

United States Board on  
Geographic Names  
**261st Quarterly Meeting**



**Report of the Advisory Committee on  
Undersea Features (ACUF);  
Meeting No. 341 & No. 342**

**Meeting No. 341** Location:

NOAA, Silver Spring, MD  
1315 East West Hwy, SSMC-3,  
Room 6836  
Nov. 19, 2013; 12:00 p.m.- 3:45 p.m.

**Meeting No. 342** Location:

USGS, Reston, VA  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Room 2A 229  
Apr 3, 2014; 12:45 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

*Members:*

Norm CHERKIS, Naval Research Laboratory (retired)  
John McDONOUGH, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Susan RUSSELL-ROBINSON, United States Geological Survey (USGS)  
Alexander (Sandy) SHOR, University of Hawaii  
Christine TAYLOR, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)  
Gerry WALTER, ACUF Chairman, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)  
Meredith WESTINGTON, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

*Ex Officio:*

Trent PALMER, BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names,  
Nat'l Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)  
Jimmy NERANTZIS, Acting ACUF Secretary,  
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)

## 1) MEETINGS

ACUF Meeting No. 341 Report, and updated with information from ACUF Meeting No. 342

## 2) UNDERSEA FEATURE NAME RECOMMENDATIONS/ (ACUF No. 341)

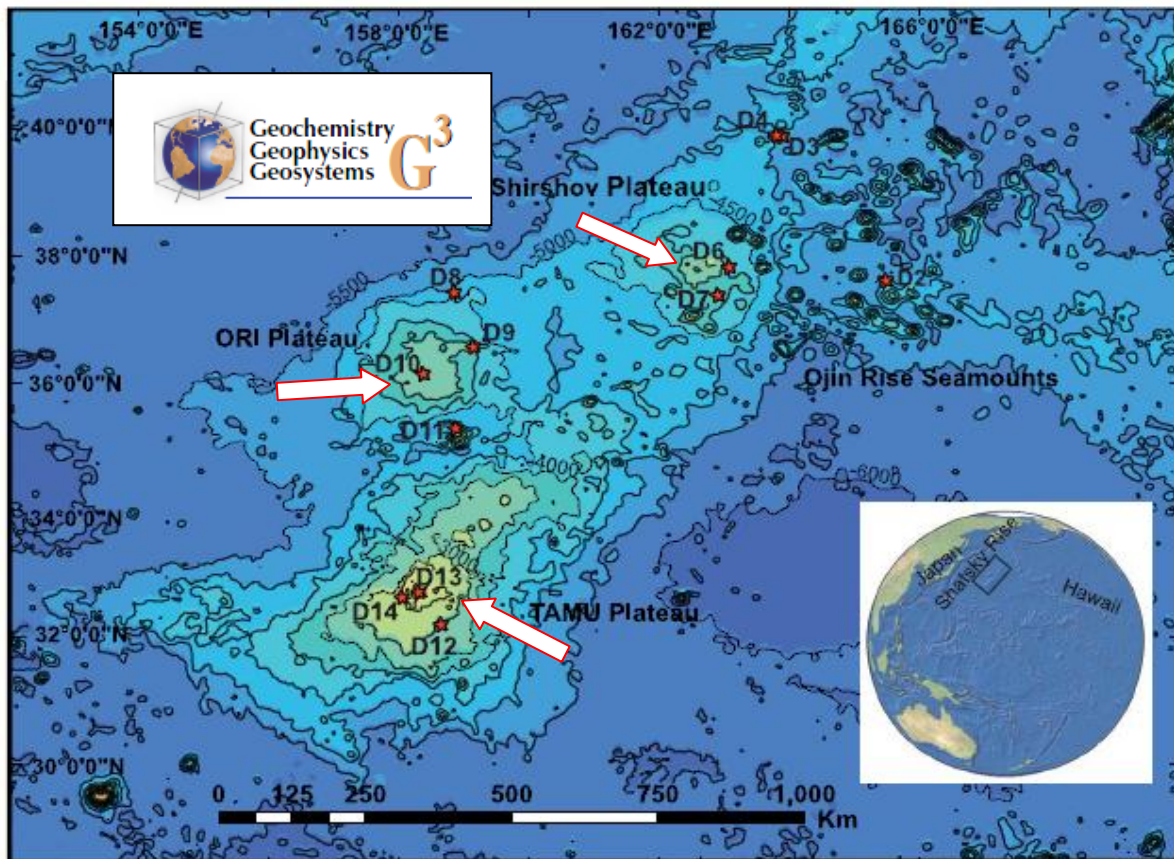
The Advisory Committee examined and discussed 3 features on Shatsky Rise, and voted unanimously to approve each of them for final BGN approval. Shatsky Rise is located in the Northwest Pacific about 1,000 miles East/Southeast of Japan.

The names were proposed by the University of Houston, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. POC/ Mr. William W. Sager.

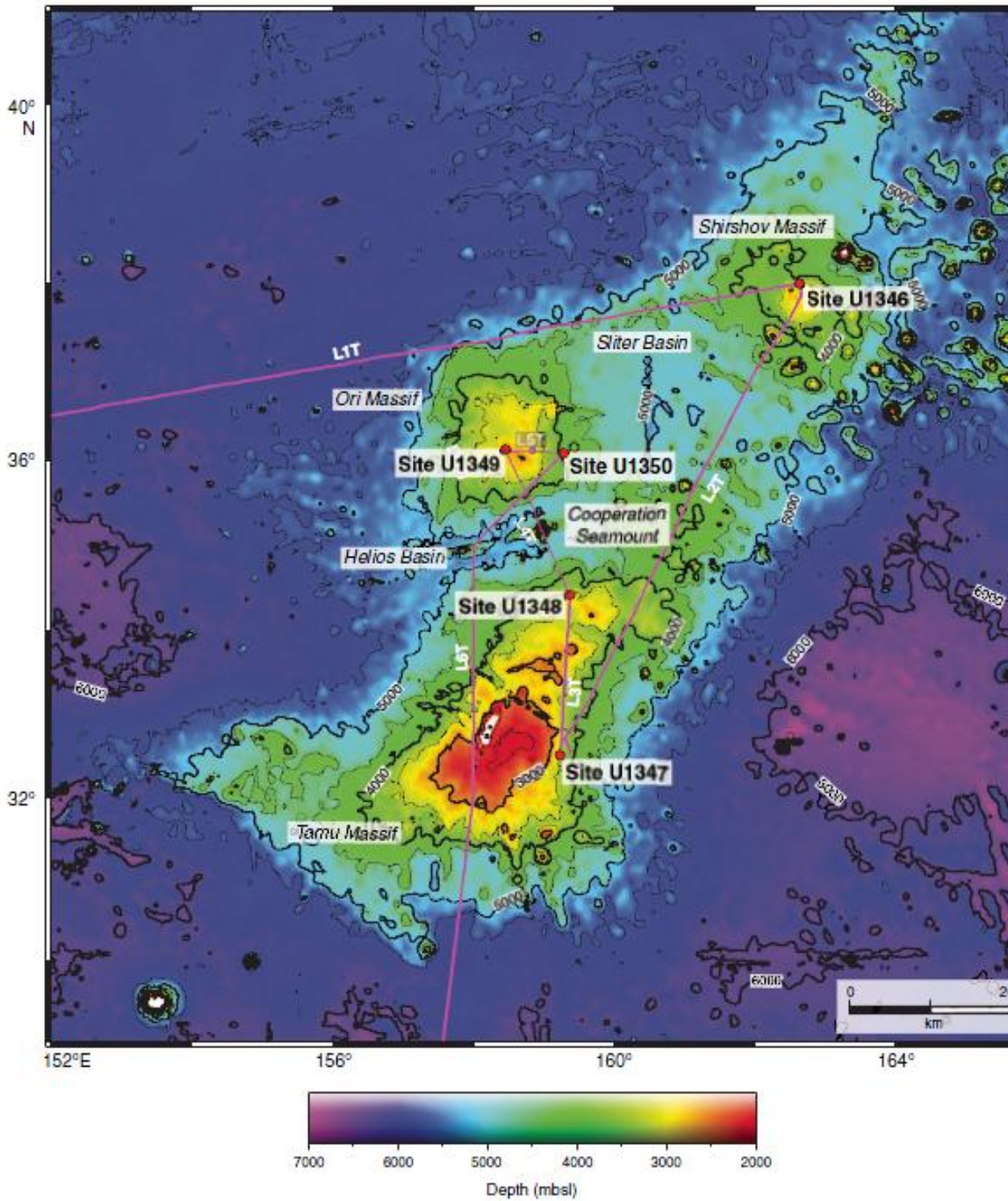
The 3 undersea features are:

- 1.) **ORI Plateau**, 2) **Shirshov Plateau**, and, 3) **TAMU Plateau**  
(Originally proposed as: *Ori Massif*, *Shirshov Massif* and *Tamu Massif*)

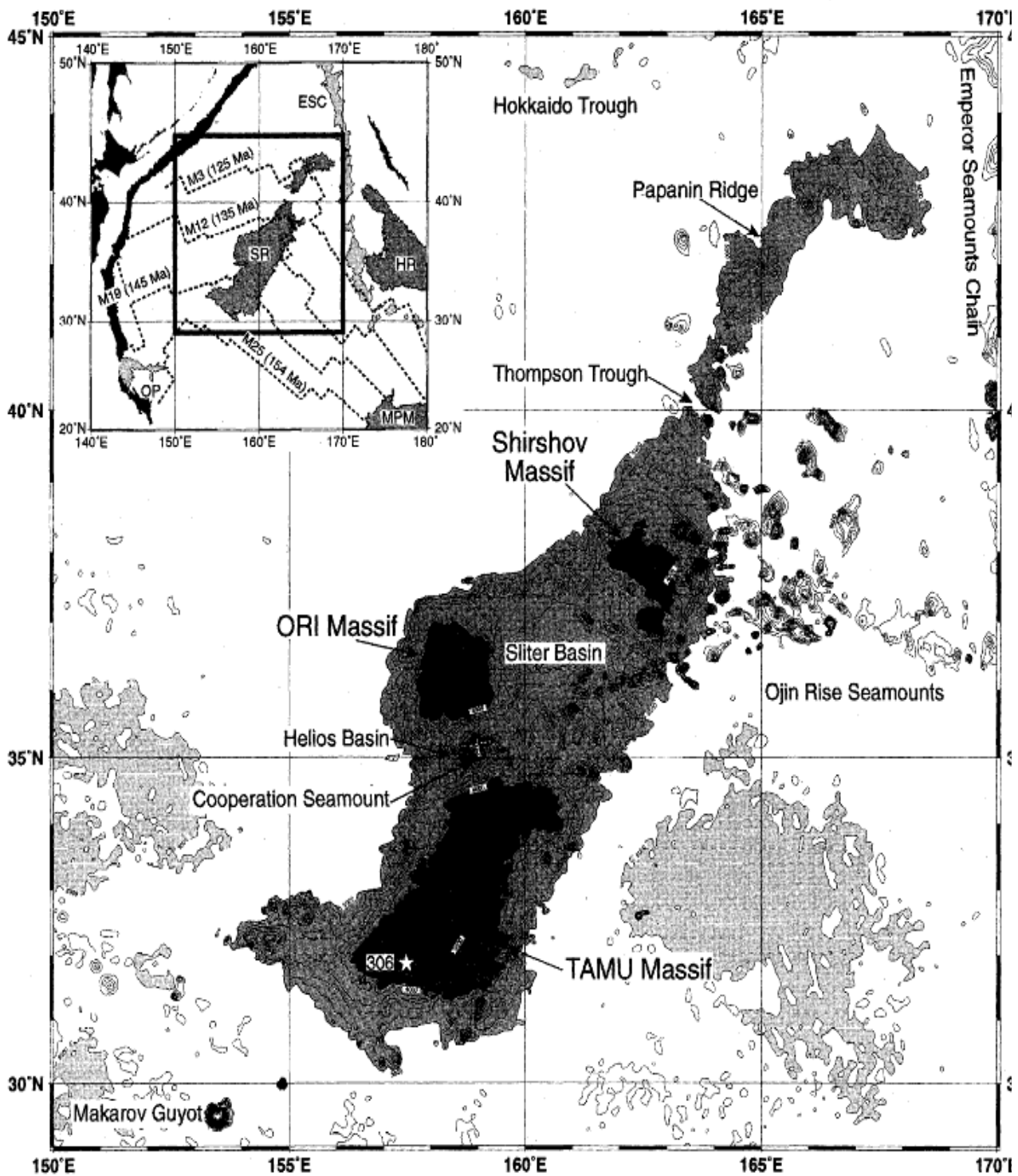
### Publication example 1: From report, Hein\_etal\_GC12.pdf



Publication example 2: From report, Kang\_etal\_PIODP10.pdf



Publication example 3: From report, Nakanishi\_etal\_JGR99.pdf



Bases for ACUF approval of the following names:

- a.) **ORI Plateau**, b.) **Shirshov Plateau**, and, c.) **TAMU Plateau**

1.) The names, **ORI**, **Shirshov** and **TAMU** are being used in many scientific journals and publications

2.) Each of the proper names were accepted, being names of institutions that collaborated in the geophysical study of these undersea features.

a) **ORI**; *Ocean Research Institute (of the Univ. of Tokyo)*

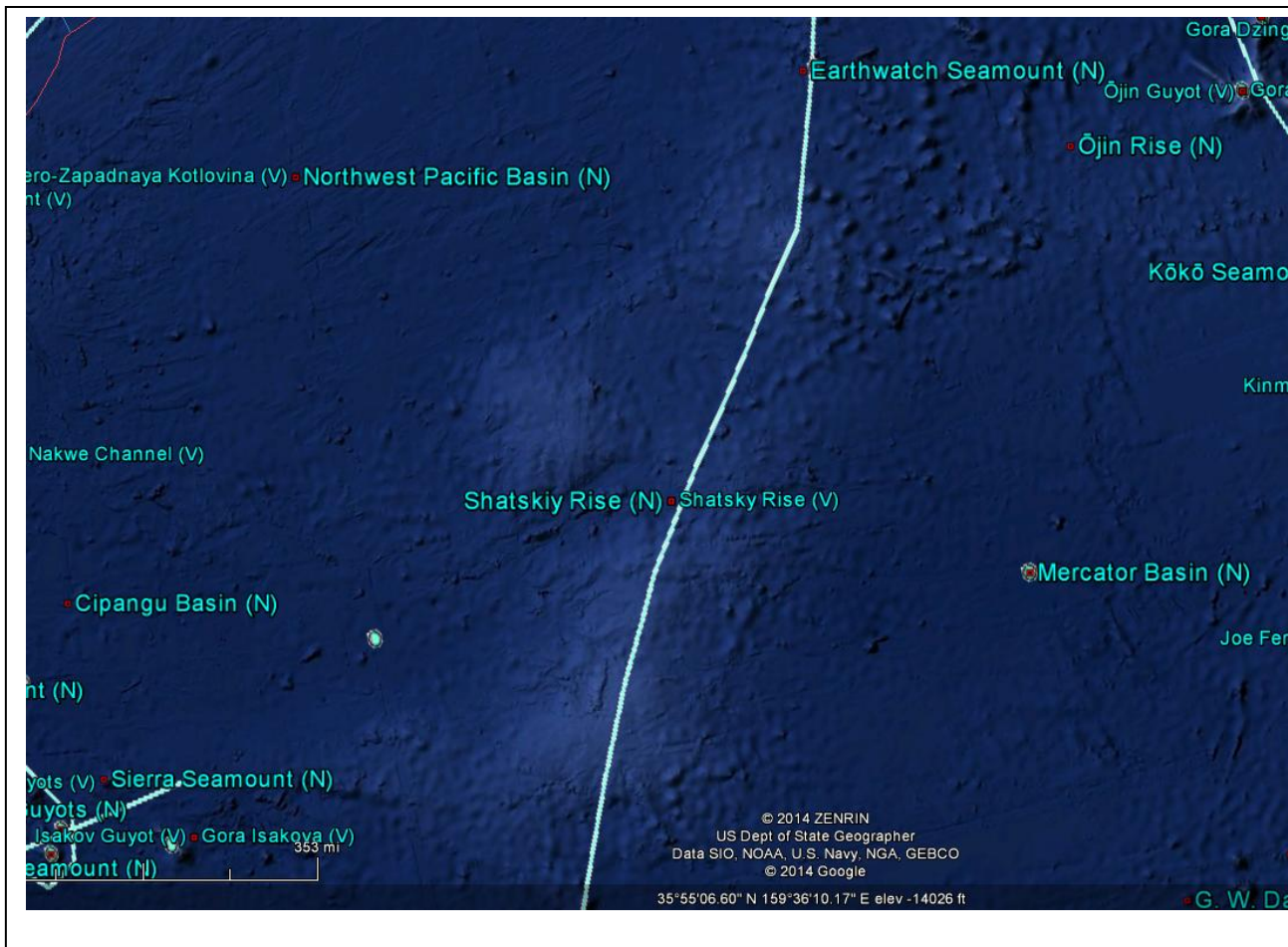
b) **Shirshov**; *P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanography (in Russia)*

c) **TAMU**; *Texas A&M University*

3.) After the examination of the graphics in the publications, (ex. 'Hein\_etal\_GC12.pdf'), the Committee decided 'Plateau' to be a better description of the present morphology of the features, (although each is understood by oceanographers to be ancient volcanos).

4.) Although the proposer preferred using upper/lower case for 'Ori' and 'Tamu', the Committee decided to modify the 'case' to upper/upper, (ORI and TAMU), since the names are acronyms.

5.) No conflicts in with GNS Undersea Features



## 6.) No Conflicts with SCUFN database.

www.ngdc.noaa.gov/gazetteer/

Apps Getting Started Imported From Firef...

# GEBCO Undersea Feature Names Gazetteer

Global Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

### Undersea Feature Search

Name:

Type (2):

Proposer:

Discoverer:

Assoc. Meeting:

Search results: 221 features found.

- Afanasij Nikitin Seamount
- African Seamount
- Agulhas Ridge
- Amami Calderas
- Amundsen Abyssal Plain
- Andaman-Nicobar Ridge
- Anderle Knoll
- Antarctic Canyon
- Antipodes Fracture Zone
- Aotea Seamount
- Ascension Fracture Zone
- Astrid Ridge
- Australian-Antarctic Basin
- Avos Knoll
- Axthelm Seamount
- Ballance Seamount
- Barker Bank
- Behaim Seamount
- Belgica Bank

Position: 161.851, 36.862

### Voting Results:

The proposed names and features were unanimously approved by the ACUF, (4 in favor, and none opposed), to be recommended to the US BGN for final approval.

- 1.) ORI Plateau** is located at center point **36° 18' 56.8"N, 158° 30' 00.0"E**  
The feature is located on the Shatsky Rise about 1,000 miles East/SE of Japan.
- 2.) Shirshov Plateau** is located at center point **37° 50' 14.7"N, 162° 40' 00.0"E**  
The feature is located on the Shatsky Rise about 1,000 miles East/SE of Japan.
- 3.) TAMU Plateau** is located at center point **32° 34' 01.3"N, 158° 25' 00.0"E**  
The feature is located on the Shatsky Rise about 1,000 miles East/SE of Japan.

### 3.) OTHER NAMES PROPOSED BUT NOT APPROVED BY ACUF/ (ACUF No. 341)

#### 3.1 Texas A&M Name Proposals: '134' features/names in the Gulf of Mexico

**The Committee examined the names that were presented in the spreadsheet and map, and determined not to proceed to vote on any of the proposed names until further information is received. As an action item, the POC was informed.**

1.) Many of the names in the spreadsheet are of 'living' and 'not-living' persons.

It was conveyed to the proposers, that they provide to the BGN/ ACUF, detailed biographies of those persons that show, they..."have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences."

2.) Many names were North American, native/ indigenous names, that did not conform to either Federal or State approved spellings.

3.) Some feature types not presently recognized by the ACUF and BGN (ex. Dome, Channel).

#### 3.2 GNS edits for South China Sea features and names; (found thru NGA research)

#### **(ACUF No. 32)**

The ACUF members received the spreadsheet containing the proposed edits for geographic features in the South China Sea region, and were introduced to the effort and proposals that NGA is making. There was not sufficient time to discuss the issue at length.

This issue will continue at the next ACUF Meeting.

### 4.) SCUFN APPROVED NAMES: (ACUF No. 341)

EXAMINATION OF SCUFN APPROVED NAMES FOR 'POSSIBLE' BGN ADOPTION.

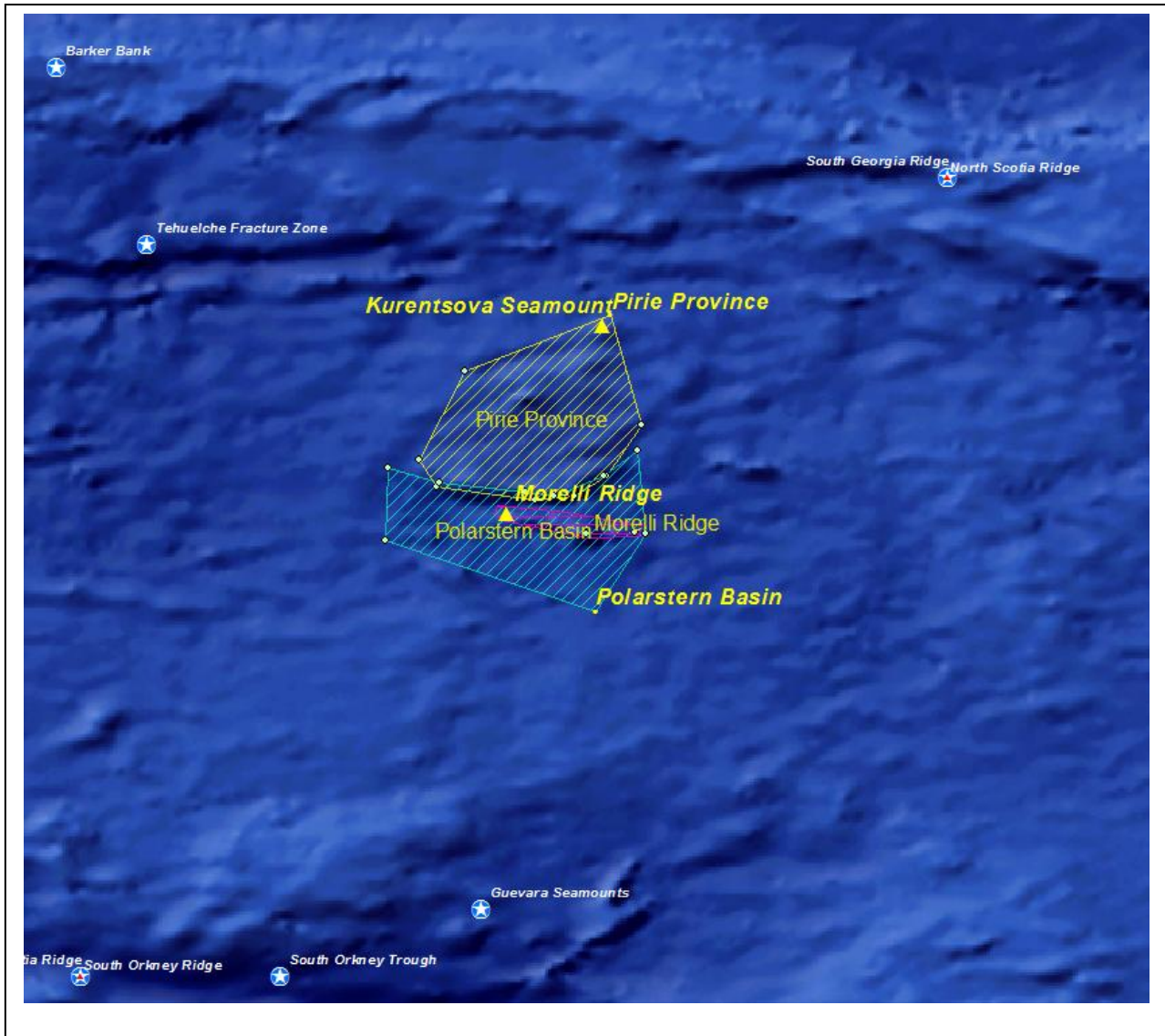
4.1. The Committee examined the SCUFN report ('*SCUFN\_Report\_v1 (2).doc*'), that listed the undersea features that (the) SCUFN examined, discussed and voted on at their 23<sup>rd</sup> SCUFN Meeting in Lima, Peru, 11-14, Sept 2010.

4.2. It was determined, that the Report gave sufficient information and detail, so as not to require the ACUF and BGN to require surveys or other graphics to begin discussion.

4.3. ACUF plans to examine these SCUFN names in geographical context with GNS names at the next ACUF Meeting.

#### 4.) SCUFN APPROVED NAMES: (ACUF No. 342)

4.4 The ACUF examined and analyzed the list of over 50 SCUFN undersea features that were 'Accepted' at the SCUFN-23 Annual Meeting in Peru, 2010. These features were plotted and shown in context with GNS Undersea features to recognize any potential conflicts.



4.5 Of the nearly 50 features, all but 4 features had no conflicts with the GNS database.

-The 4 features mentioned above will be further examined with bathymetry

-The ACUF will vote on this list of names (SCUFN-23/ 2010) as a whole unit, only after the 4 features are examined and de-conflicted.

4.6 It was emphasized that now that a process has been developed to examine and analyze the backlog of SCUFN names, it is foreseeable that more name can be examined in the near future.



## 5.) Request for Information

Mr. Michael Ravnitsky, reporter, researcher and activist, requests ACUF Minutes.

After discussion with ACUF members, and consultation with BGN Executive Committee, it was advised that the requested information be sent to Mr. Ravnitsky without any changes.

-ACUF 341 Minutes\_Final.doc was sent

- Mr. Ravnitsky also requested other ACUF Meeting Minutes to be posted on the website.

This has not been discussed yet.

6.) ACUF member Julie CONKLIN, (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) ) Resigned from ACUF; She is not able to participate with ACUF Meetings because of other obligations. She might be available in the future

7.) The next ACUF meeting is tentative planned for July.