



## Summary

The proposer is seeking to assign a new name, Aratika Rock, as the official name of a fully submerged rock in the Marlborough Sounds after the discovering ship, the interisland ferry *Aratika*.

The *Aratika* (meaning 'direct path') was on a charity cruise under the command of the proposer in February 1982 when the echo sounder indicated that the ship was passing over an uncharted reef with a clearance of only three metres, making it a potential maritime hazard. As a result, a Notice to Mariners was issued and the feature subsequently depicted on charts.

'Rock' is not an approved generic term in the Board's [Standard for Undersea Feature Names](#) or the IHO's [B-6 Guidelines](#). The most appropriate generic term is 'Reef'. Therefore, one option is to decline Aratika Rock and accept a different proposal for Aratika Reef.

Because Ngāti Kuia and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, two of the six Te Tau Ihu iwi who have an interest in the area, either don't support the proposal or have reservations about it, a second option is to decline the proposal outright. Should the Board choose this option, the potential maritime hazard of it being an unnamed feature will remain.

The Board's Undersea Feature Names Committee (UFNC) has considered the

<sup>1</sup> International Hydrographic Organization

Secretariat's full report on the proposal (attached). Although initially wondering if the feature was a ridge rather than a reef (it proved not to be as it is too small to meet the definition of a ridge<sup>2</sup>), the UFNC mostly favour option one – see the feedback in supporting information.

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## Board's decision

At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

That the Board **declines** the proposal to **assign Aratika Rock** as the official name of an unnamed fully submerged rock.

### **AND**

**Accepts** its own proposal to **assign Aratika Reef** as the official name of an unnamed fully submerged rock based on:

- the Board's function to investigate and determine the priority of the discovery of a geographic feature
- the feature being named for the discovering ship
- 'Rock' not being an approved generic term in the Board's *Standard for Undersea Feature Names* or the IHO *B-6 Guidelines*
- the feature meeting the definition of a reef
- the feature needing to be named because of its potential as a maritime hazard.

### **and**

Will **notify** as a proposal to assign for two months.

## Supporting information

1. Proposal – Aratika Rock – 2024-07-01
2. Email correspondence with Ngāti Kuia – concerns – 2024-07-23
3. Letter from Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira with feedback – 2024-08-15
4. Bathymetric maps of profile
5. UFNC report – Aratika Rock – 2024-09-05
6. Collated feedback on the proposal from UFNC members

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<sup>2</sup> The [Cookbook for generic terms of undersea feature names](#) records that a ridge is usually more than 10km long, however, this feature is only ~110m x 430m.