



Fact Sheet: Hydrographic surveying

Proposals for hydrographic and undersea feature names

The Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) is responsible for the management of undersea feature and maritime names information as part of the place and geographic names regime of Australia.

With the inception of the Interdepartmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM), the AHO's responsibilities were adopted in Resolution R00/11/06 - Limits of Oceans and Seas and Offshore Undersea Features dated 23 May 2001. This replaced National Mapping Resolution 393.

These responsibilities encompass all aspects of researching, processing and management of:

- undersea feature names external to the coastal waters of Australia
- the names and limits of oceans and seas adjacent Australia (see Fact Sheet - Limits Of Oceans and Seas), and
- names of maritime and navigational features, coastal, hydrographic and oceanographic features not managed by State and Commonwealth place names bodies.
- Submission of approved naming proposals to the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)

As part of meeting these responsibilities, the AHO maintains the Hydrographic and Undersea Feature Names (HUFN) database. Public access to this database is still in development, however names under the authority of the AHO are published in the Gazetteer of Australia: <https://placenames.fsdf.org.au/>

Hydrographic and undersea features name proposals

Naming proposals for newly discovered or defined features, or renaming of existing features, will be considered in accordance with the following guidelines:

- ICSM Principles for the Consistent Use of Place Names
www.icsm.gov.au/sites/default/files/consistent_place_names_principles.pdf
- GEBCO Undersea Feature Names at:
www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names/

To submit a naming proposal for undersea features, maritime and navigational features, hydrographic and oceanographic features outside coastal waters, complete the Undersea Feature Name Proposal form (available at <https://hydro.gov.au/factsheets/factsheets.htm>) and send to:

Hydrographer of Australia

C/O:- Marine Information Services

Email: datacentre@hydro.gov.au

Address: Australian Hydrographic Office, 8 Station Street, Wollongong, NSW 2500

Telephone: 02 4223 6500

Proposals for place or feature names in State or Territory waters

The AHO has no jurisdiction for naming undersea feature in the coastal waters of the States, in general terms three nautical miles seaward of the coast. This responsibility lies with the State or Territory place names authority.

The public may seek advice from the AHO on the naming of maritime features in the coastal waters of the States. Such advice may be related to historical information about the features. However any proposal for a feature in the coastal waters of the States should be submitted to the relevant State or Territory place names authority.

Contact information and web addresses for State and Territory names authorities can be found at the Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN).

Permanent Committee on Place Names

The Hydrographer of Australia is a member of the Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN) which operates under the ICSM. Naming jurisdictions of PCPN submit current place names data sets annually for inclusion in the latest edition of the Gazetteer of Australia.

Details of the PCPN, the State and Territory place names agencies and members contact details, as well as strategic direction, current activities, publications, products and a teaching package can be found at:

www.icsm.gov.au/what-we-do/permanent-committee-place-names/