

1. Theories of dual naming

The aim of the consistent use of geographic names is the avoidance of confusion and misunderstandings in many areas of life. Confusion and misunderstandings originate because:

- some places carry more than one name,
- a name is valid for several places,
- the reproduction of a name from other languages raises questions of the "right" manner of writing (StAGN).¹

The goal of the standardization of geographic names is therefore that there is only one single version of the spelling of the name (in every character font system of every geographic property (Ormeling 2009, 5). "The existence of more than one name for a given place raises uncertainty and can lead to confusion"².

But there are reasons that lead to the recommendation of more than one name for a given place:

- a country has more than one official language,
- historically a place might have had a different name,
- the recognized Romanization system might have changed,
- a name might be in the process of changing,
- multiple exonyms may exist for a place³.

The standardization of geographical names has not only technical but also political implications. A brochure of the UNGEGN (2005) states: that a correct use of local name favours the reduction of political tensions and contributes to the peace between nations.

Also with regard to the naming of seas it is the goal of standardization, to agree on one single name per geographical unit and per writing system. In the case that an agreement is not reached, there are technical resolutions, as the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6:

"It is recommended that where two or more countries share a given geographical feature (such as, for example, a bay, strait, channel or archipelago) under a different name form, they should endeavour to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned. If they have different official languages and cannot agree on a common name form, it is recommended that the name forms of each of the languages in question should be accepted for charts and publications unless technical reasons prevent this practice on small scale charts. e.g. English Channel/La Manche."

Ormeling (2009, 6) thus speaks of a principal purpose and a secondary goal of the standardization of geographic names. He designates therefore as a principal purpose the

¹ Standardizing geographical names mean for example, that with more names for one and the same geographical object one of them has to be made officially recognizable and its orthography needs to be defined through effective regulations. Basically it is the goal to reach uniformity in public for geographical names. The standardization is therefore not only here for administrative purposes but also for the ministerial topographical cartography, the science, national education, the media, and every citizen who tries to orientate himself geographically. (StAGN, without year) (<http://141.74.33.52/stagn/WassindgeographischeNamen/tabid/68/Default.aspx>)

² <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/mediakit.html>

³ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/mediakit.html>

avoidance of ambiguity and confusion; it is a matter of winning time. Nevertheless, as a secondary goal he also names the avoidance of political conflicts and he states Macedonia, the Arabian-Persian Gulf and the East Sea/Sea of Japan as examples.

In connection with the naming of the East Sea, the Korean side proposes the use simultaneously the names “East Sea” and “Sea of Japan” until an agreement with Japan is reached as it is proposed in the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6. Opponents of the proposal to bring into play the following arguments, which I think are erroneous.

Wrong conclusion 1: If dual naming will be approved in the case of the East Sea, there will be many countries who emulate this example and there will be a bewildering variety of dual naming cases.

Wrong conclusion 2: Dual Naming itself is the reason for confusion.

Wrong conclusion 3: The three examples English Channel / La Manche; Dover Strait / Pas de Calais and Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne are fully compliant with the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6, but the dual naming East Sea / Sea of Japan is not.

In my paper, I would disagree with these statements.

2. Dual naming in practice

Hypothesis 1: Only a few areas to the lists of IHO S-23, have disputed name

In connection with a StAGN work session was discussed briefly on the international naming of the East Sea. The chairman expressed the fear that Korea would also soon demand that the Yellow Sea would be renamed the West Sea and the Germans could pursue a renaming of the Baltic Sea. The homepage of “Japan-101” expresses the following fears: “An official name for a geographic feature is translated into each language. It is obvious that if the name ‘East Sea’ were to become official, name collisions will occur in many languages. The North Koreans demand ‘East Sea of Korea’. This leads to several questions: What will happen if Madagascar renames the Indian Ocean to ‘East Ocean’, Australia proposes ‘West Ocean’ and Pakistan asks for ‘Pakistani Ocean’? Should the international organizations approve them and rename it to ‘East/Indian/Pakistani/West Ocean’?”⁴

But are such fears realistic or just scaremongering? What really happens when you release the ability to articulate concerns with existing sea names? One such opportunity came in 2009 in the IHO working group S 23. For the preparation of the IHO publication S23 on July 8, 2009 the IHB circulated a list of possible “areas of concern” asking WG members to review and comment on the list. Among this list were two problems that had to do with name changes (the controversy about the naming of the East Sea / Sea of Japan and the renaming of the Tonkin Bay) and several open questions which were in connection with the limits of the seas. WG members did not propose any other “area of concern” and the initial list remains valid. Just Oman gave “a position of national interest to S-23 WG” and tries to rename the “Gulf of Oman” to “Sea of Oman”.

⁴ http://www.japan-101.com/geography/sea_of_japan_disputes_over_the_name.htm

Excursus: Gulf of Tonkin – Beibu Gulf /Bac Bo Gulf

China declares: „Early in 1950s, ‚Gulf of Tonkin‘ was changed to ‚Beibu Gulf‘, which means ‚The gulf in the north of South China Sea‘. Both China and Vietnam have accepted the ‚Beibu Gulf‘. We request this water area be named as ‚Beibu Gulf‘.

Maybe the Chinese are here to optimistic. The Chinese name for the Gulf is Beibu Wan (北部湾, : 北部灣). So „Beibu Gulf“ is an compositum of the endonym Beibu and the generic term „gulf“ (in chinese „wan“). .The vietnamese name is Vinh Bac Bo 泳北部 (Bac Bo Gulf). In english publications and maps made in China the Gulf is called „Beibu Gulf“. But in english publications made in Vietnam the Gulf is sometimes called „Gulf of Tonkin“, but nowadays more often „Bac Bo (Tonkin) Gulf“ (Vietnam News). So the Chinese state „Both China and Vietnam have accepted the “Beibu Gulf“. Well, it is true that, if you would write „Bac Bo“(meaning: „northern part (of the sea)“ with Chinese characters, this would be the same character which the Chinese use, if the say „Beibu“, but obviously the pronunciation of 北部 in China and Vietnam differs.

The „Gulf of Tonkin“-region is famous for the Beibu Gulf Economic Rim. The Beibu Gulf economic rim has emerged as a new highlight of China-ASEAN cooperation, especially between Vietnam, who is also cooperating in this economic zone. It covers Guangdong, Hainan and Guangxi, and northern and central Vietnam⁵. But the Vietnamese do not use the term „Beibu Gulf Economic Rim“. In a Speech By H.E.Mr.Le Danh vinh, vice minister of Trade of Vietnam at the forum on“ Cooperation in Tonkin Gulf Economic Belt” in Nanning, China, 20-21 July 2006 , the speaker used the term „Tonkin Gulf Economic Rim“⁶. On the other hand an agreement between the China and Vietnam adopted in Beijing on 25 December 2000 uses in its title the dual naming “BEIBU GULF / BAC BO GULF”⁷.

In a reply to the Chinese declaration the USA commented: „The U.S. favors retaining ‚Gulf of Tonkin‘ over ‚Beibu Gulf.‘ However, if both China and Vietnam, as the littoral states, have agreed on the latter name, as the Chinese representative claims, then the U.S. doesn’t have any objections to a name change for use in an international context“.

„Beibu Gulf“ is a combination of an (Chinese) endonym and a generic term translated into english. The problem is, that the “Gulf of Tonkin” also borders on Vietnam. So it would be necessary to ask the Vietnam authorities in this question. But Vietnam is not an IHO-member, so it has a weak standing there. But a decision on this issue has not yet been taken.

Conclusion:

The fact that after the IHO has requested to name other “areas of concern”, and the fact that except the Gulf of Tonkin issue no further issues concerning naming of seas has been raised, show clearly that the fears that the dual naming in the case of the East Sea / Sea of Japan would lead to a further avalanche of similar claims by other countries is not at all appropriate.

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beibu_Gulf_Economic_Rim

⁶ <http://www.bbw.gov.cn/article.php?id=1775>

⁷ 2000 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM ON THE DELIMITATION OF THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONES AND CONTINENTAL SHELVES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN BEIBU GULF/BAC BO GULF (Adopted in Beijing, China on 25 December 2000).

Hypothesis 2: Even a missing name in the IHO publication, which occurs frequently in other media, can cause confusion

Although it is easy to see that several names for one single geographic feature can provide confusion, one must concede, however, that a name that is common in atlases and in mass media can lead to confusion, if it is not explicitly taken into account in standardization in works such as the IHO S-23 or the chart of the German Hydrographic Office. For example, if the name “East Sea” is often found in atlases, it would be confusing if this name could not be found in the IHO publication S-23 in its proper place. This poses the question: How often is the name "East Sea" and translations of "East Sea" in other languages represented in foreign atlases.

In the past there have been various studies on this question. The Japanese foreign ministry states that 97.2% of the maps worldwide exclusively mention the name “Sea of Japan” or an equivalent in the local language. Besides, it refers to a study in the year 2000, in which 392 maps of 60 states excluding Japan and South and North Korea, were examined. 381 maps showed exclusively the name “Sea of Japan” or an equivalent in the local language. A map called the sea "East Sea" and placed “Sea of Japan” in clips, 4 maps chose the form of writing “East Sea” or equivalent names in local languages and 6 maps stated except “Sea of Japan” or equivalent a Japanese ("Nippon-kai"), a Korean ("Tong-hae") or Russian ("Japonskoje More") name.

Later investigations brought higher values in maps which show a double naming. Japanese research from 2005 showed values of 18.1% (116 commercial maps from 61 countries had been examined) or 10.8% (331 maps including maps from school books and school maps from 67 countries) for binomials. A study by the South-Korean government which had been carried out from February to March, 2007 on the basis of 353 maps from 75 countries proved 23.8% of binomials, 74.2% exclusively "Sea of Japan" or equivalent names and 2% no denomination. Maps from the G7 countries except Japan showed even 50.4% of binomials (East Sea, 16-17).

The South-Korean pamphlet "East Sea" points out the rising acceptance of the name "East Sea" over the course of time and uses this as an argument for the fact that it is right to recognise the name "East Sea" now also internationally.

But the previous research is fraught with problems:

- The research is not current. I have the impression that in recent years, a dual naming has prevailed with regard to the East Sea more and more.
- So you should also always differentiate by year of publication. It is therefore useful to differentiate whether an atlas was printed for example in 2007 or in 2011.
- If you find an atlas with dual naming it is also important to investigate when a change has taken place regarding the naming of the East Sea. And if the name is simply “Sea of Japan” you should find out, whether there has been dual naming in the past.
- It is important in statistics to perform not only the number of atlases which show up a dual naming of the East Sea. On special importance is the question how widespread and how influential the atlas is.
- In researching the naming of the East Sea in atlases, it is not only interesting to investigate how the East Sea itself is named. Also, one should look, whether there are other examples of dual naming in the atlas. Is there a particular systematic in the atlas in naming of geographical entities or not?

Research, such as those described above, are admittedly expensive and time-consuming. But I think it would be worthwhile to do. Of course such kind of research also should include the question of the naming of Dokdo and romanization issues.

Because of limited time and budget reasons, I could not perform such comprehensive study. What I'll show you is an incomplete sampling, which is limited to the naming of the East Sea in atlases in German-speaking countries. However, I have included in my studies the question, whether an atlas is widespread or not. Of course, the circulation of atlases are hard to come by. A broad overview of the popularity of atlases could give the sales statistics from Amazon, which have been used for the present study [categorie "Weltatlanten (world atlases) and "Schulatlanten (school atlases)"].

You also have to consider that particularly school atlases are very widespread. I suggest that most people who have an atlas at home, own it since the time they went to school. In Germany there are four major publishers produce school atlases: Westermann, Klett, Cornelsen and Schroedel. For Austria, the major publishers are Westermann, Hölzel and freytag & berndt.

The most important publishing group for school atlases in Germany is Westermann, their Diercke Atlas is by far the most popular. In the atlases of the Westermann printing and publishing group we find the form „Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)“, where “(Ostmeer)” is written something small-sized than “Japanisches Meer”. This form follow e.g. the

- *Diercke Weltatlas* and the
- *Diercke Taschenatlas*.

Also very widespread are atlases from the Klett-Verlag. Also the atlases from the Klett publishing house recently used the name "East Sea". The *Haack Weltatlas* (2009) used the spelling „Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)“, and in the *Klett TaschenAtlas Erde* (2010), we find the notation “Jap. Meer / Ostmeer”.

Schroedel Verlag offers the following atlases:

- *Trio Atlas* (Atlas integral to the subjects of geography, history and social studies) with eight regional editions
- *Harms Weltatlas* with five regional editions
- *Seydlitz Weltatlas*, with seven regional editions,
- *Harms Grundschulatlas* (primary school atlas) Berlin / Brandenburg.

All these atlases have the naming „Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)“, but also here „Ostmeer“ is written a little bit small-sized.

Only the Cornelsen Verlag uses only the name “Japanisches Meer”.

Table 1: The naming of the East Sea in German school atlases

Publisher	Atlas	Naming
Westermann	- <i>Diercke</i> - <i>Heimat & Welt</i>	Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)
Klett	- <i>Haack</i> - <i>Alexander</i>	Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)
Schroedel	- <i>Trio</i> - <i>Harms</i> - <i>Seydlitz</i>	Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)
Cornelsen	- <i>Menschen Zeiten</i> <i>Räume</i>	Japanisches Meer

Also in Austria the *Diercke Atlas* is the most popular. Other important school atlases in Austria are the

- *Westermann Wien Schulatlas Österreich*
- Atlases from the publisher Hölzel (for higher schools there are the *Großer Kozenn Atlas* and the *Hölzel Universalatlas zu Geographie und Geschichte*)
- Atlases from the publisher freytag & berndt.

In book shops in Vienna, I found the *Westermann Wien Schulatlas Österreich Geographie* from the year 2006, where the East Sea is still named only “Japanisches Meer”, and *Westermann Wien Schulatlas Österreich Geographie und Geschichte* from the year 2008, where is named in the same way as in the *Diercke Atlas* : „Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)“ with “(Ostmeer) written small-sized.

The atlases from the Hölzel publisher named up recently, all the Sea between Korea and Japan “Japanisches Meer”. This is also the case with the current *Hölzel Universalatlas zu Geographie und Geschichte*, published in 2004 and now available in its 7. updated edition of 2010. The new *Großer Kozenn Atlas* from 2011 however, follows the guideline of the Austrian AKO (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde*; Association for Cartographic Toponymy). In this guideline the naming „Japanisches Meer / Ostmeer“ is recommended. Chairman of the Working Group, which publishes the AKO recommendation, is, Dr. Lukas Birsak, the publishing director of Hölzel Verlag.

Whereas the *SchulAtlas Österreich* published by freytag & berndt in 2006 names the East Sea still „Japanisches Meer“, we can find dual naming in the *SchulAtlas* of 2009 from the same publisher: „Japanisches Meer / Ostmeer“.

Using the example of school atlases in Austria you can see how the naming of the East Sea in atlases in recent years has changed:

Table 2: Changes in the naming of the East Sea in atlases form Austrian publishers

Publisher	Japanisches Meer	Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer) or Japanisches Meer / Ostmeer
Westermann	<i>Westermann Wien Schulatlas Österreich Geographie</i> (2006)	<i>Westermann Wien Schulatlas Österreich Geographie und Geschichte</i> (2008)
Hölzel	<i>Hölzel Universalatlas zu Geographie und Geschichte</i> (2010)	<i>Großer Kozenn Atlas</i> (2011)
freytag & berndt	<i>SchulAtlas Österreich</i> (2006)	<i>SchulAtlas</i> (2009)

In addition to the school atlases, which probably have the widest distribution, there are in the German-speaking countries more atlases published by the same or other publishers, which name the East Sea in different ways.

It turns out that one and the same atlas publisher in some atlases names the East Sea as “Japanisches Meer” but in other atlas using dual naming. In the most cases you can find dual naming in the newer editions. Also, even though a publisher has opted for dual naming, the way how dual naming is performed can be different from one atlas to the other. We already have seen such an example in case of the Klett Verlag:

Table 3: Dual naming of the East Sea in atlases of the Klett Verlag

<i>Haack Weltatlas</i> (2009)	Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)
<i>Klett TaschenAtlas Erde</i> (2010)	Jap. Meer / Ostmeer

freitag & berndt publishes not only school atlases but also world atlases like *Der Große Weltatlas* (2011). Here we find two names for the sea between Korea and Japan, „Japanisches Meer“ and „Ostmeer“, both names are written one underneath the other, where „Japanisches Meer“ is written closer to the Japanese Archipelago and “East Sea” is written closer to the Korean Peninsula.

Table 4: Dual naming of the East Sea in atlases of the publisher freitag & berndt

<i>Schulatlas</i> (2009)	Japanisches Meer/Ostmeer
<i>Der Große Weltatlas</i> (2011)	Japanisches Meer Ostmeer

A major German publisher that publishes many atlases is the Verlag Wolfgang Kunth Verlag, Munic. In *Unsere Welt Aktuell. Taschenatlas & Länderlexikon* published in 2008 we can find both names („Japanisches Meer“ und „Ostmeer“), whereas the version from 2005 still only used the name „Japanisches Meer“. Also in the *Neuer Großer Atlas der Welt Mit aktuellem Länderlexikon* (2007) and in the *Die Welt Atlas Kompakt* (2009) both names („Japanisches Meer“ and „Ostmeer“) are written one underneath the other.

A publisher of many atlases is also the Verlag Meyer. In the atlases of this publisher the sea between Korea and Japan, as in *Meyers Großes Länderlexikon: Alle Länder der Erde kennen – erleben – verstehen* (2008) and *Meyers Universalatlas* (2011) is named „Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)“. Also in this case “(Ostmeer)” is written somewhat smaller than “Japanisches Meer”. In *Peters Weltatlas: Die wahren Proportionen der Erde* (2010) we also find both names but this time in the following order: „Ostmeer (Japanisches Meer)“.

In *DUMONT Die Welt - Atlas mit Länderlexikon* (2010), we find both names, but in English (“Sea of Japan” and “East Sea”).

Of course there are also atlases that use only the name “Japanisches Meer”. The most important in the German-speaking countries is according to the sales statistics for Amazon „Der große Weltatlas von Naumann & Göbel“; (2009). Author is Dr. Peter Peter Aschenberner, president of the German Society for Cartography (DGfK, Deutschen Gesellschaft für Kartographie).

Other atlases which only use the name „Japanisches Meer“ are:

- *Atlantica Der neue große Satelliten-Weltatlas* Bertelsmann Verlag (2006), („Sea of Japan“ and „Japanisches Meer“)
- *Der n-tv Atlas*, 2008
- *Das große Handbuch der Erde*, Falk Verlag 2007
- *Die Welt*, Falk Verlag 2007
- *Großer Atlas der Welt*, RV Verlag 2005

- *Der Atlas, Die Zeit* 2009
- *Geographica Weltatlas und Länderlexikon*, Verlag h.f.ullmann 2009

A few atlases have in their original or previous version, a dual naming, but this was not reflected in the recent issue. The Dorling Kindersley Verlag published a *DK Taschen-Atlas & Länderkunde* (2011) in Germany. The East Sea was there named “Japanisches Meer”. The English version from 2007 however titled the same sea with “Sea of Japan / East Sea”.

The *Neue ADAC Weltatlas* (2007) uses both names “Japanisches Meer” and “Ostmeer” one underneath the other. „*Der kompakte ADAC Weltatlas*“ (2009) however uses only the name “Japanisches Meer”. The ADAC (Allgemeine Deutsche Automobil-Club e.V.¹), the German automobile club, has strong ties with the automotive industry, so that the Japanese influence possibly is strong here.

For the German-speaking countries of great influence, in addition to the atlases, is the yearly published *Fischer Weltalmanach*. Here we find dual naming in case of the East Sea – Japanisches Meer / Ostmeer – but interestingly also in case of the Yellow Sea: Westmeer (Gelbes Meer).

Also in the internet we find the name “Ostmeer” on maps in German language. Google Earth shows both names “Japanisches Meer” und “Ostmeer” for the East Sea, but also “Westmeer” and “Gelbes Meer” for the Yellow Sea.

The digital atlas of *RB DESKKART* (<http://www.welt-atlas.de>) called the East Sea mostly as “Ostmeer” as well as “Ostmeer (Japanisches Meer)”.

The *Schweizer Weltatlas* named the sea between Korea and Japan “Japanisches Meer”. But here he can find a special problem. In the search mode of the website of this atlwa we can find “Japanisches Meer / Ostsee”. So a problem might be, that in Switzerland “East Sea” in “Ostsee” in German and not “Ostmeer”. But “Ostsee” is already the German name for the Baltic Sea.

In general we can conclude that the most important atlases in German speaking countries, especially the school atlases use dual naming regarding to the East Sea. The way this dual naming is performed however differs from atlas to atlas. In the table we see some examples.

Table 5: Various ways of dual naming in German and Austrian atlases (with examples)

Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)	Japanisches Meer (Ostmeer)	Ostmeer (Japanisches Meer)	Japanisches Meer/Ostmeer	Japanisches Meer Ostmeer
<i>Diercke</i>	<i>Harms</i>	<i>Peters</i>	<i>Kozenn</i>	<i>freitag & berndt (Großer Atlas)</i>

Conclusion:

So we can say that the most important German atlases are already performing the dual naming regarding to the East Sea. This demonstrates that the name “East Sea” at least in its German translation is already widely used. It would be irresponsible, when in the IHO publication S-23 the name “East Sea” cannot be found on the same page and in the same map side on side with the name “Sea of Japan”. Since the name “East Sea” is widely known especially through school atlases and internet the omission of the name “East Sea” would cause serious confusion.

Hypothesis 3: There is no objective justification for the position that dual naming in case of English Channel / La Manche; Dover Strait / Pas de Calais and Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne is absolutely in accordance with the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6, but the naming East Sea / Sea of Japan isn't.

Let's look again at the resolution:

“It is recommended that where two or more countries share a given geographical feature (such as, for example, a bay, strait, channel or archipelago) under a different name form, they should endeavour to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned.

If they have different official languages and cannot agree on a common name form, it is recommended that the name forms of each of the languages in question should be accepted for charts and publications unless technical reasons prevent this practice on small scale charts. e.g. English Channel/La Manche”.

If we have a look at various Japanese statements, we can see that some of them try to point out that IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6 cannot be applied to the East Sea / Sea of Japan.

“A very few oceans and seas, such as the English Channel/La Manche, are simultaneously named, but only when the two names have been long advocated internationally. Such dual designations are and should remain very exceptional. ...

As regards UNCSGN resolution III/20 and IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6, the sea area in question does not fall under their purview and thus they do not apply.”⁸

“Further, these resolutions presume that the geographical feature concerned is **under the sovereignty of two or more countries**, such as in the case of a bay or strait, and do not apply to the high seas such as the Sea of Japan. Following the ROK's assertion, if even one of the countries bordering the Atlantic or the Pacific were to raise an objection to the name of the ocean, it would lead to the use of multiple names, which would clearly be unmanageable.”⁹

But are these claims of the Japanese side really true?

This means that in the view of Japan the geographical feature concerned should be “under the sovereignty of two or more countries” so that the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6 may apply.

But does the wording of the IHO „two or more countries **share a given geographical feature** (such as, for example, a bay, strait, channel or archipelago)” really mean the same as the Japanese wording “under the sovereignty of two or more countries, such as in the case of a bay or strait”?

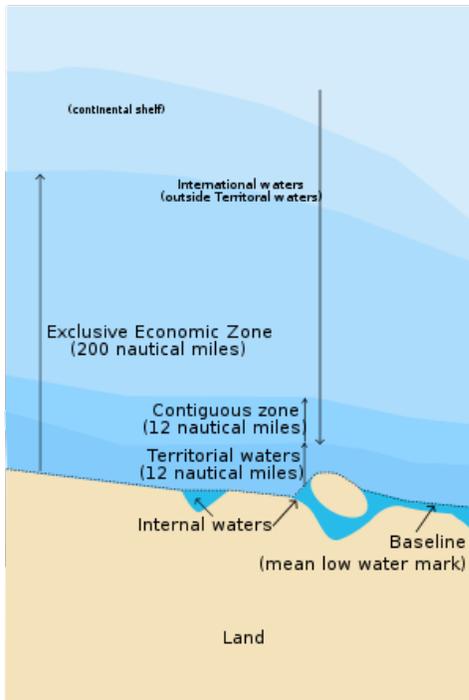
“**Territorial waters**, or a **territorial sea**, as defined by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is a belt of coastal waters extending at most 12 nautical miles (22 km; 14 mi) from the baseline (usually the mean low-water mark) of a coastal state. The territorial sea is regarded as the sovereign territory of the state, ...”¹⁰

⁸ Statement by Mr. Shigeki Sumi Deputy Director-General, Multilateral Cooperation Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Twenty-second Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
New York 21 April 2004

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/maritime/japan/state0404.html>

⁹ MOFA-Pamphlet: Sea of Japan - The One and Only Name Familiar to the International Community, p. 5-6

¹⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_waters



There are four principal maritime zones

- the territorial sea (12 nautical miles)
- the contiguous sea (12 nautical miles)
- the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) (200 nautical miles)
- the continental shelf

An interesting fact is that in the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6 we can find an example for dual naming according to the resolution: English Channel/La Manche. So if we want to answer the question above, we should ask: Is the English Channel/La Manche the under the sovereignty of two or more countries? Following the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea this would mean: is the English Channel/La Manche fully part of the territorial waters of the United Kingdom and France?

Figure 1: Schematic map of maritime zones

Since also the Bay of Biscay/Golfe de Gascogne in the 2002 manuscript of the IHO S-23 publication enjoys dual naming according to the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6 let's compare the cases

- English Channel/La Manche;
- Bay of Biscay/Golfe de Gascogne and
- East Sea/Sea of Japan.

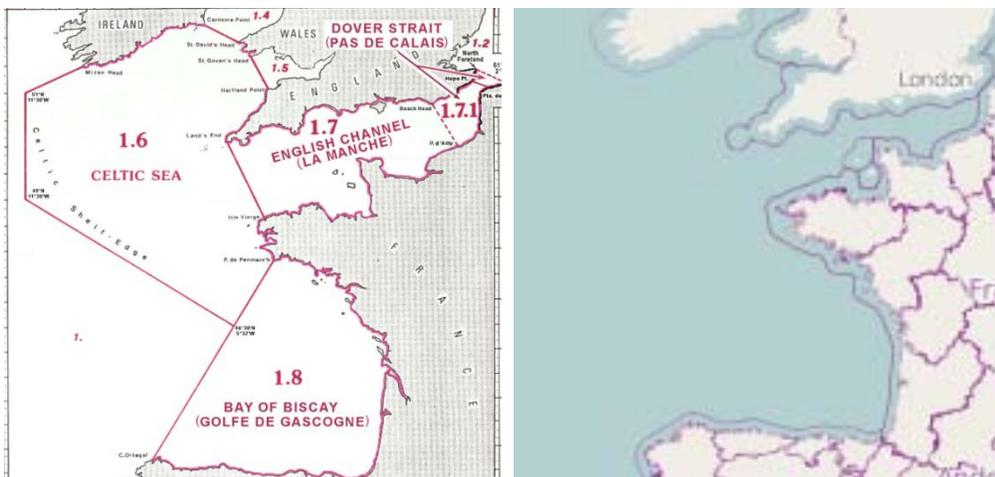


Figure 2: English Channel/La Manche; Bay of Biscay/Golfe de Gascogne and the territorial sea

We see that English Channel/La Manche and Bay of Biscay/Golfe de Gascogne clearly not are fully part of the territorial waters of the neighboring countries. And if we look closer, we can

also see that in both cases they are also not fully part of the contiguous waters of the neighboring countries.

This is also the case with the East Sea/Sea of Japan. But the East Sea/Sea of Japan is fully part of the exclusive economic zone of the neighboring countries.



Figure 3: Part of a map of the High Sea (in dark)¹¹

So we can summarize these facts in the following table:

Table 6: Seas in territorial waters, contiguous waters and in the EEZ

	Territorial waters	Contiguous waters	EEZ
English Channel/La Manche	No	No	Yes
Bay of Biscay/Golfe de Gascogne	No	No	Yes
East Sea/Sea of Japan	No	No	Yes

So we clearly could show that the wording of the IHO resolution „two or more countries **share a given geographical feature** (such as, for example, a bay, strait, channel or archipelago)” has not the same meaning as “under the sovereignty of two or more countries, such as in the case of a bay or strait”, because the English Channel/La Manche as an example within the IHO resolution is not under the sovereignty of two or more countries.

On the one hand, one could say though, that the East Sea / Sea of Japan (1.007.300 km²) is larger than the Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne (225.000 km²), but on the other hand, you can see that the East Sea / Sea of Japan is a sea area that essentially is enclosed by Korea, Russia and Japan, so that the formulation “share a given geographical feature here” seems quite appropriate, especially when considering that the Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne is open to the High Sea in wide ranges. Therefore there is no fundamental reason why East Sea / Sea of Japan could not apply to the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6.

¹¹ Wikipedia: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/f/f1/Internationalwaters.png>

But one could argue the following. The IHO resolution says: “if they have different official languages and can not agree on a common name form, it is recommended that the name forms of each of the languages in question should be accepted for charts and publications”. For example, in the case of the English Channel / La Manche the neighboring countries have English and French as their official languages. So the dual naming consists of a name in English language (“English Channel”) and a name in French language (“La Manche”). However the dual naming “Sea East / Sea of Japan” would use two names in English language. The South Korean, North Korean and Japanese endonyms for the East Sea in their romanized form would be Donghae, Josŏn Tonghae or Nihonkai. Therefore, one may think that only a notation like Donghae / Nihonkai would follow the example “English Channel / La Manche” in a strict sense.

But if we also in this case compare the dual naming practice of English Channel / La Manche; Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne and East Sea / Sea of Japan we will end up with a something different result.

The dual naming Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne consists of an English name (Bay of Biscay) and a French name (Golfe de Gascogne). But the sea is bordered by France and Spain. In the case of a disagreement between France and Spain a notation including a French and a Spain name such as GOLF DE GASCOGNE (GOLFO DE VIZCAYA) and GOLFO DE VIZCAYA (GOLF DE GASCOGNE) would certainly come closer to the IHO resolution than that the naming in the IHO S-23 2002 manuscript, quite apart from claims by the Autonomous Community of Galicia by the Basques.

Table 7: Dual naming and the official languages of the neighboring regions

Geographical feature	Official languages of the neighboring regions	Languages of the proposed dual naming
English Channel / La Manche	English / French	English / French and French / English
Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne	French / Galician / Basque / Spain	English / French and French / English
East Sea / Sea of Japan	Korean / Russian / Japanese	English / English

But there is an IHO regulation that shows that it makes sense to give the sea area between Korea and Japan a dual naming in English. The Introduction of the 4th Edition of the IHO S-23 says: “For the generic naming of sea areas, with limited exceptions, English has been used for "Oceans" and "Seas" to conform with the title. For other areas, such as "Straights", "Bays", "Channels" and "Gulfs" English has been used when the areas is surrounded by more than one country and the national language has been used when the area is surrounded by only one country ...” So, since the East Sea / Sea of Japan is a sea, English should be used in naming this sea body following this regulation.

But the observations above make clear that in the case of the Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne the 2002 draft of the S-23 script does not follow the IHO resolution to 100% even though the dual naming “Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne” officially has been justified with the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6.:

1.8 BAY OF BISCAY (*GOLFE DE GASCOGNE*)

Note: Both names can be used on charts according to IHO Technical Resolution A 4.2, paragraph 6. See Appendix C.

Seen from this perspective the dual naming „East Sea / Sea of Japan“ could also been justified with the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6 like the dual naming in the case of the Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne.

Conclusion:

There is no technically clearly definable reason, which can be found in the IHO technical resolution A.4.2.6 that can be used as a sufficient justification for the fact that the resolution has been applied in the case of the Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne, but cannot be applied in the case of East Sea / Sea of Japan.

In the case of different opinions on a certain question the 2002 draft 4th edition of S-23 followed three procedures:

1. **Dual naming (English Channel / La Manche; Dover Strait / Pas de Calais and Bay of Biscay / Golfe de Gascogne)**
2. **Blank page (except the number of the pages: 7-16, 7-17): (East Sea / Sea of Japan), this sea is titled “Area 7.6.”.**
3. **Appendixes**

There are eight reservations which are reported in the Appendixes. In all this cases they deal with the limits of seas and not with the naming of the seas.

1. **INDIAN OCEAN**

Reservation by Australia. Australia issues charts and publications depicting Australia's limits of the Indian Ocean, as shown in the diagram below.

2. **SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN**

Reservation by Australia. Australia issues charts and publications depicting Australia's limits of the South Pacific Ocean, as shown in paragraph 5 above.

3. **ARCTIC OCEAN**

9.1 **EAST SIBERIAN SEA**

Reservation by the USA. The USA has proposed that the northern limit be defined by a line from the northern most point of Ostrov Vrangelya to the northern sides of Ostrava Dehong, following the definition provided in the 3rd Edition of S-23 in 1953, as shown in the diagram below (green).

9.2 LAPTEV SEA

Reservation by the USA. The USA has proposed that the northern limit be defined by a line from Mys Molotov to the northern extremity of Ostrov Kotel'nyy, following the definition provided in the 3rd Edition of S-23 in 1953, as shown in the diagram below.

9.9 DAVIS STRAIT

Reservation by Russian Federation. In Russia, the Davis Strait is referred to being in the Atlantic Ocean.

9.16 CHUKCHI SEA

Reservation by Russian Federation. Russian usage supports a northwestern limit of Chukchi Sea extending to the position 76°N - 180°W, as shown in the diagram below (green).

10. SOUTHERN OCEAN

Reservation by Australia. Australia issues charts depicting Australia's limits of the Southern Ocean north of 60°, as shown in paragraph 5 above.

10.2 LAZAREV SEA

Reservation by Norway. Norway recognizes the name Kong Håkon VII Hav which covers the sea area adjacent to Dronning Maud Land and stretching from 20°W to 45°E. The southern limit is the ice edge and the northern limit is the 60°S parallel, as shown in the diagram below (green).

So if the IHO wants to avoid blank pages they should select the method of dual naming and not the method of putting the issue in the appendixes because the dual naming method is the more appropriate method for dealing with name dispute issues.

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Appendix:



Figure 4: online-atlas *Diercke*



Figure 5: Schroedel Verlag



Figure 6: online-atlas *freytag & berndt*



Figure 7: *Die Welt Atlas Kompakt* (2009) - Verlag Wolfgang Kunth



Figure 8: *Meyers Universalatlas* (2011) – Verlag Meyer



Figure 9: *Meyers Großes Länderlexikon: Alle Länder der Erde kennen – erleben – verstehen* – Verlag Meyer

