

Principles and Applications of Ocean Feature Nomenclature



PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS of OCEAN FEATURE NOMENCLATURE

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"Undersea feature" is a part of the ocean floor or seabed that has measurable relief or is delimited by relief

(Guidelines for the Standardization of Undersea Feature Names, IHO-IOC Publication B-6, 2001)

Generic name, e.g. seamount, canyon, fracture zone

Proper name, e.g. Albert de Monaco, Challenger, Gambia, Gauss



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Need for:

- **An uniform policy for the handling of undersea feature names;**
- **Standardisation of undersea feature names;**

...in order to achieve consistent geographic naming on nautical charts and bathymetric maps.

Undersea Feature Names Terms and Definitions (Nomenclature)

- 8th Internatinal Geographical Congress, 1904
- IHO, 1924
- IHO-IOC, 1981
- IHO-IOC, 1988
- IHO-IOC, 2001

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)

- **Established in 1974 to oversee the standardization of seafloor topographic usage on GEBCO 5th edition sheets**
- **Scope extended to nautical charts (small scale INT charts) and sheets/products of all International Bathymetric Chart (IBC) projects**
- **Nomenclature and Gazetteer**
- **Marine geology; Geomorphology; Marine history; Oceanic hydrography/bathymetry**

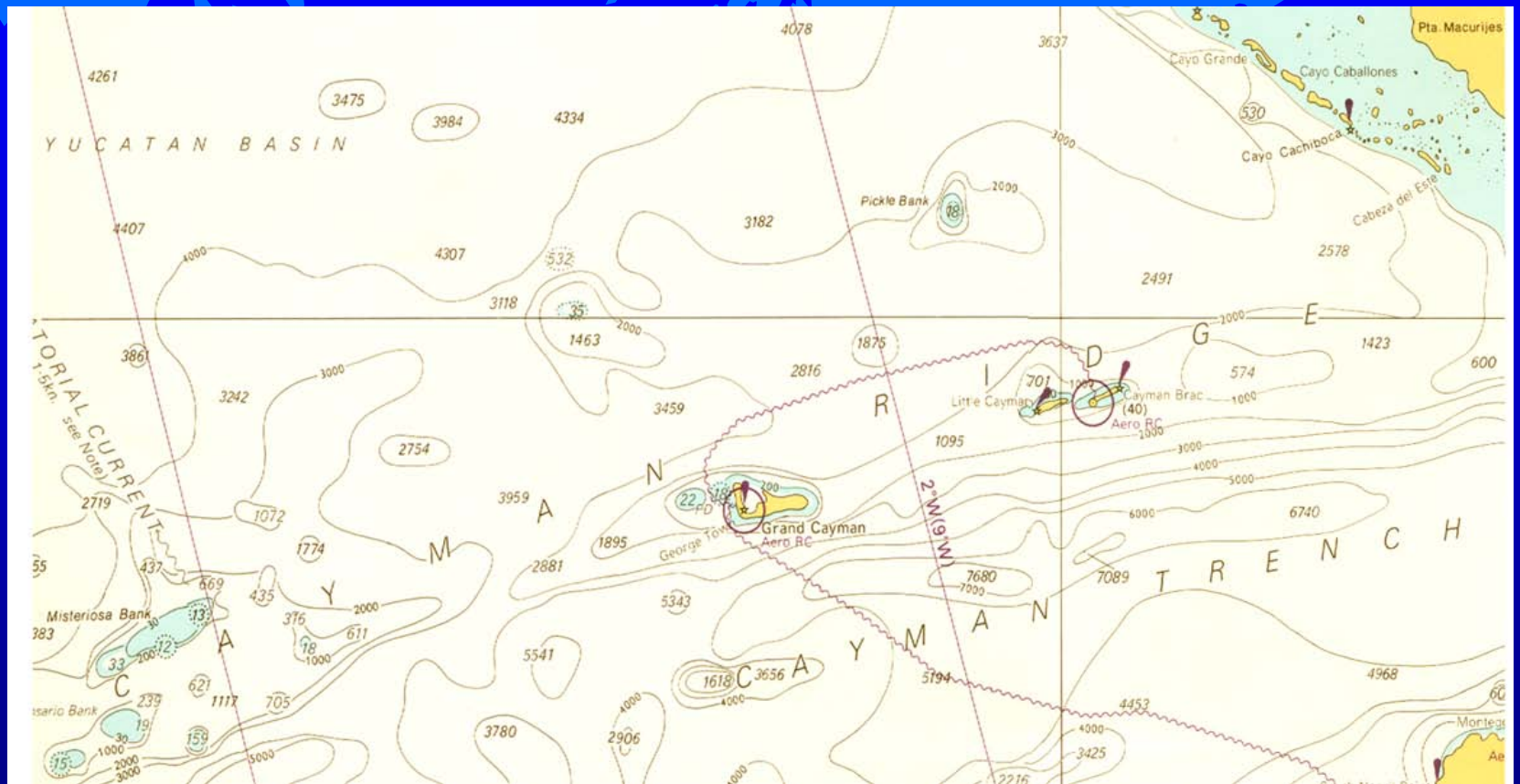
SCUFN's Liaisons

- **Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF), of the US BGN**
- **UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

“The Sub-Committee shall maintain close liaison with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names and national authorities concerned with the naming of undersea features”

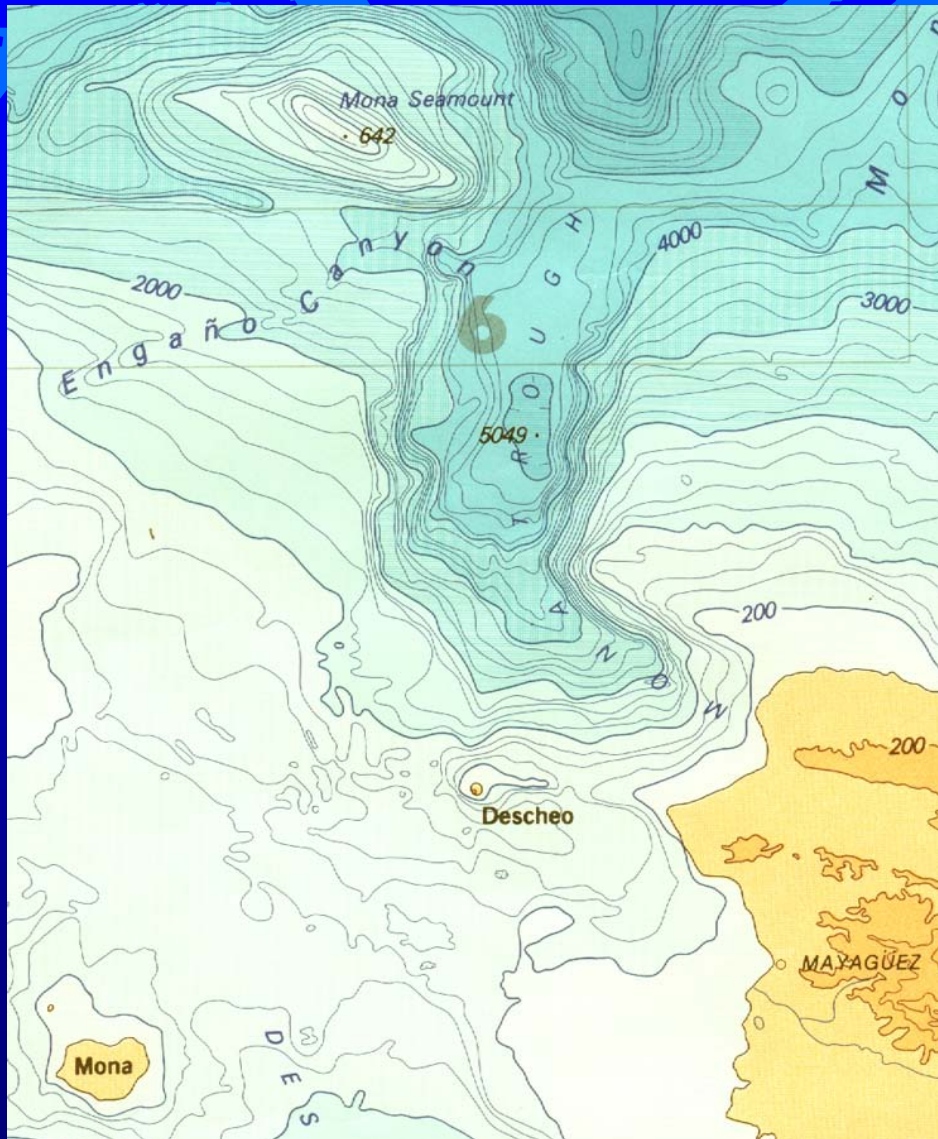
(SCUFN's Terms of Reference)

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INT CHART

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**BATHYMETRIC
MAP**

NOMENCLATURE

UNDERSEA FEATURE TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

SLOPE

The deepening sea floor out from the shelf-edge to the upper limit of the continental rise, or the point where there is a general decrease in steepness.

GUIDELINES

Some rules ...

- **SCUFN work is limited to those features entirely or mainly (more than 50%) outside waters under the jurisdiction of states, i.e. outside territorial waters, usually limited to 12 miles from the straight baseline.**
- **When two names have been applied to the same feature, the older name generally should be accepted. When a single name has been applied to two different features, the feature named first generally should retain the name.**

GUIDELINES

Some rules (cont.) ...

- **The first choice of a specific term, where feasible, should be one associated with a geographical feature; e.g.: Aleutian Ridge, Peru-Chile Trench.**
- **Specific terms for other features can be used to commemorate ships, expeditions or scientific institutes, or to honour the memory of famous persons.**
- **Names of living persons should be limited to those who have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences.**

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GEBCO GAZETTEER

Name: Bob Fisher

Feature: Ridge

Position: 43 45'S - 41 45'E to 36 00'S - 45 10'E to 41 30'S - 42 18'E
to 40 00'S - 43 08'E to 38 00'S - 43 50'E

Proposer: J. Sclater/A. Goodwillie, SIO, USA **Date:** 04/1998

Discoverer: **Date:**

History: Named after Dr. Robert L. Fisher, SIO, the most active contributor to GEBCO over the years, currently through his recontouring of the whole of the greater Indian Ocean, from 10 W to 165 E and south to Antarctica, and also his erudite leadership as Chairman of GEBCO-SCUFN.

Referenced: GEBCO 5.09

Accredited: SCUFN/13-06/1999

**NOMENCLATURE
and
GUIDELINES**

for submission of names

in IHO-IOC Publication B-6

« Standardisation of Undersea Feature Names »

available from

www.ngdc.gov/mgg/gebco/gebco.htm

English/French and English/Spanish

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

- Undersea Feature Name Proposal Form

Available from GEBCO website

www.ngdc.gov/mgg/gebco/gebco.htm

- Submit to Secretariat of SCUFN

International Hydrographic Bureau

<pac@ihb.mc>

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS (Cont)

Main Criterias

- **Supporting bathymetric evidence**
- **Reason for choice of name**
- **Discovery facts: date, ship, position and depth accuracy**

SCUFN RULES OF PROCEDURES

- **Meetings once a year**
- **Work by correspondence between meetings**
- **Decisions by consensus, as far as possible**
- **Close collaboration with ACUF (of U.S. BGN)**

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GEBCO GAZETTEER

Name: ALCOCK

Feature: Rise

Position: 12 30'N - 94 40'E

Proposer: Dr J.R. Curray, SIO, USA **Date:** 10/1993

Discoverer: IIOE Ships **Date:** 00/1960

History: A. Alcock (UK) made marine studies in the late 1800s.

Author of "A Naturalist in Indian Seas", London, 1902.

His name was suggested for "Seamounts" by Rodolfo, 1969.

Referenced: GEBCO 5.05

Accredited: SCUFN/11-05/1995

GEBCO GAZETTEER

- **Gazetteer database maintained at the IHB**
- **3300 names (March 2003)**
- **Available from GEBCO website as an Excel file**

www.ngdc.gov/mgg/gebco/gebco.htm

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