



FACT SHEET: Hydrographic Surveying Hydrographic and Undersea Feature Name Proposals

The Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) manages undersea feature and maritime names information as part of Australia's place and geographic names framework.

Following the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping ([ICSM](#)), the AHO's responsibilities were confirmed in Resolution R00/11/06 – Limits of Oceans and Seas and Offshore Undersea Features (23 May 2001), replacing National Mapping Resolution 393.

These responsibilities include researching, processing and managing:

- undersea feature names beyond Australia's coastal waters
- the names and limits of oceans and seas adjacent to Australia (see Fact Sheet - [Limits of Oceans and Seas Around Australia](#))
- names of maritime and navigational features, and coastal, hydrographic and oceanographic features not managed by State or Commonwealth place names bodies
- submission of approved naming proposals to the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names ([SCUFN](#))

To meet these responsibilities, the AHO maintains the Hydrographic and Undersea Feature Names (HUFN) database. Public access to the database is being developed. In the meantime, names under AHO authority are available in the [Gazetteer of Australia](#).

Hydrographic and undersea features name proposals

Naming proposals for newly discovered or defined features, or for renaming existing features, will be assessed in line with the following guidelines:

- [Australian Place Naming Principles](#)
- [GEBCO Undersea Feature Names](#)

To submit a naming proposal for undersea, maritime, navigational, hydrographic or oceanographic features outside coastal waters, complete the [Undersea Feature Name Proposal](#) form and send to:

Hydrographer of Australia
C/O:- Maritime Safety Coordination
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 does not have jurisdiction over naming undersea features in State or Territory coastal waters, generally defined as three nautical miles seaward of the coast. This responsibility rests with the relevant State or Territory place names authority.

The public may seek advice from the AHO on naming maritime features in these waters, including historical information about features. However, proposals for features within State or Territory coastal waters must be submitted to the appropriate place names authority.

Contact details and web addresses for State and Territory naming authorities are available through the Place Names Working Group (PNWG).

Permanent Committee on Place Names

The Hydrographer of Australia is a member of the PNWG, which operates under the ICSM. The PNWG jurisdictions provide updated place name datasets annually for inclusion in the latest edition of the Gazetteer of Australia.

Enquiries regarding Australian place naming principles should be directed to the Chair of the ICSM Place Names Working Group via icsm@ga.gov.au.