



Guidance Notes ***when proposing an Official Geographic Name for an Undersea Feature***

Introduction

Under the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008, which came into force on 1 November 2008, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (the Board) may assign, alter, discontinue, approve, or review and, where appropriate, adopt, names for undersea features within New Zealand's 12 nautical mile (NM) territorial limit, over New Zealand's continental shelf, and over the continental shelf of the Ross Dependency, Antarctica.

Notes

- The information sought for proposals conforms with that information required by the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), which will consider the proposal after assigned, altered, discontinued, approved, or reviewed and adopted, by the Board.
- Assigned names apply to *new* official¹ undersea names.
- Altered names apply to *existing* undersea names, whether official or recorded², and include spelling changes.
- Discontinued names apply to *existing* undersea name, whether official or recorded. The Board has discretion not to publicly notify the discontinued recorded undersea names outside the 12 NM territorial limit – Section 24(2) of the Act refers.
- Approved names apply to *existing* recorded undersea names. The Board has discretion not to publicly notify these outside the 12 NM territorial limit – Section 24(2) of the Act refers.
- Refer to Section 4 of the Act for definitions of official geographic name, geographic feature and feature, recorded name, and undersea feature.
- Section 25 of the Act, Geographic features outside territorial limits:
 - (1) The provisions of sections 16 to 20 (the process for approving proposals, including public notification, receiving submissions from the public, and determination of either the Board or the Minister) do not apply if, in relation to a geographic feature that is outside the territorial limits of New Zealand, the Board carries out the function of—
 - (a) assigning an official geographic name; or
 - (b) altering an official geographic name.
 - (2) However, the Board must—
 - (a) consult with any relevant national and international naming authorities that it considers appropriate; and
 - (b) as soon as is reasonably practicable, give public notice of the official geographic name in accordance with section 21(2).
- Section 26 of the Act, Adoption of existing names for undersea features:
 - (1) The Board may review, and, if appropriate, adopt as official geographic names the existing names of undersea features that are within the Board's jurisdiction, for example, names published in the GEBCO Gazetteer or on official charts or official maps.
 - (2) If the Board exercises its power under subsection (1),—
 - (a) the provisions of sections 16 to 20 do not apply; but
 - (b) the Board must, as soon as is reasonably practicable, give public notice of the names adopted under subsection (1) in accordance with section 21(2).

Research and consultation

There are a number of sources to help with research, e.g. the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS), the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), General Bathymetric Charts of the Ocean (GEBCO), the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Ministry of Fisheries, local iwi, fishing industry, etc.

¹ Official geographic name is one that has been gazetted by the Board, or included in Treaty settlement legislation, or is a pre-2008 Crown protected area name.

² Recorded name is not official but is shown in at least two publications that are publicly available and, in the Board's view, are authoritative.

Proposers are encouraged to consult as appropriate. The Board will consult with agencies, as required or appropriate, and will ensure that official undersea feature names are advised to SCUFN.

Whether or not a proposer has undertaken their own consultation with iwi, the Board will follow its usual processes in terms of the 'Protocol for Māori Place Names' – see <http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/placenames/proposingaplacename/protocol-maoriv2.pdf>. However, this process may be abbreviated where good documentary evidence of iwi consultation is provided.

It is important that copies of all documentary evidence from sources consulted are attached to the proposal. It is also important that evidence is provided of any consultations that have taken place with interested parties.

The proposal form

To ensure the proposal is complete, the following notes are provided for assistance when filling out the proposal form. The following numbers correspond to the numbers on the proposal form.

1. *Proposal to assign a new name, alter an existing name, discontinue an existing name, approve a recorded name, or review and adopt an existing name*

This applies to an undersea geographic feature within New Zealand's 12NM territorial limit, and beyond to include New Zealand's continental shelf, as well as the continental shelf of the Ross Dependency, Antarctica. A primary or specific name is to be provided, along with the generic geographic feature type, e.g. Hatherton Seamounts, Heemskerck Fracture Zone, Kaiwhata Bank, Tasman Escarpment. Any other applicable details relating to the proposal should be included.

2. *Current or alternative geographic name*

If the undersea geographic feature already has a name, add it here. Details of this name, such as whether it is an official undersea geographic name (i.e. gazetted) or whether it is a recorded name, or whether it is a GEBCO name should be provided, if known.

3. *Ocean or sea*

Enter the official ocean or sea names under which the proposal lies, e.g. Weddell Sea, Tasman Sea, Pacific Ocean, Southern Ocean.

4. *Geometry*

Indicate whether the proposal relates to a feature which can be identified as a point, line, or polygon spatial object or a combination of them, e.g. a seamount is classified as a point object, using the summit to identify its position; a bank is usually defined as a line object, with end points (and possibly intermediate points) identifying its position/extent.

5. *Feature coordinates*

Positional coordinates of the feature are to be provided in terms of latitude and longitude.

6. *Feature description*

The generic description or term for the type of feature being named is to be added here, e.g. Trench, Bank, Seamount. Use the list of terms and definitions published by the IHO-IOC, Publication B-6, entitled 'Standardisation of Undersea Feature Names', linked from http://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names/#features4. Description and general vicinity – give a description of the feature and its general location or vicinity. Add any other physical characteristics of the feature to assist with identification.

7. *Associated features*

Add information about the other features connected in the area, either physically and by geomorphology, or by association, or by theme, or by events, etc.

8. *Chart/map references*

Topographic map or hydrographic/bathymetric charts – annotate the location of the proposed name on a map or chart, with its extent clearly marked..

9. *Reason for choice of name*

This information should indicate the importance of naming the feature; from perspectives of science, discovery, commemorating events, honouring individuals with a connection, location and emergency response, etc.

10. *Discovery facts*

Add information about the date of discovery of the feature, and details of any existing publications which include the feature and/or name. Also person or persons who discovered, sited or mapped the feature. Add information about associated scientific events and their purpose, including participants and roles.

11. *Supporting survey data, including track controls*

Add details of any consultations, surveys, charts, maps, photographs, reports, published articles, etc. Provide any supporting information that will strengthen the proposal.

Comment on any research into the history of exploration, science, surveying, mapping, conservation, etc. that may have occurred in the area, and whether the feature or place had been referred to by another earlier name.

Naming rules for undersea features do not generally allow for the names of living people to be honoured with a feature or place named after them. Personal names will only be assigned in rare cases and must be in recognition of an outstanding or fundamental or significant contribution to New Zealand's ocean sciences. Therefore, evidence must be provided to support this. Refer to other conditions of personal naming in the Board's Frameworks.

12. *Name duplication*

Check various online databases for possible duplication of the proposed name:

- * SCUFN Gazetteer:
http://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names/documents/gazet_sept2007.xls or
http://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names/documents/gazet_sept2007.pdf
- * The Board's 'New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names':
- * Royal Australian Navy Maritime Gazetteer or Australia: <http://www.hydro.gov.au/webapps/jsp/mga/mga-search.jsp>
- * US Board on Geographic Names – Undersea Features: <http://geonames.nga.mil/ggmagaz/geonames4.asp>

The Board's rules state that duplication should be avoided wherever possible. Duplication of names is undesirable as it may cause confusion for emergency response services. Avoid the exact same combined specific and generic components of a full name. The Board may accept proposals where just the specific component of the name is duplicated, if the generic provides sufficient distinction.