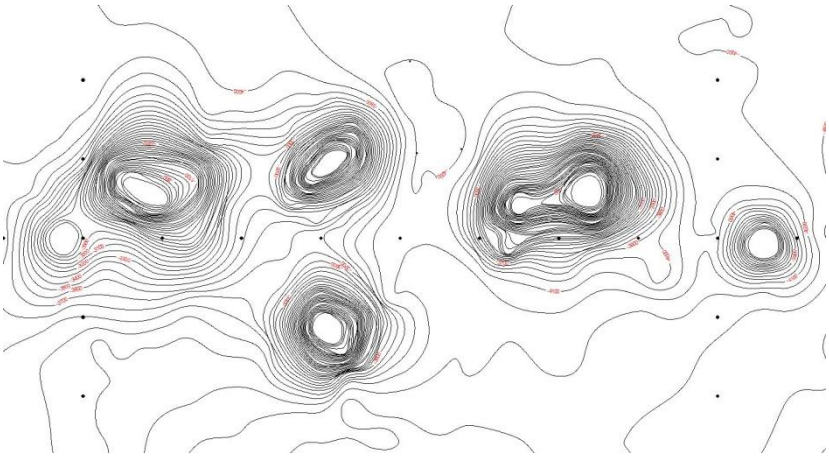


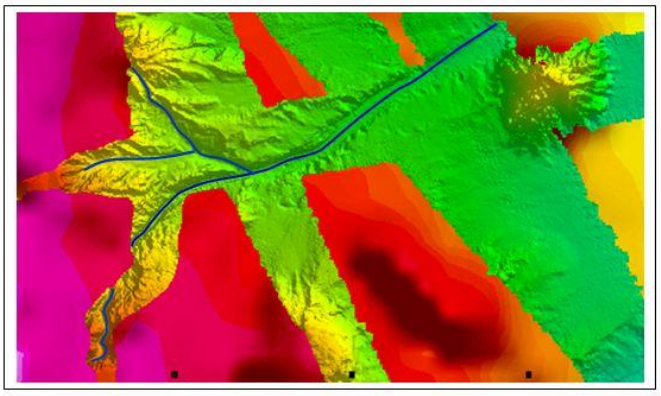


3.3. Bathymetric map showing depth contours specifying the interval contour value or, a bathymetric grid with a depth colour legend, or both.

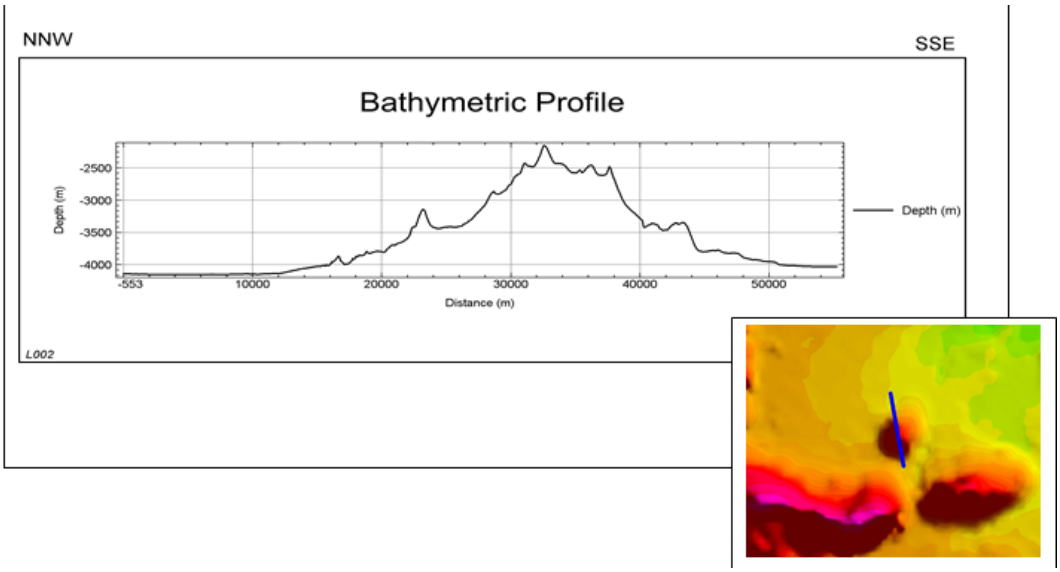


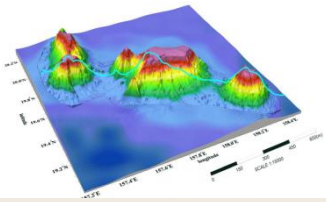


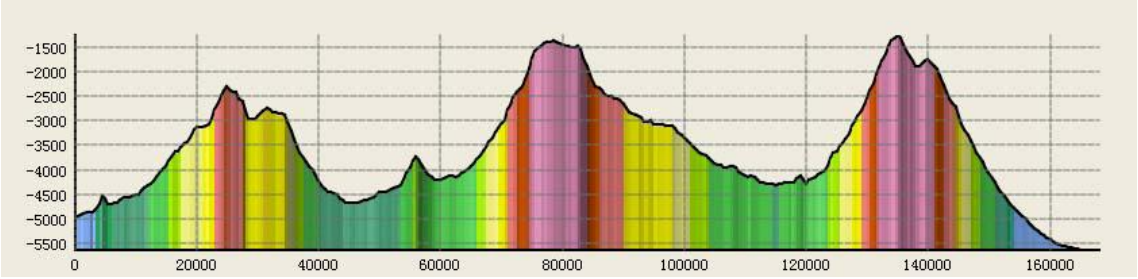


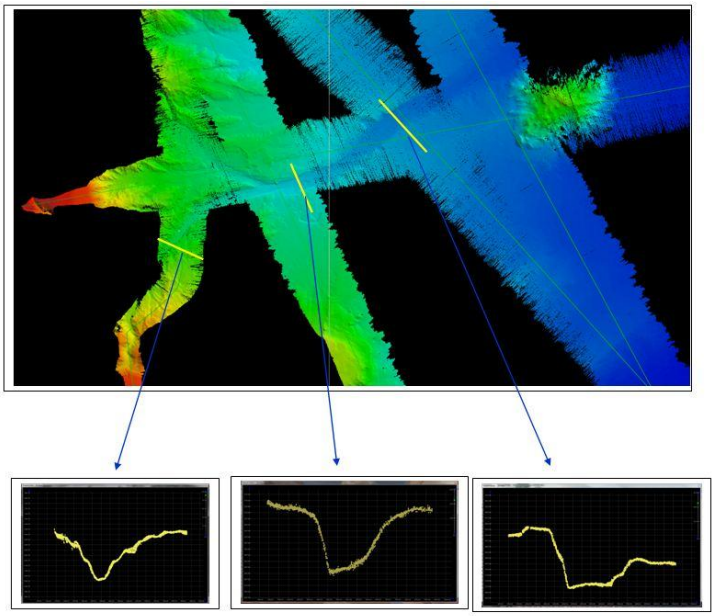


3.4. A 2D bathymetric oriented profile of the proposed feature with an index map showing the location of the profile.

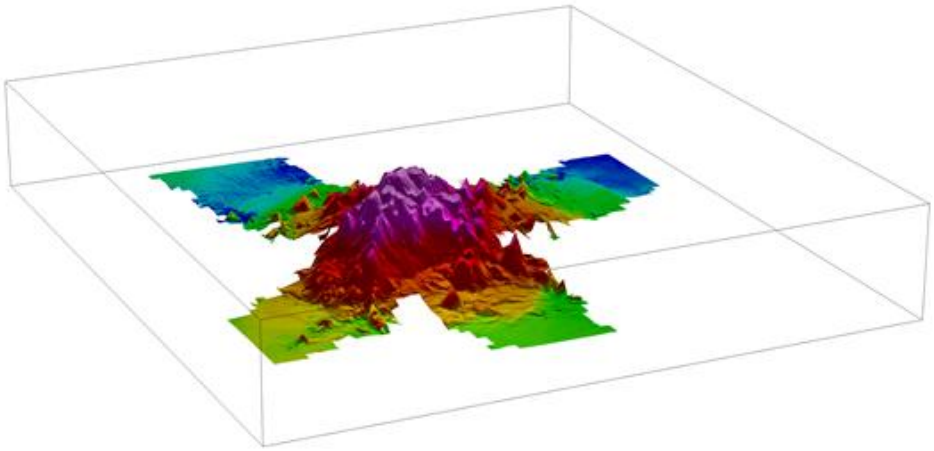


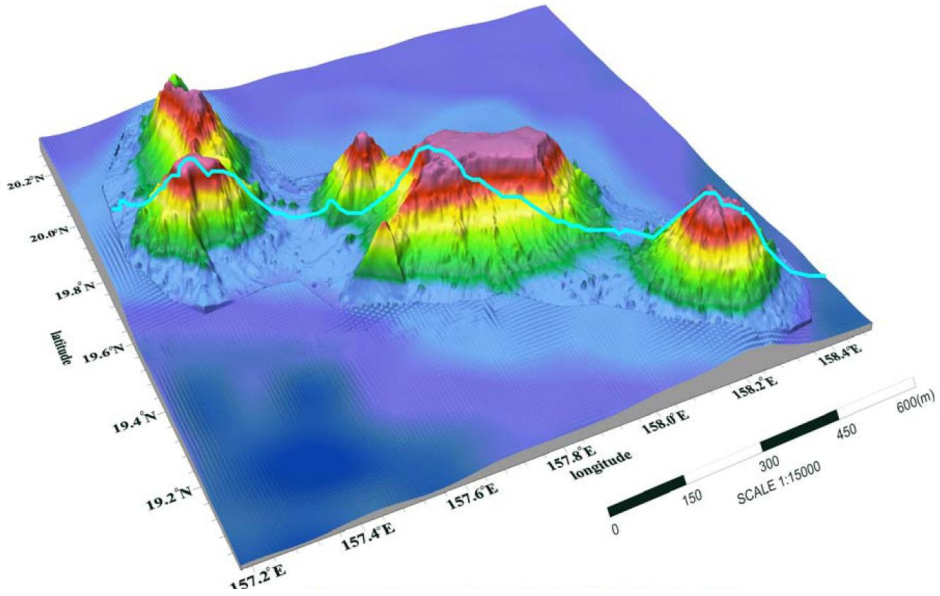






3.5. A 3D Terrain Model.





Other examples can be included by SCUFN

4. CONCLUSION

The undersea feature name proposal form should be completed with all available and reliable information in order to better define the submarine feature. As the number of undersea feature name proposals submitted to SCUFN has been increasing over the years, the more complete the proposal, the more consistent and rapid will be the response of the SCUFN members thus avoiding having to make additional requests to the proposer. Once the proposal is approved, the feature name will be inserted in the publication IHO-IOC B-8 "GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names" and in the associated GEBCO database.