

Initial Response from the Chair of the 'NZ Undersea Feature Naming Committee' on three Italian undersea feature name proposals located in the Ross Sea, Antarctica

OGS Explora Mounds
Vulcano di fango Tergeste
Vulcano di fango Iulia

- There is insufficient time to process the proposals through the Undersea Feature Names Committee and the NZ Geographic Board (NZGB), in time for the 2012 SCUFN meeting.
- New Zealand recommends that SCUFN **defers** consideration of the proposals to allow sufficient time for them to be processed and considered by the Undersea Feature Names Committee and the NZGB.
- The proposals can be considered at the 2013 SCUFN meeting, which will have the benefit of having been through the NZGB's process which is similar to its own, and SCUFN will have the benefit of the NZGB's decisions.
- This is an opportunity for SCUFN to follow the NZGB's new *Protocol for Undersea Feature Naming*, which was developed to encourage SCUFN to request other countries proposing undersea feature names within the NZGB's area of interest to make a proposal to the Board in the first instance.
- It is acknowledged that the Protocol has only recently been advised to SCUFN as an agenda item for the 2012 meeting.
- **Other points to note:**
 - 'Mounds' is not a generic feature type accepted by SCUFN in its B6 Guidelines publication, nor is it listed in the NZGB's Standard for Undersea Feature Names.
 - 'Mud Volcano' was agreed at the 2011 SCUFN meeting as a new generic feature type – see Report 3.1 page 5. Note that the spelling of 'Vulcano di fango' is in the Italian language. Refer to SCUFN's standard B6-B1: "Generic terms should be selected from the following list of definitions to reflect physiographic descriptions of features" and B6-B2: "Generic terms applied to features appearing on charts or other products should be in the language of the nation issuing the products. In those cases where terms have achieved international usage in a national form, that form should be retained." Mud Volcano is not an agreed generic term approved by the NZGB.
 - Research is needed on whether there are existing names for these features.
 - Polygon coordinates have not been provided to cover all 15 of the 'OGS Explora Mounds' proposal.
 - The NZGB discourages the use of acronyms (eg. OGS for Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale).
 - The association of the three names based around the OGS agency is noted.

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