



FACT SHEET

Hydrographic and Undersea Feature Names

Updated 30 August 2019

Introduction

The Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) uses the Gazetteer of Australia and the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA) as the primary sources of place names shown on Australian paper and electronic nautical charts and publications.

The AHO is responsible for the management of undersea feature and maritime names information as part of the place names or geographic names regime of Australia.

Responsibilities

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

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

- a) Undersea feature names external to the coastal waters of Australia
- b) The limits and names of oceans and seas adjacent Australia (see Fact Sheet - Limits Of Oceans and Seas); and
- c) Names of maritime and navigational features, coastal, hydrographic and oceanographic features not managed by State and Commonwealth place names bodies.

The AHO maintains the Maritime Gazetteer of Australia (MGA), which comprises place names shown on Australian Nautical paper charts. The MGA is available at www.hydro.gov.au/prodserv/publications/mga/mga.htm

Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN)

The Hydrographer of Australia is a member of the Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN), which operates under the Interdepartmental Committee of Surveying and Mapping (ICSM). Naming jurisdictions of PCPN annually submit current place names data sets for the annual production of the Gazetteer of Australia.

Details of the Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN), the State and Territory place names agencies and members contact details, strategic direction, current activities, publications and products and teaching package can be found at:

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

Hydrographic and Undersea Feature Names Proposals

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 from www.hydro.gov.au.

Naming proposals 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
- IHO-IOC Publication B-6 “Standardisation of Undersea Feature Names”
www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names/documents/b6_ef_e4.1.0_2013_rev2017.pdf

Place Names Proposal in State Waters

The AHO has no jurisdiction in naming maritime features and undersea feature in the coastal waters of the state, 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. 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 these authorities can be found at the Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN).