



**PROTOCOL FOR UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMING
IN THE AREA OF INTEREST OF THE NEW
ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD NGĀ POU
TAUNAHA O AOTEAROA**

Date: 31 August 2012

Interested Parties:

- New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB)
- Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)
- Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Standing Committee in Antarctic Geographic Information (SC-AGI)
- National Naming Authorities listed in footnote¹

Background:

- The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) has responsibility for assigning, approving, altering or discontinuing the use of names for geographic features, undersea features and Crown protected areas in New Zealand.
- The NZGB Undersea Feature Names Committee seeks to collaborate with interested national naming authorities on the naming of undersea features in the NZGB's area of interest, including in the Ross Sea Region of Antarctica.
- The NZGB is aware of other nations who have submitted proposals for undersea feature names in the NZGB's area of interest to SCUFN.
- The NZGB does not oppose any other nation making name proposals within the NZGB's area of interest.
- The NZGB and the US-ACAN have had an agreement for shared naming of geographic features in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica since 1986.
- The NZGB considers there may be some risks if proposals are not considered by the NZGB, for example, checking whether the feature already has a name, checking against the NZGB naming criteria unique to the New Zealand situation such as the existence of original Māori names and their correct orthography, taking account of any sensitivities, and making sure the proposed name is appropriate.

Request:

- Therefore, in accordance with the guidelines contained in IHO-IOC Publication B-6 'Standardisation of Undersea Feature Names', the NZGB requests that other nations

¹ Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Committee (AANMC)
United States Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (US-ACAN)
United States Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (US-ACUF)
Italy: Comitato per i Nomi Geografici in Antartide (CNGA)
Republic of Korea: National Geography Information Institute (NGII)
France: La Commission nationale de toponymie (CNT)

consult with the NZGB before naming undersea features within the NZGB's area of interest and before submitting them to SCUFN.

Area of Interest of the NZGB:

The NZGB has responsibility for assigning, approving, altering or discontinuing the use of names for geographic features (eg place names), undersea features and Crown protected areas in New Zealand, its offshore islands and its continental shelf², and the Ross Dependency of Antarctica³ (NZGB's area of interest).

Refer to: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/placenames>.

Definitions:

Undersea Features Names Committee (UFNC) is an advisory committee under the NZGB established to provide advice and recommendations to the NZGB in respect of undersea feature names within the NZGB's naming jurisdiction.

Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) is a committee of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO). SCUFN establishes naming guidelines, selects undersea feature names and encourages their use on GEBCO products. Refer to: <http://www.gebco.net/>

Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is an interdisciplinary committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU). SCAR is charged with initiating, developing and coordinating high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region, and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. Refer to: <http://www.scar.org/>

Standing Committee in Antarctic Geographic Information (SC-AGI) is a standing committee of SCAR responsible for the Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica.

United States Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (US-ACAN) is an advisory committee under the United States Board on Geographic Names (USBGN). It was established to advise the USBGN on matters of toponymy in Antarctica, as well as to process new name proposals and name change proposals in Antarctica to present to the NZGB for decisions.

Purpose of the Protocol:

This Protocol is intended to establish principles and processes for collaborating with interested national naming authorities in the assigning of undersea feature names in the NZGB's area of interest.

Naming Guidelines:

- NZGB Interim Standard for Undersea Feature Names NZGBS60000, refer to: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/about-linz/news-publications-and-consultations/search-for-regulatory-documents/DocumentSummary.aspx%3Fdocument%3D234>
- IHO-OIC Publication B-6 – Standardisation of Undersea Feature Names, refer to [http://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea feature names/documents/b_6.pdf](http://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names/documents/b_6.pdf)

² New Zealand continental shelf as defined in section 2(1) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964, ie the seabed and subsoil of those submarine areas that extend beyond the territorial limits of New Zealand, throughout the natural prolongation of the land territory of New Zealand, to the seaward-side boundaries.

³ Ross Dependency as defined in section 7(1) of the Antarctica (Environmental Protection) Act 1994, ie includes all islands and ice shelves within the Dependency, and the continental shelf of the Dependency – between 160° E and 150° W Longitude and south of 60° S Latitude (refer to NZ Gazette, 1923, p.2211-2212 – Order in Council defining the Ross Dependency)

- The NZGB will respect other nation's naming guidelines. It is acknowledged that views may differ, and efforts will be made to resolve differences. However, there may be times when it is agreed to differ. This may result in a new name being formally assigned by one participant, but not by the other. It is not intended that two different names will be assigned to the same feature.

Process for Undersea Feature Naming Proposals:

Refer to <http://www.linz.govt.nz/placenames/propose-a-name/undersea-features>

Decisions:

- The national naming authority will consult with the NZGB regarding proposed undersea feature names in NZGB's area if interest.
- Decisions made by the NZGB will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, in its electronic Gazetteer and on the internet – refer to: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/placenames/decisions>. Publication in the *New Zealand Gazette* is conclusive evidence that the undersea feature name is official.

Process Flow Chart:

The process flow chart at:

<http://www.linz.govt.nz/sites/default/files/docs/placenames/proposingaplacename/flowcharts/undersea-feature-names-process-200607.pdf> provides a guide to how the NZGB, SCUFN and other relevant/appropriate national and international naming authorities will interact.

Acknowledgements:

- Timeliness: sufficient time should be allowed for the NZGB to consider proposals, given that it generally meets only twice a year, and SCUFN annually (usually September/October).
- This Protocol, while not legally binding, represents a firm commitment by all participants to work in collaboration with each other when seeking to assign undersea feature names within the NZGB's area of interest.
- The Protocol does not detract from the existing rights of either the NZGB or SCUFN or other relevant/appropriate national and international naming authorities.

Monitoring:

- The NZGB will review this Protocol as required.



SIGNED on behalf of the **NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD** by **DON GRANT, Chairperson of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa**