

Practice and policies of the use of binominals, endonyms and exonyms in the naming of sea bodies

Rainer Dormels (University of Vienna)

Versions and Drafts of the “Limits of Oceans and Seas”

In 1928 the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) published the guideline “Limits of Oceans and Seas” as a Special Publication No. 23. It was produced to determine international borders and names of the seas. It was accepted in 1929 officially by a conference of the IHO. This was the first time that borderlines were dragged and names were given for 58 oceans and seas, comprising 6 oceans, 26 seas and 13 bays. The publication had therefore a high authority in the production of maps in view of the demarcation and the naming of seas. Meanwhile the number of waters had clearly increased. The draft for a new edition of 2002 already shows 154 oceans and seas.

There have been doubts and suggestions for improvement of the first edition of "Limits of Oceans and Seas", so that a second edition appeared in 1937. Then in 1953 a third edition came out which separates a total of 102 maritime features.

This third edition is still the valid one. Since there has been a lot of changes since then there is an urgent need for a new edition. Drafts for a fourth edition have been produced in 1986 and 2002, but they failed to be accepted.

So in 2009 a Working Group ON THE REVISION OF IHO PUBLICATION S-23 “LIMITS OF OCEANS AND SEAS” (S-23 WG) has been established. The IHB circulated a list of areas of possible concern to WG members by end July 2009 and WG members had the possibility to comment on this list by end September 2009.

Objectives of the standardization of geographic names

An important aim of the standardization of geographic names is to avoid ambiguity and confusion (Ormeling, 2009). The UNGEGN therefore pursues the principle “One object – One name in each script”. Hence, it recommends to avoid the use of exonyms (Stani-Fertl, 2008). The Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names have demonstrated a certain willingness not to use exonyms, or at least to reduce their use, or, in any case, to give priority to nationwide names as opposed to exonyms.

Admittedly, there are also reasons which speak against these principles of the UNGEGN. Thus during standardization of geographical names political conflict should be avoided. This can lead to the use of binominals like in: Arabian/Persian Gulf; East Sea/Sea of Japan (s. Ormeling 2009).

Also the discussions about the use and the avoidance of exonyms were controversial. Thus the United Nations Statistics division stated, “Time has, however, shown that initial ambitious attempts to rapidly decrease the number of exonyms were over-optimistic and not possible to realise in the intended way. The reason would appear to be that many exonyms have become common words in a language and can be seen as part of the language’s cultural heritage.”¹

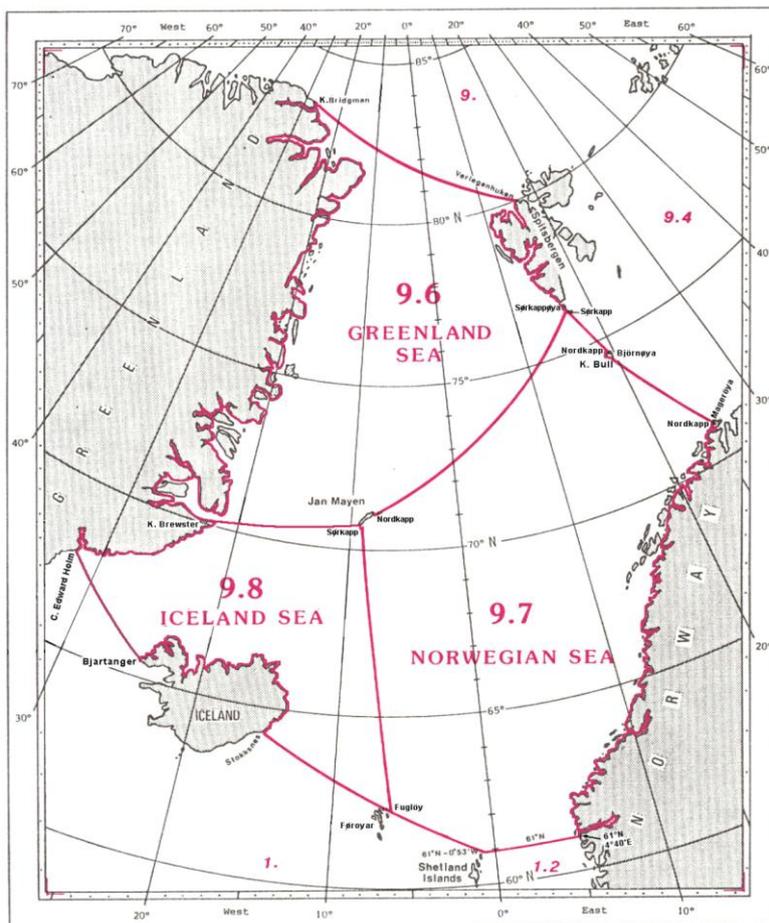
Now my question is whether and to what extent the principles of the UNGEGN are reflected in the newest drafts for the fourth edition of "Limits of Oceans and Seas". Therefore binominals, exonyms and endonyms in this IHO-publication will be examined.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exonym_and_endonym

Removing of binominals

Removing of binominals through division of a sea: The “Greenland or Norwegian Sea”

Already in the third publication a binomial of the first and the second publication had been removed, namely the "Greenland or Norwegian Sea". In the third publication this area was divided into two parts. The western one received the name "Greenland Sea" and the eastern one the name "Norwegian Sea". Now the design for the fourth publication from 2002 carries out a trisection of the area of former "Greenland or Norwegian Sea", while, in addition, "Iceland Sea" was created. Thus every country has practically "its" sea name.²



Picture: 9-14 (2002)

Removing of all binominals of the third edition (1953) in the 2002 draft

If we compare the third edition from 1953 and the 1986 draft with the 2002 draft we see that there is a trend to remove binominals. The 2002 draft has removed all of the ten binominals of the third edition.

² Another example for the division of a sea is the division of the Celebes Sea. This sea between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines was divided in the draft of 1986 into the Sulawesi Sea in the south and the Mindanao Sea in the North. Herewith the Philippines and Indonesia would be represented through sea names. The draft of 2002 is substituting the division of the year 1986 and is returning to the naming of the sea of the third version. From the Sulawesi Sea and the Mindanao Sea it is made the Celebes Sea. However in the footnote of the 2002 version it is noted „Sulawesi (Indonesian).

1953	1986	2002
Aegean Sea (The Archipelago)	AEGEAN SEA	AEGEAN SEA
Andaman or Burma Sea	ANDAMAN or BURMA SEA	ANDAMAN SEA
South China Sea (Nan Hai) Eastern China Sea (Tung Hai) Yellow Sea (Huang Hai)	SOUTH CHINA SEA EAST CHINA SEA YELLOW SEA	SOUTH CHINA SEA EAST CHINA SEA YELLOW SEA
Seto Naikai or Inland Sea	SETO NAIKAI (INLAND SEA OF JAPAN)	SETO NAIKAI Footnote: Previously termed Inland Sea of Japan Footnote: Inland Sea of Japan (English)
Laptev Sea (or Nordenskjöld Sea)	LAPTEV SEA	LAPTEV SEA
Balearic (Iberian Sea)	BALEAR SEA	BALEARIC SEA
Gulf of Iran (Persian Gulf)	PERSIAN GULF	PERSIAN GULF
Gulf of Thailand (Siam)	GULF OF THAILAND	GULF OF THAILAND

Table 1: Removal of binominals from 1953 to 2002

These ten cases can be divided in three categories:

- Binominals with endonyms and exonyms (4 cases)
- Sea names which contain current or past state names (3 cases)
- Other cases (3 cases)

Endonyms and exonyms	State names	Other cases
South China Sea (Nan Hai)	Andaman or Burma Sea	Aegean Sea (The Archipelago)
Eastern China Sea (Tung Hai)	Gulf of Iran (Persian Gulf)	Laptev Sea (or Nordenskjöld Sea)
Yellow Sea (Huang Hai)	Gulf of Thailand (Siam)	Balearic (Iberian Sea)
Seto Naikai or Inland Sea		

Table 2: Categorization of binominals of 1953

In the following I would like to add some short information to binominals without wanting to put up, nevertheless, the assertion that cited facts were really decisively for the choice of a name in the drafts of 1986 or 2002. I limit myself to a categorization on the basis of an analysis of the present versions and drafts from "Limits of Oceans and Seas".

First, therefore some remarks to the seas of the categorie „other cases“:

Aegean Sea (The Archipelago)

The Aegean Sea was traditionally known as Archipelago. But the meaning of the term “Archipelago” changed. Usage shifted first to refer to the Aegean Islands and refers now also generally, to any island group to a sea containing a large number of scattered islands like the Aegean Sea. For example, in the draft of 2002 we can find on page 6-3 “South China and Eastern Archipelagic Seas”.

Laptev Sea (or Nordenskjöld Sea)

About the name of the Laptev Sea we find the following information on the internet: „The Laptev Sea changed its name several times. It was apparently known in the 16th century as the Tatar Sea (Russian: Татарское море). In the 17th century, it was known as the Lena Sea (Russian: Ленское море). In the 18th century, it was known as the Siberian Sea (Russian: Сибирское море). In the 19th century, it was known as the Icy Sea (Russian: Ледовитое море). It acquired its name as Nordenskjöld Sea (Russian: море Норденшельда) in 1893. And in 1913, it finally received its current name as the Laptev Sea. The latter renaming is believed to have been the initiative of a Russian geographer Yuly Shokalsky” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laptev_Sea). Nordenskjöld refers here to the polar researcher of finno-swedish origin Adolf Erik Freiherr von Nordenskiöld (1832 – 1901), Laptev refers to the Russian explorers Dmitry Laptev (1701 – 1771) and Khariton Laptev (1700 – 1763).

Balearic (Iberian Sea)

The Balearic Sea lies between the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands. The draft of 1986 has given this sea the name Balear Sea, a hybrid form with an endonym ("Balear") and a generic term translated into English ("Sea"). In 2002 it then became "Balearic Sea".

In three cases we have sea names with names of a country

Andaman or Burma Sea
Gulf of Iran (Persian Gulf)
Gulf of Thailand (Siam)

Andaman or Burma Sea

The Andaman Sea is an epicontinental sea of the eastern Indian Ocean whose coast is formed of Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia. In the west it is limited by the Cocos Islands (Keeling Islands), Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands.

Most of the Andaman Islands are part of India while a small number at the north of the archipelago belong to Myanmar. Myanmar is also known under the name "Burma". In 1989, the military government officially changed the name of the country to "Myanmar". Both names "Burma" and "Myanmar" have, in principle, the same root, namely the Burmese word "Bamar". "Bamar" is a name for the ethnic majority of the state. Various non-Burman ethnic groups choose to not recognize the name "Myanmar", because the term Myanmar has historically been used as a label for the majority ethnic group, the Bamar, rather than for the country. The reaction of the foreign countries to this name change was different. The United Nations and countries like Germany, India, Japan, Russia and VR China use the name "Myanmar", other countries like Australia, Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States still refer to the country as "Burma".

In the draft of "Limits of Oceans and Seas" of 1986 the sea is called "ANDAMAN or BURMA SEA". In the draft of 2002 it is called "ANDAMAN SEA", while the northeast bordering state does not carry any more the name "BURMA", but the name "MYANMAR".

Gulf of Iran (Persian Gulf)

The name Persia was the official name of Iran in the Western world before 1935, but the Iranian people inside their country since long time, have called their country with names equivalent to "Iran". In Wikipedia we can read, that in 1935, "Reza Shah asked the international community to call the country by the name 'Iran'. A few years later, some Persian scholars protested to the government that changing the name had separated the country from its past, so in 1949 Mohammad Reza Shah announced that both terms could officially be used interchangeably. Now both terms are common, but 'Iran' is used mostly in the modern political context and 'Persia' in a cultural and historical context. Since the Iranian Revolution of 1979, the official name of the country has been the 'Islamic Republic of Iran.'"³

In our connection is interesting to know that in the issues from the years 1928 and 1937 by "Limits of Oceans and Seas" the Gulf is called "Persian Gulf". The binominal „Gulf of Iran (Persian Gulf)“ is a specific feature of the issue from 1953. Iran belonged to the 51 founding members of the UN in 1945.

Gulf of Thailand (Siam)

In the first edition of 1928 the "Gulf of Thailand" as it is called in drafts for the fourth edition, was still called "Gulf of Siam". The binomial "Gulf of Thailand (Siam)" from the third edition of 1953 therefore marks a transitional version.

On the 24th of June 1939, the country's name was changed from "Siam" into "Thailand" at the instigation of the dictator field marshal Pibun Songkhram. As a reason it was given that "Siam" is a name which has been used only by foreigners. On advising of Japan the kingdom needs a new identity under which all Thais should be combined. This has provided for controversial discussion material until today.

Endonyms and exonyms

In four cases the 1953 showed endonyms and exonyms

South China Sea (Nan Hai)

Eastern China Sea (Tung Hai)

Yellow Sea (Huang Hai)

Seto Naikai or Inland Sea

In the case of the South China Sea, the East China Sea and the Yellow Sea the Chinese endonym disappeared whereas in the case of the Seto Naikai the Japanese endonym survived and the exonym "Inland Sea of Japan" remained in footnotes.

But what is the background for the fact that in three cases the endonyms have disappeared and in one case the endonym has been maintained? Is it a matter of limiting the use of endonyms?

A look on the following rule which is demonstrated in the preface of the new draft (2002) of the fourth edition of "Limits of Oceans and Seas, S-23" gives us an answer to these questions: **"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 nationwide language has been used when the area is surrounded by**

³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran>

only one country e.g. ‘Arnadyrskiy Zaliv’. Exceptions to these rules may occur when common usage indicates otherwise. Footnotes are used to offer further explanation or options”⁴.

And the examples SOUTH CHINA SEA, EAST CHINA SEA and YELLOW SEA are examples for „Seas“, SETONAIKAI is an example for entities which are surrounded by only one country (but in a narrower sense Setonaikai is also a “Sea” although it is an “Inner Sea”).

New binominals in the draft of 2002

While practically all present binominals have been removed in the draft from 2002, there are also cases where new binominals have originated. It concerns three names of seas which lie between Great Britain and France and is stated in each case as an English and a French name:

- 1.7 ENGLISH CHANNEL (LA MANCHE)⁵
- 1.7.1 DOVER STRAIT (PAS DE CALAIS)
- 1.8 BAY OF BISCAY (GOLFE DE GASCOGNE)

In all three cases following annotation was added.

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

This Resolution says: “It is recommended that where two or more countries share a given geographical feature (such as a bay, a strait, channel or archipelago) under different names, they should endeavor to reach agreement on 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”.

The use of endonyms in the draft of 2002

How above mentioned rule has been adopted comes visible if we compare the following examples in the drafts of 1986 and 2002 with each other. With examples shown below the respective national languages were used, because the area is surrounded only by one country. In a footnote either the English name or an explanation of the name in English is attached in these cases.

1986	2002	Footnote
2.5 THE GREAT BELT	2.7 STOREBÆ LT	The Great Belt
2.6 THE LITTLE BELT	2.8 LILLEBÆ LT	The Little Belt
6.6 SUNDA STRAIT	6.7 SELAT SUNDA	Sunda Strait (English)
6.8 MAKASAR STRAIT	6.9 SELAT MAKASAR	Makassar Strait (English)
6.11 SUMBA STRAIT	6.12 SELAT SUMBA	Sumba Strait (English)
6.19 GULF OF BONE	6.16 TELUK BONE	Gulf of Bone (English)
6.21 GULF OF BERAU	6.18 TELUK BERAU	Gulf of Berau (English)
6.24 GULF OF TOMINI	6.21 TELUK TOMINI	Gulf of Tomini (English)

⁴“Arnadyrskiy Zaliv” is a typing error in the introduction. In Chapter 7 the gulf is presented as “Anadyrskiy Zaliv”.

⁵ In the French version the Annex B is contrariwise. The French name is in the front and the English name in brackets.

7.7 SETO NAIKAI (INLAND SEA OF JAPAN)	7.5 SETO NAIKAI	Inland Sea of Japan (English)
7.5 BO SEA	7.4.1 BO HAI	Hai (Chinese) = Sea
7.6 LIAODONG GULF	7.4.2 LIAODONG WAN	Wan (Chinese) = Gulf
7.9 GULF OF TARTARY	7.6.1 TATARSKIY PROLIV	Profiv (Russian) = Strait
7.12 ANADYRSKIY GULF	7.8.1 ANADYRSKIY ZALIV	Zaliv (Russian) = Gulf

Table 3: Sea areas with endonyms in the manuscript of 2002

In the case of the four removed names “The Great Belt, The Little Belt, Inland Sea of Japan and Gulf of Tartary”, we have names we can call pure English names.

In the other cases the 1986-draft shows a compositum including a generic term translated into English and an endonym. The 2002-draft in all this cases above uses the endonym.

Sea names in French

But it is interesting to see, that the French names in the 2002 draft of S-23, with the exemptions of Seto Naikai and Bo Hai, does not follow the use of endonyms in the English version.

English (2002)	French (2002)
2.7 STOREBÆ LT	Grand Belt
2.8 LILLEBÆ LT	Petit Belt
6.7 SELAT SUNDA	Détroit de la Sonde
6.9 SELAT MAKASAR	Détroit de Macassar
6.12 SELAT SUMBA	Détroit de Sumba
6.16 TELUK BONE	Golfe de Bone
6.18 TELUK BERAU	Golfe de Berau
6.21 TELUK TOMINI	Golfe de Tomini
7.5 SETO NAIKAI	Seto Naikai
7.4.1 BO HAI	Bo Hai
7.4.2 LIAODONG WAN	Golfe du Liaodong
7.6.1 TATARSKIY PROLIV	Détroit de Tatarie
7.8.1 ANADYRSKIY ZALIV	Golfe de l'Anadyr

Table 4: Sea areas with endonyms in the manuscript of 2002 and the French names

We see that most of these 13 endonyms refer to areas which are surrounded by only one country and are located in Asia:

Denmark 2
Indonesia 6
Japan 1
PR China 2
Russia (Asian part) 2

Nevertheless, there are two areas which are surrounded by only Indonesia. However the nationwide language has not been used, but an English name. The seas concerned are:

- MOLUCCA SEA
- CELEBES SEA

In both cases it is pointed out in a footnote that the Indonesian names of Molucca or Celebes are "Maluku" or "Sulawesi". The English name follows the rule "English has been used for 'Oceans' and 'Seas'".

On the other hand the french version of the IHO-paper uses the swedish endonym „Öresund“ for „The Sound“, neglecting the danish one („Sundet“).

In general we can conclude that the French version is more reluctant in using endonyms. Maybe the role of English not only as a language for English-speaking people but as a lingua franca may be a reason for the stronger consideration of the endonyms.

The use of exonyms in the draft of 2002

In the following cases the 1986-draft follows the same concept like the examples above, a combination of an endonym and a generic term translated into English.

The 2002-draft shows here examples for exceptions to the rules of S-23 which may occur when common usage indicates otherwise. In the footnotes the endonym is given.

1986	2002	Footnote
3.1.1.3 BALEAR SEA	3.1.1.3 BALEARIC SEA	International usage prefers Balearic Sea. Spanish name is "Mar Balear"
3.1.1.4 LIGURE SEA	3.1.1.4 LIGURIAN SEA	International usage prefers Ligurian Sea. Italian name is "Mar Ligure"
3.1.1.5 TIRRENO SEA	3.1.1.5 TYRRHENIAN SEA	International usage prefers Tyrrhenian Sea. Italian name is "Mar Tirreno"
3.1.2.2 STRAIT OF SICILIA	3.1.2.2 STRAIT OF SICILY	International usage prefers Strait of Sicily. Italian name is "Stretto di Sicilia"

Table 4: Sea areas with exonyms in the manuscript of 2002

We can see that the 1986-draft in cases when the area is surrounded by only one country uses a hybrid form with an endonym and a generic term translated into English. In the 2002 in the case of Western Europe areas the English name is chosen. The endonym is used the case of all Asian maritime features.

Maybe because there are closer relations between the English-speaking people and Italy or Spain compared to Asia, there is a tendency to use more exonyms.

Alternative Names in Footnotes

In following cases the drafts of 1986 and 2002 use the same names or the sea does not exist in the design of 1986 yet, nevertheless, the footnote refers to the countries national name.

1986	2002	Footnote
1.3 INNER SEAS OFF THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND	1.3 INNER SEAS OFF THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND	Referred to also as Malin Sea
3.2 SEA OF MARMARA	3.2 SEA OF MARMARA	Marmara Denizi (Turkish)
9. ARCTIC OCEAN	9. ARCTIC OCEAN	Referred to by Russia as "Severnyy Ladovityy Ocean"

9.12 BAFFIN BAY	9.12 BAFFIN BAY	Referred to in Russia as "Baffin Sea"
	10.5 COOPERATION SEA	The Russian term for "Cooperation", "Sodruzhetsva", is used on the Russian nautical charts

Table 5: Sea areas with alternative names in the footnote (2002)

The name Malin Sea goes back on Malin Head (in Irish: *Cionn Mhálanna*), the most northern point on the mainland of Ireland. Hardisty (1990, 6) distinguishes seven "British Seas": North Sea, English Channel, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, Malin Sea, Sea of the Minches and Sea of the Hebrides and the sea areas which were ascribed in the IHO issue to the Internal Seas off the West Coast of Scotland, are taken for the most part by the Malin Sea (in the south) and the Sea of the Minches (in the north). The sea area which is called here Malin Sea would not be therefore identically with the sea area which calls the IHO "Inner Seas off the West Coast of Scotland", but only one part, roughly half of it.

The cases of Arctic Ocean and Baffin Bay are interesting because here it is referred to as a name used in Russia, although Russia is not the only bordering state of the named sea.

Strategies in dealing with areas with different names

When there were or have been different names in competition for an area, the following strategies can be observed in the different editions and drafts by "Limits of Oceans and Seas":

1. One name

Although the name is disputed and on numerous maps alternative names are to be found, only one name is published. Example: Persian Gulf (no "Arabian Gulf")

2. No name

The object is not performed and is not named. Example: "Denmark Strait" or "Greenland Strait" (generally no name for this Object)

3. Area xy

The object is called "Area xy" and not named properly. Example: "East Sea or Sea of Japan" (Called as "Area 7.6").

4. Division

A sea is split in different parts. Example: "Greenland or Norwegian Sea" (split in 9.6 GREENLAND SEA, 9.7 NORWEGIAN SEA, 9.8 ICELAND SEA)

5. Footnote

An alternative name is given in the footnote. Example: 1.3 INNER SEAS OFF THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND (Footnote: Referred to as Malin Sea)

6. Two names

Two names with equal authority are given. Example: ENGLISH CHANNEL (*LA MANCHE*), *LA MANCHE* (*ENGLISH CHANNEL*)

Example "Persian Gulf" versus "Arabian Gulf"

In case of "Persian Gulf" the name "Arabian Gulf" is not mentioned at all. Kerr (2002, 10) states: „The IHO appears happy to defer to the United Nations if the latter has actually made some ruling. This is the case in the Persian Gulf and although some of the Arab countries would prefer this body be called Arabian Gulf the IHO defers to a ruling of the UN“.

To 2.:

Example "Denmark Strait" versus "Greenland Strait"

Another name debate which occupied the IHO is the conflict around the strait between Iceland and Greenland which is mostly known as a “Denmark Strait”. According to Icelandic specifications this name was introduced compulsive-wise when Iceland was under rule of Denmark (from 1380 to 1944). Iceland prefers the name “Greenland Strait”. Now for the IHO in view of the new production of the special publication 23 "Limits of Oceans and Seas" there were two possibilities, either to permit both names side by side as mentioned in the technical resolution A 4.2.6, or simply not to designate the object because it is relatively small according to the surface. They decided for the latter as Kerr (2002, 9-10) indicated.

To 3:

Example: "East Sea" versus „Sea of Japan“

In Chapter 7 of the draft from 2002 the disputed area is assigned with the number 7.6. Though the pages 7-16 and 7-17 on which one would expect a map as well as a description of "Area 7.6" are numbered, apart from that they remain free. Merely on the page 7-18 the Tatarskiy Proliv is introduced as number 7.6.1. It is noted:„The Tatarskiy Proliv is situated at the northern end of Area 7.6“.

To 4. - 6. See above.

A suitable strategy for the problem of the international naming of the east sea?

Which of these strategies would be most suitable for the international naming of the east sea?

Against strategy 1 („a name“) speaks, that the UN did not make some ruling regarding the naming of this sea. The retention of the names from the 3rd version of 1953 ("Japan Sea") would run towards the requirement to erase links with the imperialistic past.

Also strategy 2 („No name“) is not applicable, because the concerning area is too big.

Strategy 3 ("Area xy") is in use anyway only as an interim solution.

For strategy 4 ("division") the area is too small again. Also there would probably be also conflicts around the border drawing.

Strategy 5 ("footnote") is mostly applied to the explanation of endonyms or to the naming of endonyms in cases in which English concepts were preferred, although the area is only surrounded by one country. Exceptions form the cases shown on table 5 which have, however, also hardly resemblance to the problems of the naming of the East Sea.

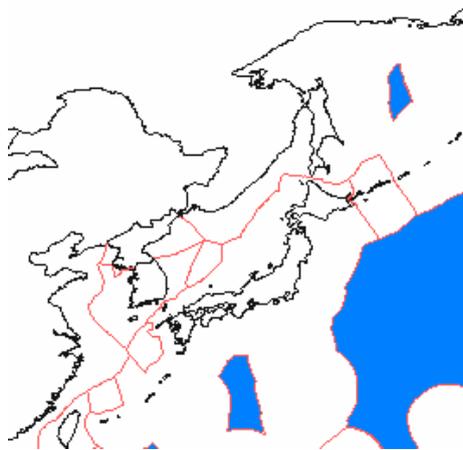
Strategy 6 ("Dual naming/binomials") appeals to the resolution IHO Technical A 4.2, section 6.

However, Japan denies that this resolution to which the ROK refers can be applied to the East Sea and stresses that the East Sea does not fall under the Highness of some states, but the high sea and the EEZ are also to be counted as the high sea⁶.

⁶ „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 does not apply to the high seas such as with the Sea of

Nevertheless, Choo (2006, 162) speaks of “growing perspective that a country's sovereignty extends to exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and that no high sea exists between Korea and Japan” and receives support from Peter E. Raper (Former Chairmann, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names). Raper suggests following regulation: “Perhaps conflict and contention regarding the names of maritime features can be reduced by extending the principle of national sovereignty to include maritime features beyond the 12 nautical miles limits of territorial waters, namely those included in the Contiguous and Maritime Cultural Zones to a distance of 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the country, and in the Exclusive Economic Zone to a distance of 200 nautical miles beyond the Territorial Waters” (Raper 2007, 11-12).

The problem is summarized in the interpretation and application of the phrase "share a given geographical feature (such as a bay, a strait, channel or archipelago) under different names" in the IHO resolution. Does this mean that the geographic unit should be a part of the territorial waters or is it enough if it is a part of the EEZ? The issue is still complicated by the fact that the recommendations of UNGEGN and IHO come from a time before the maritime law agreement of the United Nations. The East Sea is bigger on the one hand than a bay or a strait, on the other hand, as the map below points out, no part of the East Sea is also part of the high sea and is to be compared to oceans like the Atlantic and the Pacific, as it does Japan.



Part from a map which displays the high sea (in blue)⁷

The East Sea as a sort of Mediterranean Sea displays therefore an intermediate form. If the phrase "share a given geographical feature" is to be understood in such a way that this geographic unit should be a complete share of the territorial waters of concerning states. Indeed, the resolutions mentioned above are not applicable on the East Sea. If one interprets the above phrase, however, in a bit more broader sense and one includes the EEZ, it would be possible to refer this recommendation to the East Sea. Because it concerns resolutions which are only recommendations and not legal regulations it should not matter if one interprets the above phrase, a little more generously. Raper's proposals probably also go in this direction. Also if the recommendations should not apply to the East Sea, this does not mean that for medium-sized geographic units like the East Sea a similar approach also would not be recommendable.

However, there is another problem. It is written in the IHO resolution, that "the name form

Japan. Following the ROK's assertion, if even one of the countries bordering the Atlantic or Pacific were to raise an objection to the names of these oceans, it would lead to the use of multiple names, which would clearly be unmanageable". (MOFA, URL: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/maritime/japan/index.html>).

⁷ Wikipedia: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/f/f1/Internationalwaters.png>

of each of the languages in question should be accepted for charts and publications". For example, the English name in English language is "English Channel" the French name in French is "La Manche". However, East Sea/Sea of Japan would both be English. South Korean, North Korean and Japanese endonyms for the East Sea in their romanized writing form would be Donghae, Josŏn Tonghae or Nihonkai. Hence, only one manner of writing would be possible like Donghae/ Nihonkai for a spelling of both names according to the Technical resolution A 4.2.6.⁸

Choo (2007, 162) looks at "East Sea" as "inevitable translation of endonyms in order to convey the exact meaning of the names". He argues: "I would say this is a specificity of oriental languages which do use non-roman alphabets" (Choo 2007, 162-163). However, can someone who has dealt mildly with the question regarding the naming of seas really recognize the exact meaning of "Donghae" if one translates it with "East Sea"? For the word "Donghae" there are several possibilities for translation:

- Literal translation: "East Sea" or "Eastern Sea",
- Commenting translation: "East Sea of Korea",
- Functional equivalent: "Sea of Japan"

"East Sea" is therefore not the only possibility for the translation of "Donghae". Also the examples presented on table 3 show that endonyms absolutely find use.

What speaks, nevertheless, for the use of the English names "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan", is that these are preferred by the governments of the affected countries for the use on international maps.

Despite the deviation from the recommendation of the IHO, the "dual naming" in the case of the East Sea / Sea of Japan must be seen as one of the better strategies.

Addendum

As a follow-up to the 2nd meeting of the S-23 Working Group (Singapore, 5-7 July 2010), proposals were made by some countries regarding the naming of the East Sea. Working group members are invited to provide the Chair their views on these proposals by end of August 2010. In this proposals we can find some variants of the six strategies which have been followed so far. Also we can find some new strategies⁹:

7. Annex

- „the fact that there is a reservation by (an) other member State(s) be included on the main page referring to the sea or ocean area, and details of the reservation, such as a alternative name/limits be clearly detailed in an Annex, or“

8. Successively on a second or the same page

8.a. Second page

- „the fact that there is a reservation by (an) other member State(s) be included on the first page referring to the sea or ocean area and a second page for the same sea or ocean area be inserted in S-23 immediately following the first. The second page will show the alternative name(s) or limits of the sea or ocean area where consensus was not reached“.

8.b. Same Page

⁸ Also Choo (2007, 162) admits: "East Sea and Sea of Japan would be exonyms because these are not in the languages with official status".

⁹ Strategy 7 and Strategy 8a are part of the proposal by Australia, Strategy 8b is part of the proposal of the Republic of Korea.

- „That the following two items be shown together on the same page: (i) the fact that there is a reservation on the names and/or limits of some oceans and seas by certain member states; (ii) other legitimate names and/or limits in use“.

Strategy 7 („Annex“) has certain similarities to Strategy 5 („Footnote“). There is a main name and a alternative name which is clearly secondary.

Also in Strategy 8 there is a main name on the one side and an „alternative name“ (8.a) or an „other name“ (8.b) on the other side. The latter is secondary although not as strong as in Strategy 7 and 5.

Korea proposes an „equal consideration to all legitimate toponyms in use for areas over which there is significant disagreement“. But in this case wouldn't it be better to change the phrasing similar to the following?

- „That the following two items be shown together on the same page: (i) the fact that there is a **significant disagreement regarding** the names and/or limits of some oceans and seas **among** certain member states; (ii) **the** legitimate names and/or limits in use“.

Otherwise “Sea of Japan” could be regarded as the main entry and “East Sea” just as an “alternative name” or “other name”.

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