

London International Boundary Conference 2025

Workshop 1: A review of submissions to the CLCS by coastal States from 2001 to the present, with some additional analysis and insights

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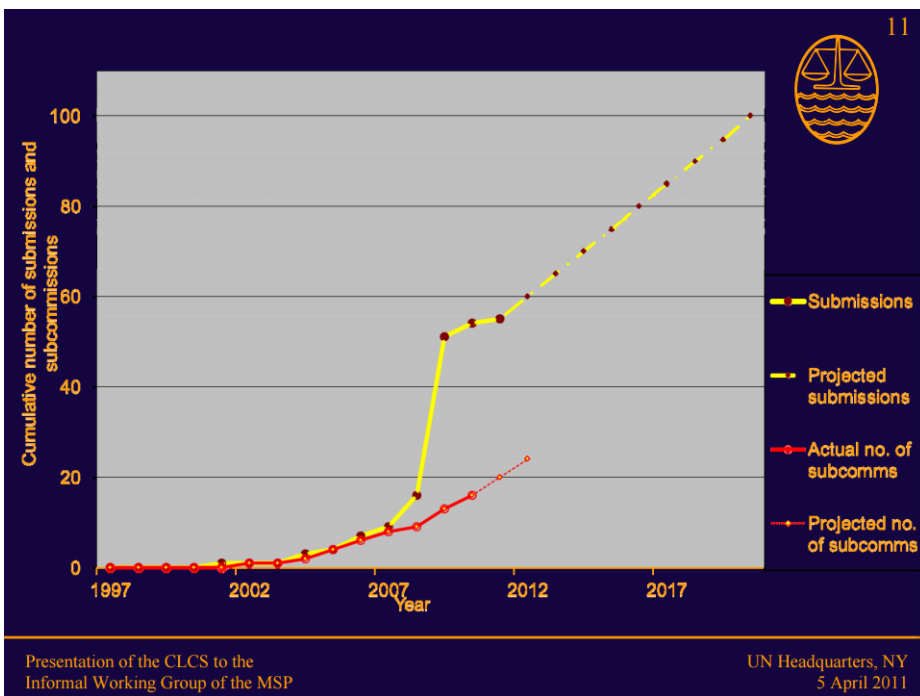
Slide 1. Title slide

Introduction

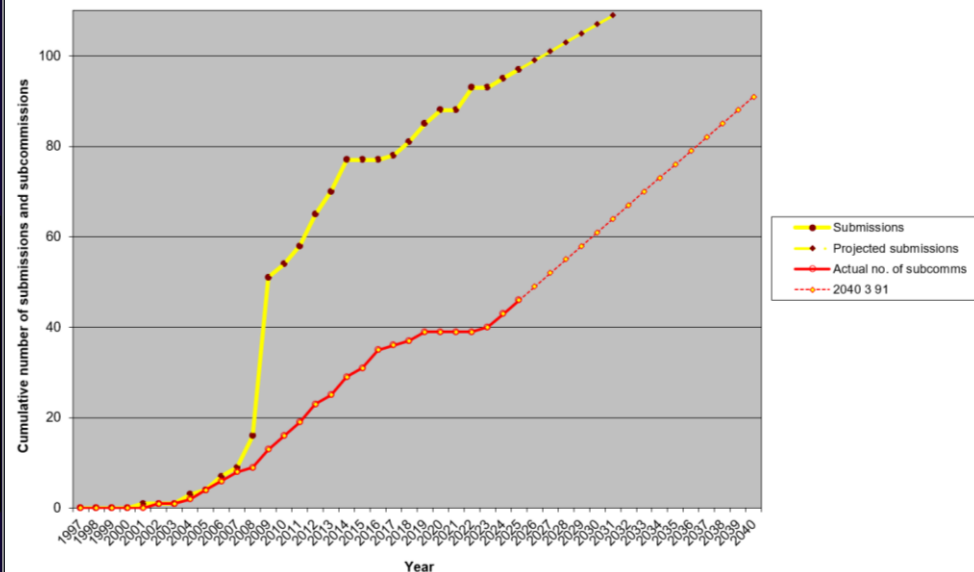
To date (June 2025), 28 years after its establishment, the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) is less than half-way through its work (46 subcommissions have been established to examine 46 different submissions), but there remain another 49 submissions in the queue with a further c. 14 still to be submitted. How has this come about?

Well, there are a number of reasons:

The number of coastal States with eCS (and therefore submissions) was grossly underestimated at the time of the Third Conference (with the figure of 33 being used as opposed to the current number of 87). To deal with this workload the CLCS should probably have been set up on a full-time basis. The CLCS has been working slower than expected because it is a part-time, non-funded body. Currently, members of the Commission are expected to meet at United Nations Headquarters for 3 sessions per year of 5 weeks each plus at least 2 weeks intersessional work related to each session (a total of 21 weeks per year) for a period of 5 years.



April 2011 – projected to 2020



April 2025 – projected to 2040

Cumulative number of subcommissions = 46

Cumulative number of submissions currently = 95 (excl. revised submissions)

Expected final number of submissions = c.109

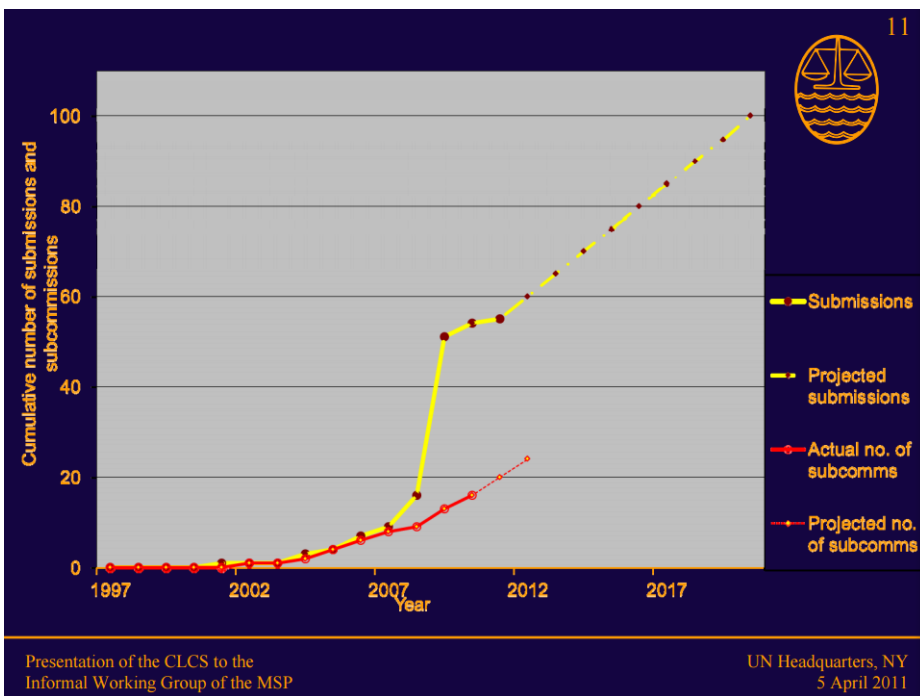
Slide 2. Rate of receipt of submissions and establishment of subcommissions: April 2011 projected to 2020 (LHS) and April 2025 projected to 2040 (RHS)

The yellow line on the left in each graph is the number of submissions, the red line on the right is the number of subcommissions.

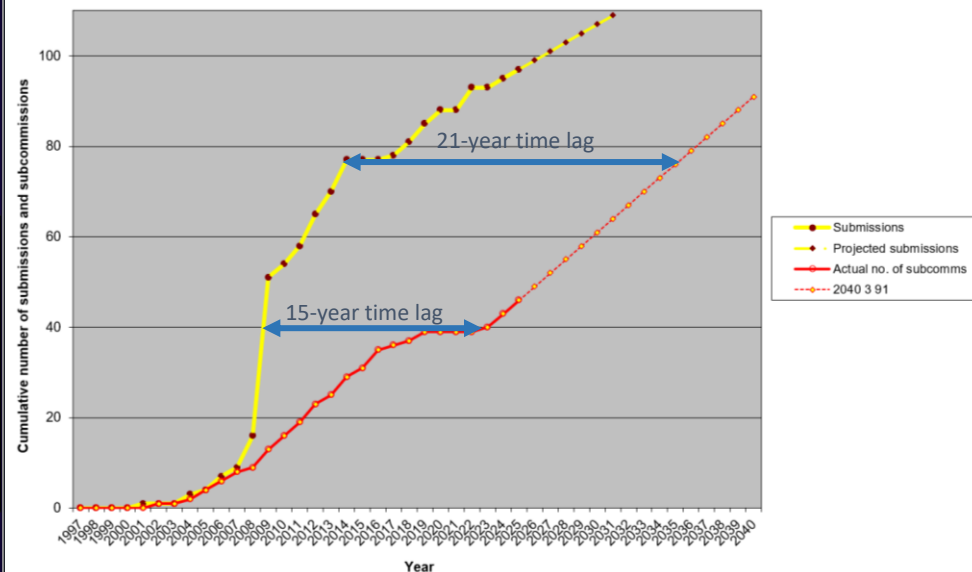
The initial hockeystick-like upturn in Submissions to the CLCS was a result of the 10-year deadline for the majority of States which expired in May 2009. This was followed by a predictable drop in the rate of receipt of submissions for a few years but the rate picked up again thereafter (as can be seen on the RHS).

And, of course, the global pandemic also caused a minimum 3 years of further delay in the work of the CLCS as it was decided that the work could not be done virtually.

There is also no doubt that the longstanding system of dealing with Revised Submissions, whereby they returned to the head of the queue, and the sheer number of them, has had a major impact on the throughput of Recommendations from the CLCS (this has now been addressed by the separate queue system, and most revised submissions have thankfully been dealt with at this stage).



April 2011 – projected to 2020



April 2025 – projected to 2040

Cumulative number of subcommissions = 46

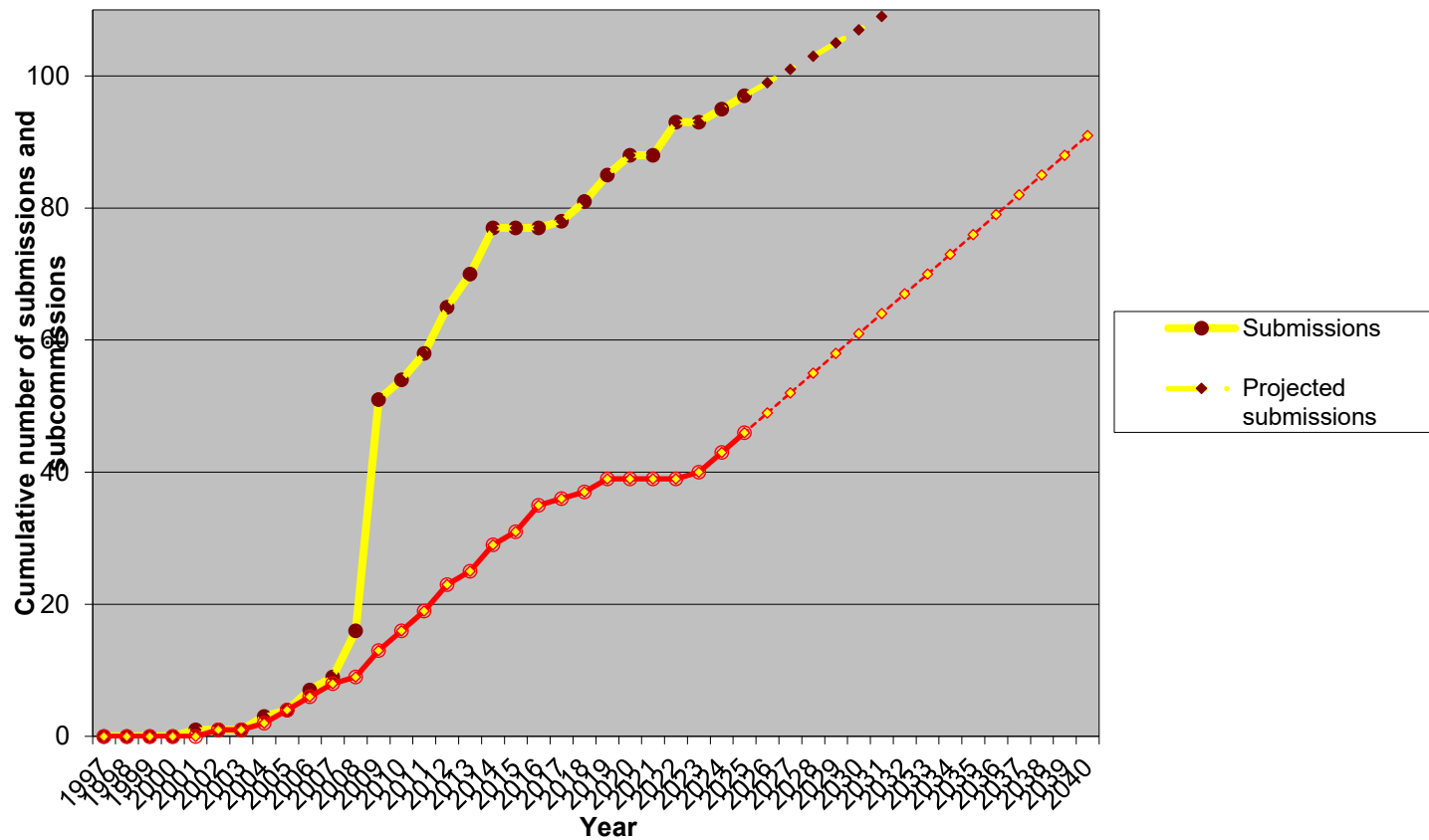
Cumulative number of submissions currently = 95 (excl. revised submissions)

Expected final number of submissions = c.109

Slide 3. Ditto with 15 and 21 year time lags

This slide shows that the time-lag is set to grow in fact from the current 15 years to around 21 years, an almost generational time delay, by which time the scientists and legal experts who assembled these submissions may have retired or even passed away, so that their expertise is no longer available to the coastal State (when its submission eventually comes before the CLCS for consideration) and indeed the institutional memory of the whole process may have become very hazy also.

That being said, the current Chair of the Commission stated in his annual letter to the 2025 Meeting of States Parties that “the waiting time between the date on which a submission is made and the date on which the Commission establishes a subcommission is currently almost 13 years”.



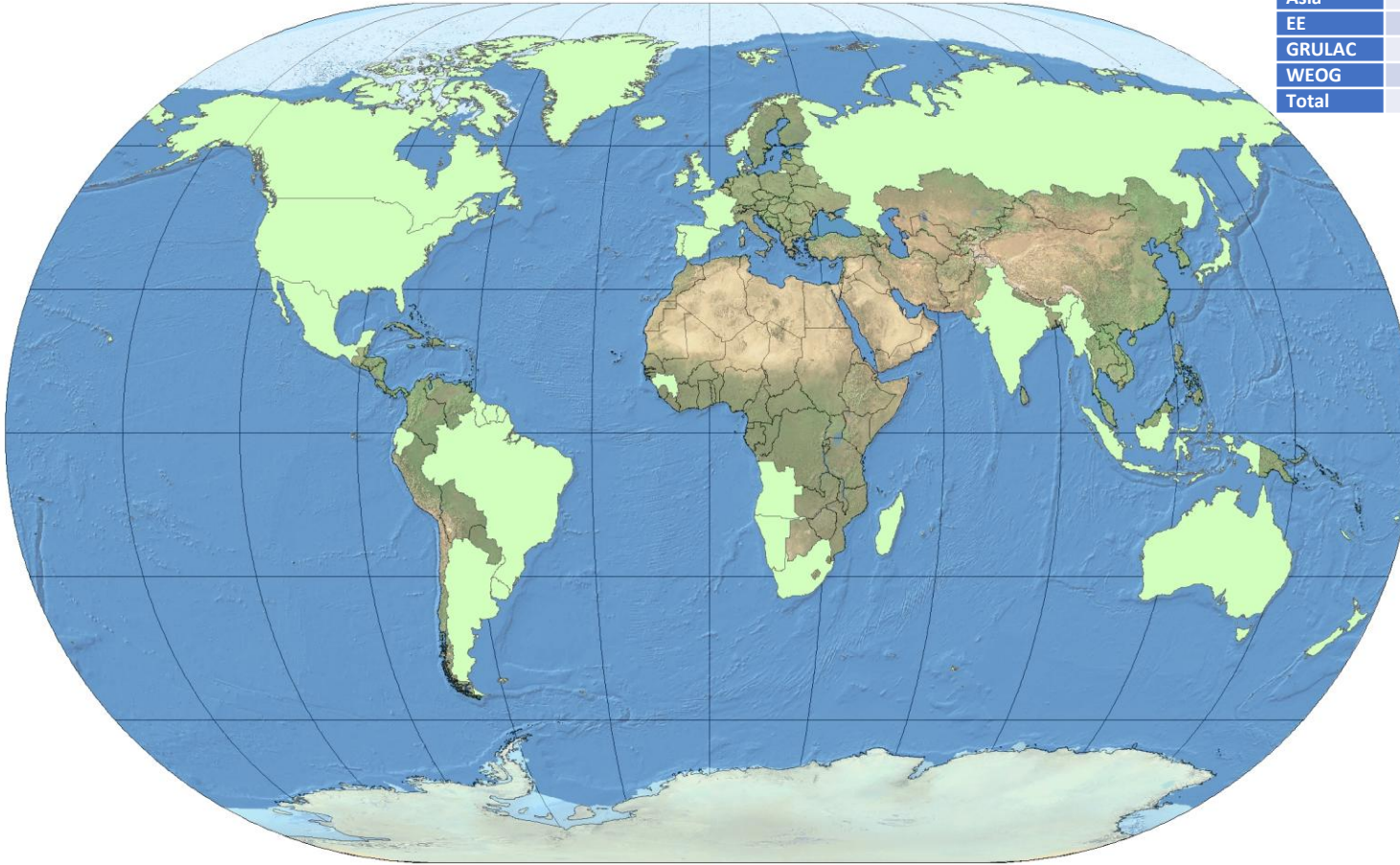
April 2025 – projected to 2040

Slide 4. Rate of receipt of submissions and establishment of subcommissions: April 2025 projected to 2040

Just looking at that graph again in a bit more detail, we are currently here at the 46 mark, and notice that in 2040 the gap is still not closed. That slope in projected rate of subcommissions being established is set at a constant 3 per year to 2040. So it will be some considerable time before the outer boundary of The Area can be finalised.

Estimate of number of coastal States with eCS - 1978

Group	1978 list	1998 list	2005 list	2025 list
Africa	7	26 (+19)	24 (-2)	31 (+7)
Asia	6	8 (+2)	16 (+8)	29 (+13)
EE	1	1	1	1
GRULAC	7	9 (+2)	12 (+3)	14 (+2)
WEOG	12	12	12	12
Total	33	56	65	87



Based on 1978 map: A/CONF.62/C.2/L.98/Add.1, prepared by the Secretariat (+ LDGO, IHO, IOC)

Slide 5. Global map with 1978 list of 33 coastal States with eCS

So why did this backlog emerge?

Well, as I have already said, a major underlying reason was that in 1978, when the Third Conference was drafting the rules establishing the CLCS, it commissioned a study to quantify the number of coastal States with extended Continental Shelf (eCS). Unfortunately, that study (in arriving at a total of 33 coastal States), grossly underestimated the true number.

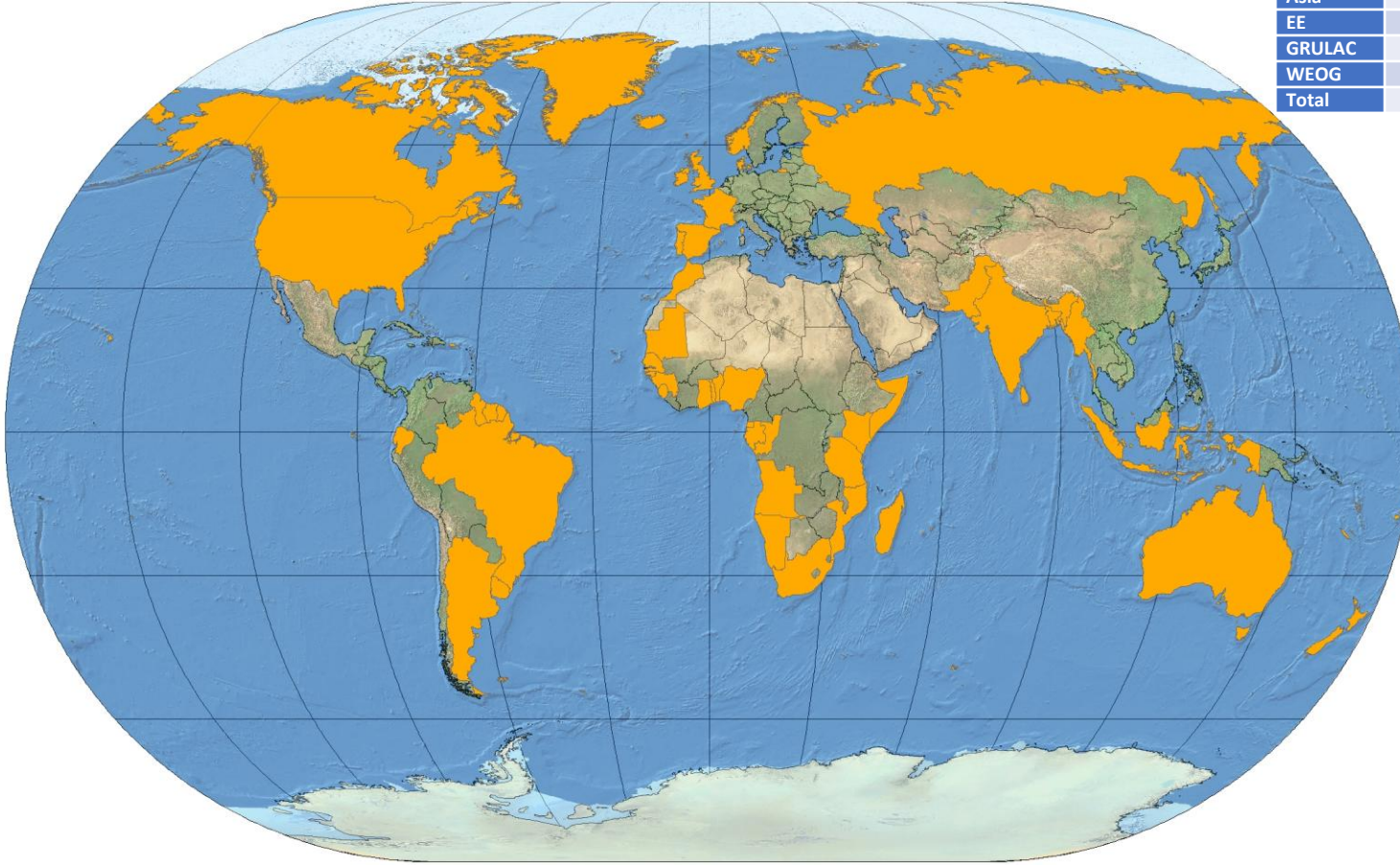
Had this turned out to be correct, the CLCS would likely have completed or almost completed its work by now, since 46 subcommissions have been established thus far.

And, over time the number of coastal States which may have extended Continental Shelf has increased:

.. from 33 on list of the UN Secretariat (1978)*

Estimate of number of coastal States with eCS - 1998

Group	1978 list	1998 list	2005 list	2025 list
Africa	7	26 (+19)	24 (-2)	31 (+7)
Asia	6	8 (+2)	16 (+8)	29 (+13)
EE	1	1	1	1
GRULAC	7	9 (+2)	12 (+3)	14 (+2)
WEOG	12	12	12	12
Total	33	56	65	87



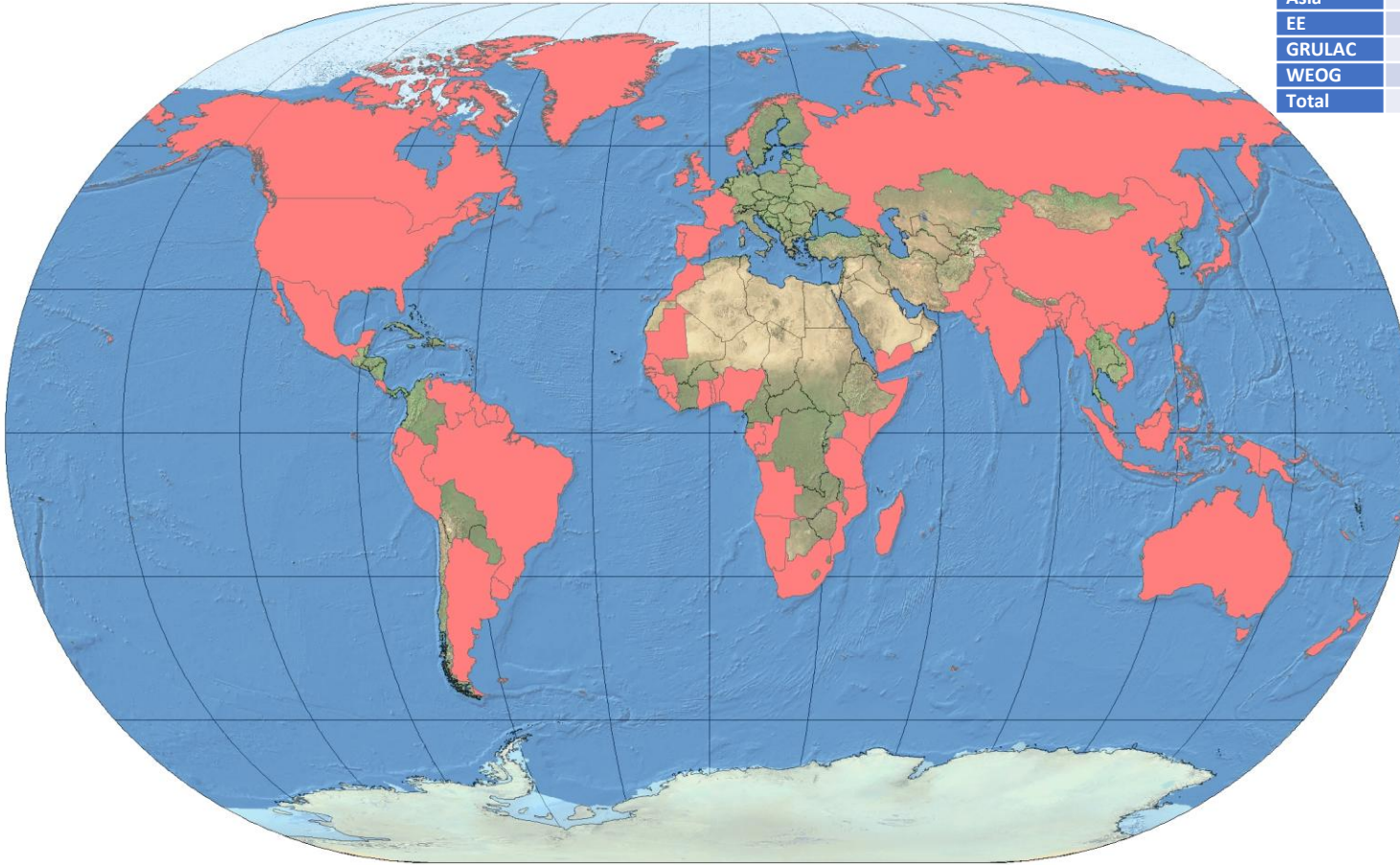
Based on Prescott (1998)

Slide 6. Global map with 1998 list of 56 coastal States with eCS

There were 56 coastal States on the list of Prescott (1998)**

Estimate of number of coastal States with eCS - 2005

Group	1978 list	1998 list	2005 list	2025 list
Africa	7	26 (+19)	24 (-2)	31 (+7)
Asia	6	8 (+2)	16 (+8)	29 (+13)
EE	1	1	1	1
GRULAC	7	9 (+2)	12 (+3)	14 (+2)
WEOG	12	12	12	12
Total	33	56	65	87



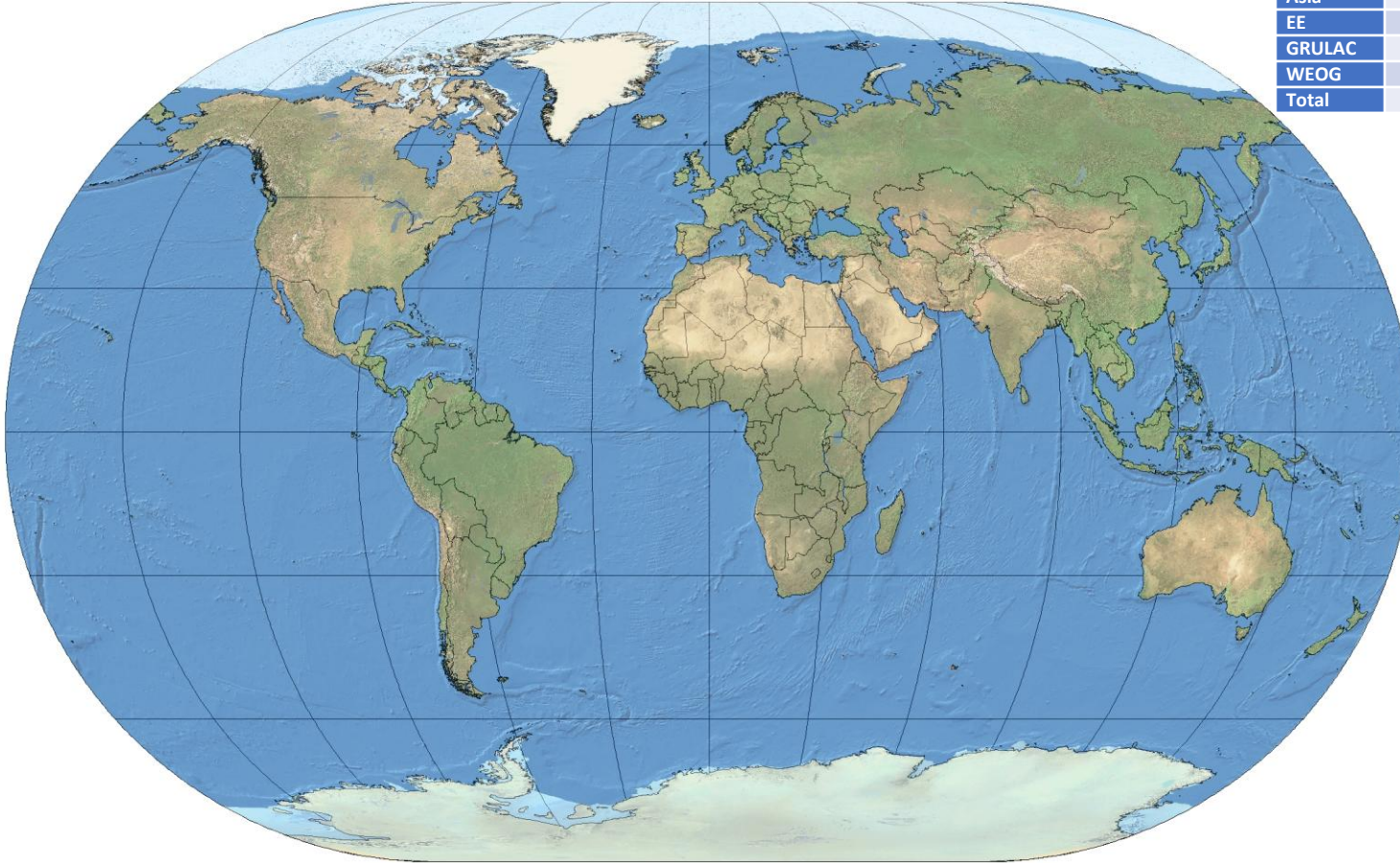
Based on Monahan et al. (2005)

Slide 7. Global map with 2005 list of 65 coastal States with eCS

And there were 65 on the list of Monahan et al (2005)***

Estimate of number of coastal States with eCS - 2025

Group	1978 list	1998 list	2005 list	2025 list
Africa	7	26 (+19)	24 (-2)	31 (+7)
Asia	6	8 (+2)	16 (+8)	29 (+13)
EE	1	1	1	1
GRULAC	7	9 (+2)	12 (+3)	14 (+2)
WEOG	12	12	12	12
Total	33	56	65	87



Based on the Submissions and Pls received to date (April 2025)

Slide 8. Global map with 2025 list of 87 coastal States with eCS

And finally, there are currently 87 coastal States involved, based on the Submissions and PIs received to date (April 2025).

Looking back at the 1978 estimate, it is in the African, Asian and GRULAC regional groups that the greatest discrepancies occur and it is frankly difficult to explain some of them.

In 1998, the CLCS allowed (in its Rules of Procedure document) for coastal States to make a number of partial submissions in order not to prejudice questions relating to the delimitation of boundaries with other States. The effect of this was to increase the total number of submissions. At the same time, joint submissions by two or more coastal States were also allowed, which would tend to reduce the overall number of submissions.

In 2005 and again in 2007 I gave presentations to the MOSP outlining all of these issues in some detail. (I remember in 2007 when I mentioned 2035 as a possible finish date for the work of the CLCS, there was a lot of murmuring around the room, and clearly concern about such an outcome). Unfortunately, the steps taken since then by the MOSP have failed to remediate the problem.

In 2011, it was projected that the total number of submissions (excluding revised submissions) to the Commission would likely reach 100 by 2020 (Crocker et al, 2011, submission to MOSP WG)****.

Currently (April 2025) a total of 95 submissions and 18 PIs have been deposited with DOALOS. When examined more closely it can be seen that of these (*):

- 40 are complete submissions
- 45 are partial submissions
- 9 are joint submissions
- 16 are at Preliminary Information stage
- 2 are joint submissions at Preliminary Information stage

(*excluding 1 relating only to part of the Antarctic)

So $(40+45+9) = 94 + 1 = 95$ submissions currently

The final total currently is estimated as 112. $((40+45+9+16+2) = 112)$

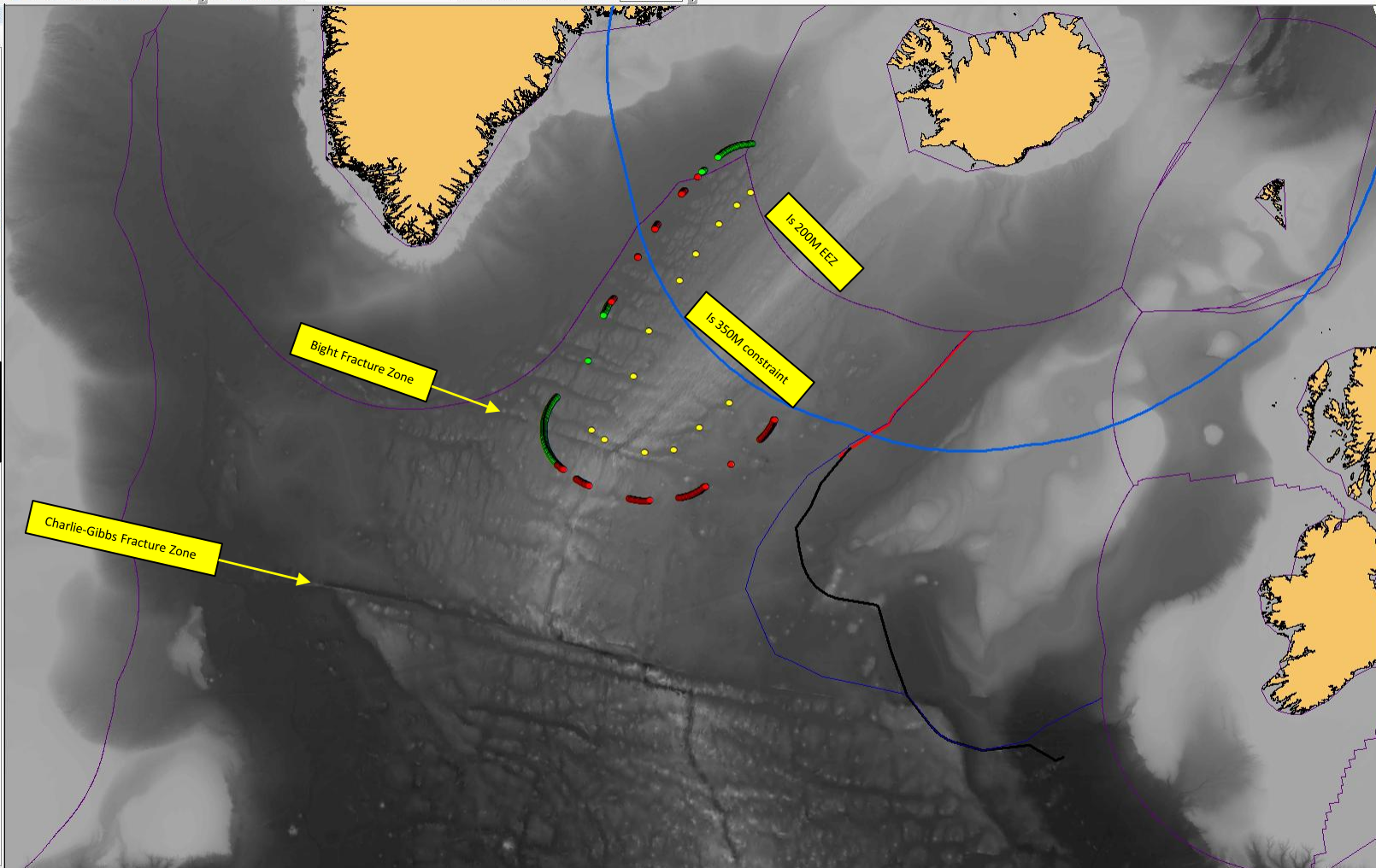
The total number of coastal States involved in all submissions and PIs is 87. $(86 + 1 \text{ NSP (U.S)})$



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 - ☒ Iceland_Recs_Table_3_OLFP
 - ☒ Iceland_Recs_Table_2_fixed_points
 - ☒ Iceland_Recs_Table_1_FOS
 - ☒ Iceland_350M_limit
 - ☒ Denmark_Faroes_HRA_Lines_Submission
 - ☒ Ireland_Hatton-Rockall_Lines_Submission
 - ☒ UK_Hatton-Rockall_Lines_Submission_200
 - ☒ Coastline
 - ☒ World_EEZ_boundaries
 - ☒ World_EEZ
 - ☒ gebco_2024_n90.0_s0.0_w-90.0_e0.0.tif
 - ☒ gebco_2024_tid_n90.0_s0.0_w-90.0_e0.0.tif
 - ☒ GSFML_AtlanticOcean.picks
 - ☒ GSFML_Fracture Zones

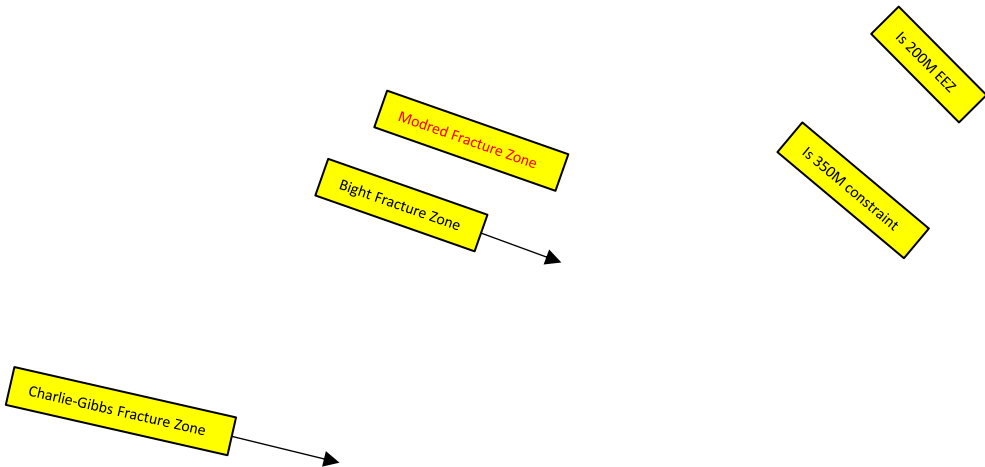
Background is GEBCO
2024 bathymetry in
grey scale

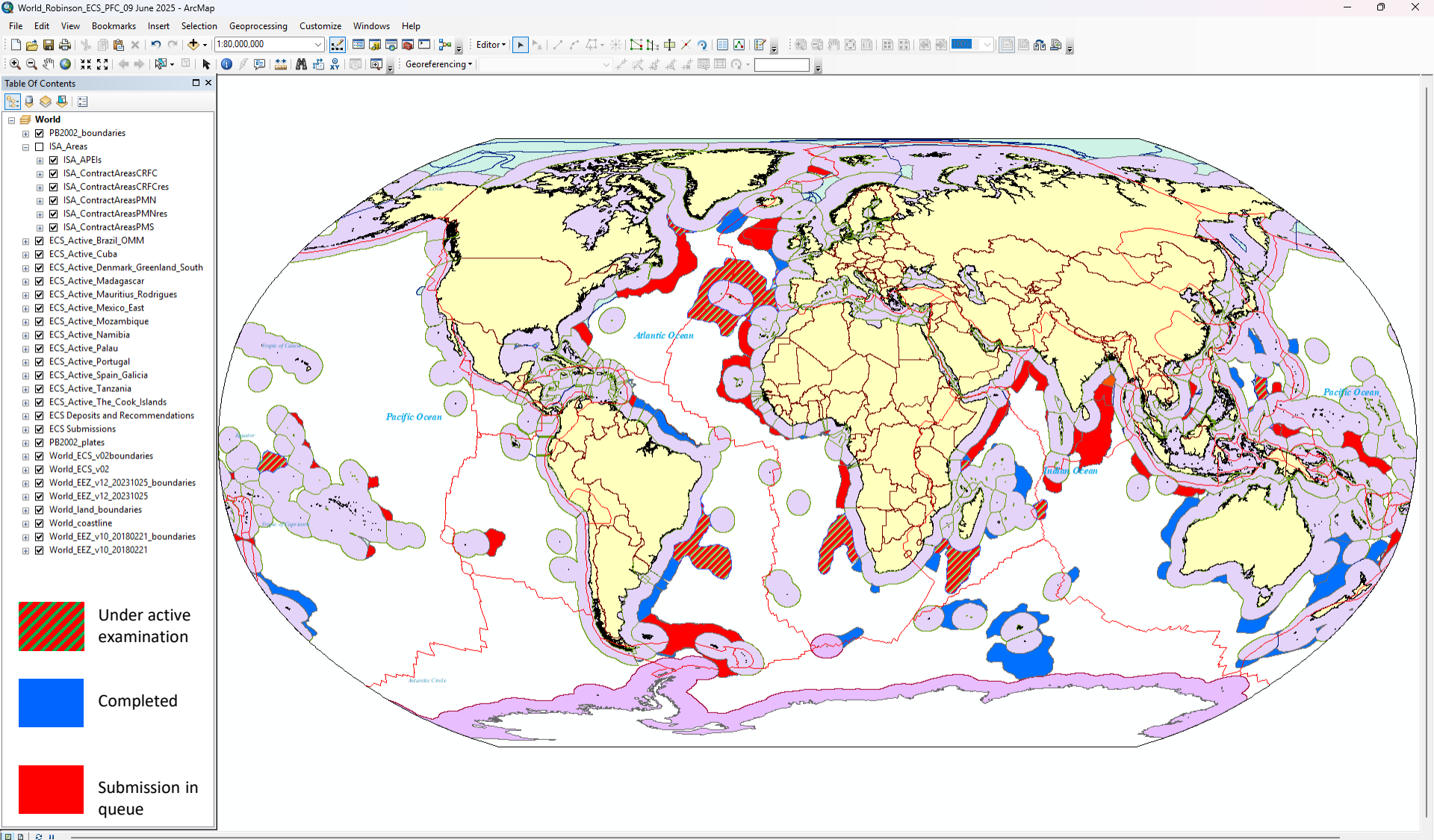


One other oceanic ridge island was successful in claiming eCS beyond the 350M constraint before Iceland – can you name it ?

Panasiuk et al (2025) Tectono-Magmatic Evolution of the Southern Reykjanes Ridge, North Atlantic, From ~11 M.y. to Present. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 26.

Background is GEBCO 2024 bathymetry in grey scale

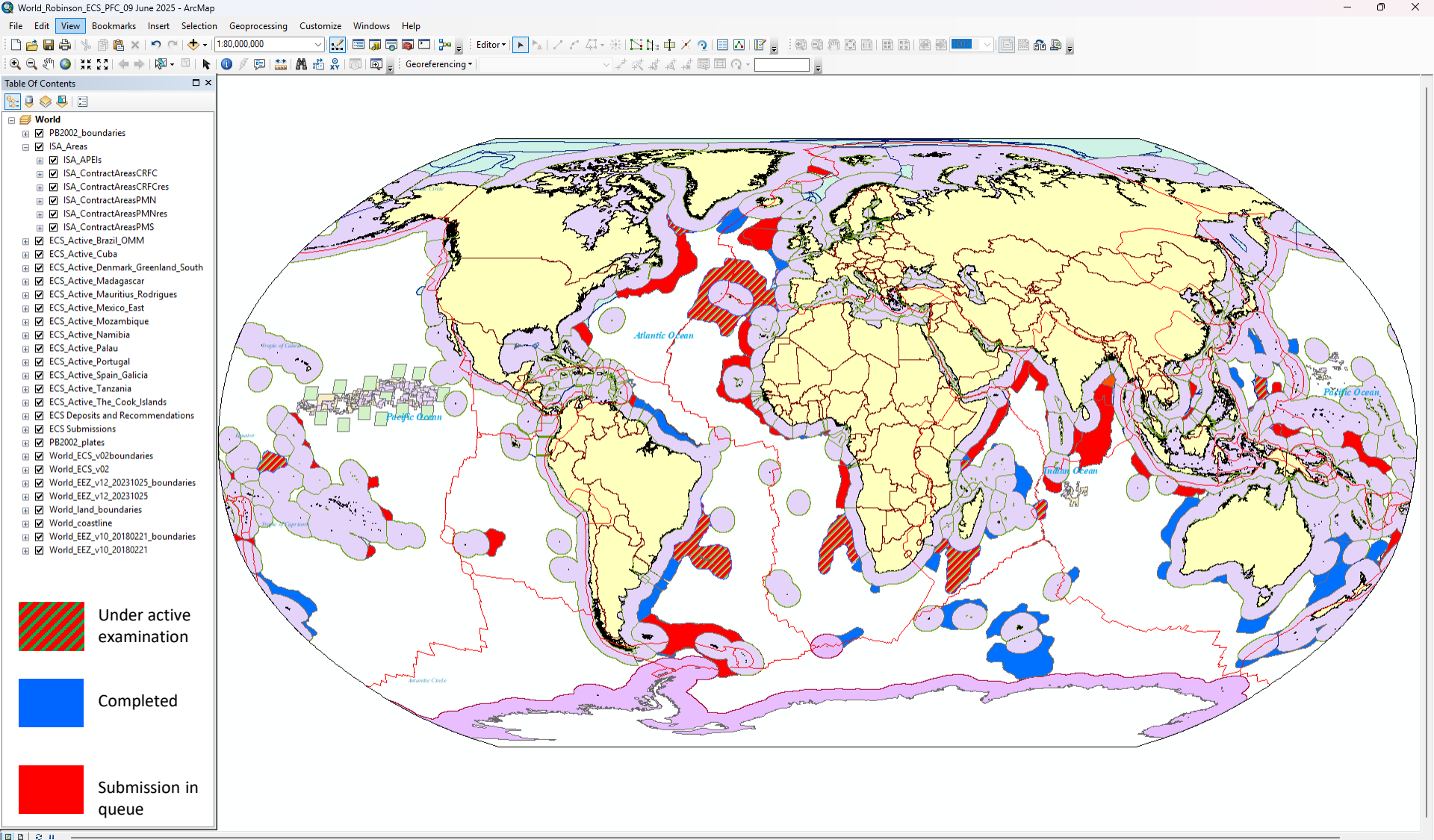




 Under active examination

 Completed

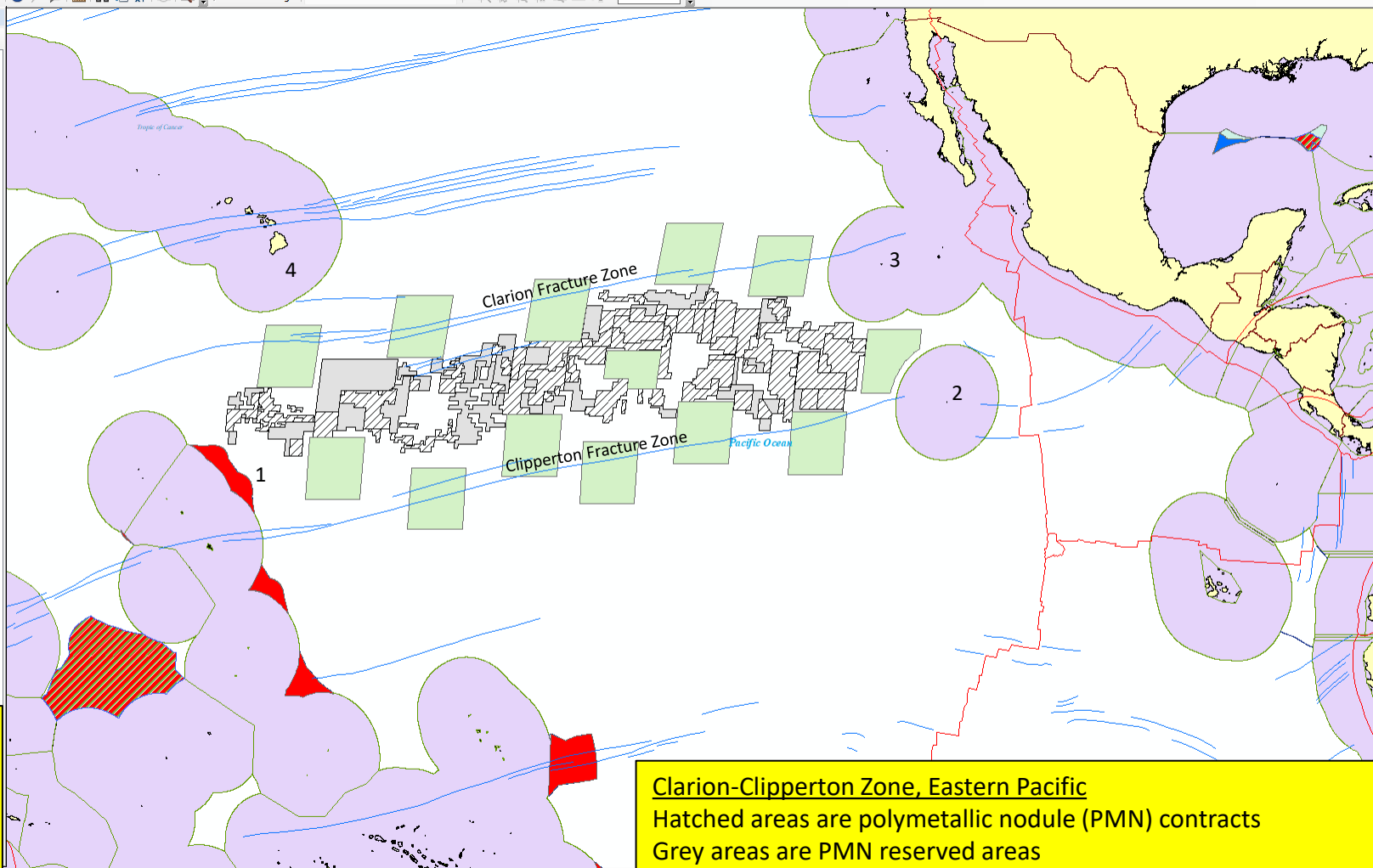
 Submission in queue



Introduction to Part XI of UNCLOS: The Area

- World
 - ☒ GSFML_Fracture_Zones
 - ☒ PB2002_boundaries
 - ☒ ISA_Areas
 - ☒ ISA_APEIs
 - ☒ ISA_ContractAreasPMNres
 - ☒ ISA_ContractAreasPMN
 - ☒ ISA_ContractAreasCRFC
 - ☒ ISA_ContractAreasCRFCres
 - ☒ ISA_ContractAreasPMS
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Brazil_OMM
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Cuba
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Denmark_Greenland_South
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Iceland
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Madagascar
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Mexico_East
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Mozambique
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Namibia
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Palau
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Portugal
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Spain_Galicia
 - ☒ ECS_Active_Tanzania
 - ☒ ECS_Active_The_Cook_Islands
 - ☒ ECS_Deposits_and_Recommendations
 - ☒ ECS_Submissions
 - ☒ PB2002_plates
 - ☒ World_ECS_v02boundaries
 - ☒ World_ECS_v02
 - ☒ World_EEZ_v12_20231025_boundaries
 - ☒ World_EEZ_v12_20231025
 - ☒ World_land_boundaries
 - ☒ World_coastline
 - ☒ World_EEZ_v10_20180221_boundaries
 - ☒ World_EEZ_v10_20180221

- 1: Kiribati Eastern Platform
eCS submission (#64)
- 2: Clipperton Island (Fr)
200M EEZ
- 3: Clarion Island (Mx) 200M
EEZ
- 4: U.S. 200M EEZ



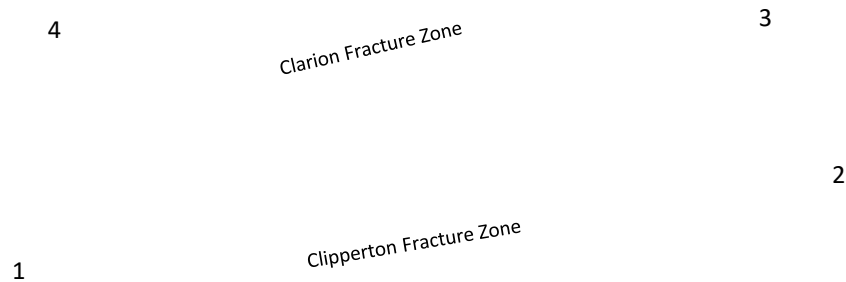
Sweetman et al (2024) Evidence of dark oxygen production at the abyssal seafloor. Nature Geoscience, 17, 737–739.

Clarion-Clipperton Zone, Eastern Pacific

Hatched areas are polymetallic nodule (PMN) contracts

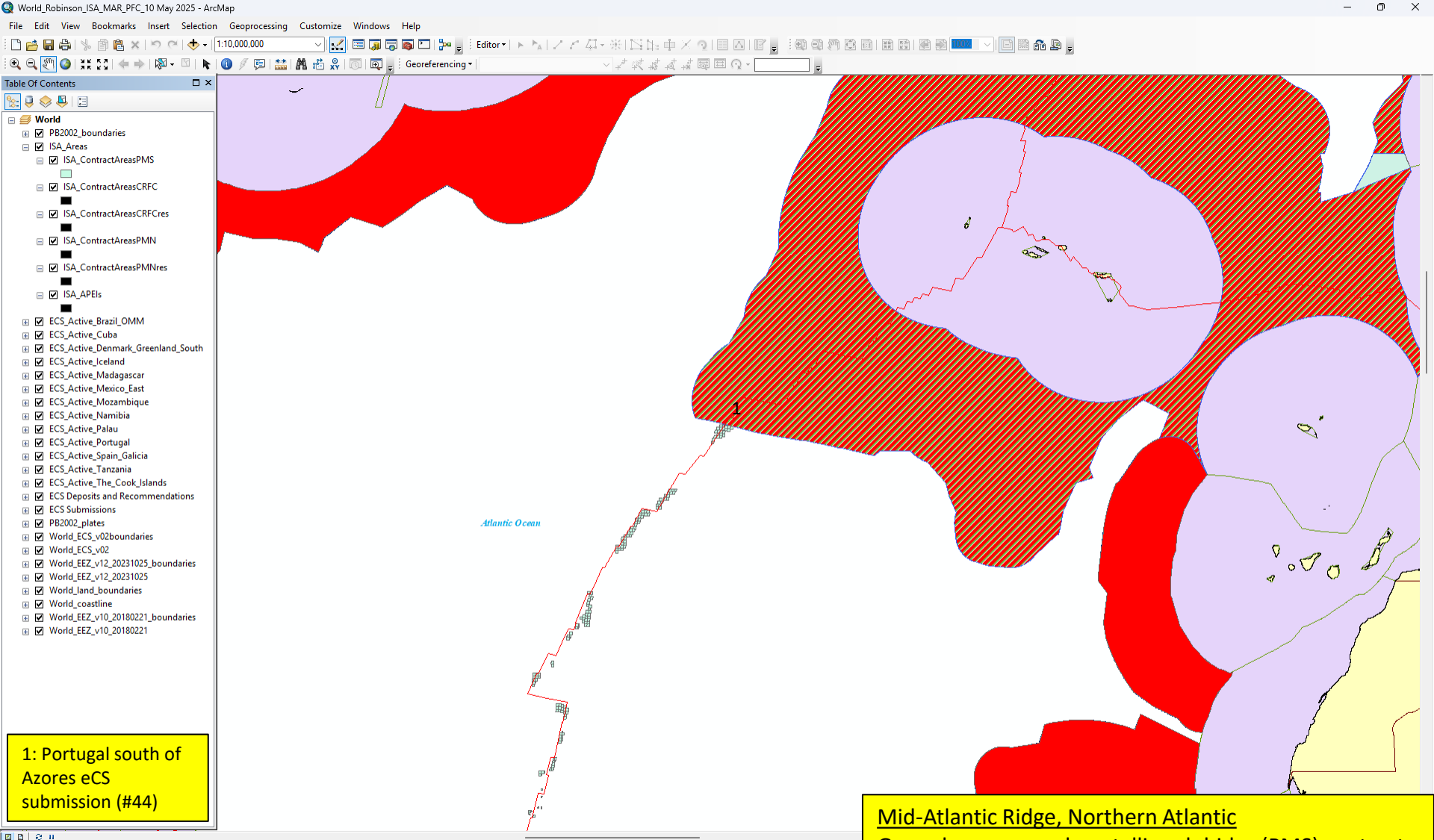
Grey areas are PMN reserved areas

Green areas are Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (APEI)
(GIS elements for these areas courtesy of ISA)



- 1: Kiribati Eastern Platform eCS submission (#64)
- 2: Clipperton Island (Fr) 200M EEZ
- 3: Clarion Island (Mx) 200M EEZ
- 4: U.S. 200M EEZ

Clarion-Clipperton Zone, Eastern Pacific
Hatched areas are polymetallic nodule (PMN) contracts
Grey areas are PMN reserved areas
Green areas are Areas of Particular Environmental Interest (APEI)
(GIS elements for these areas courtesy of ISA)

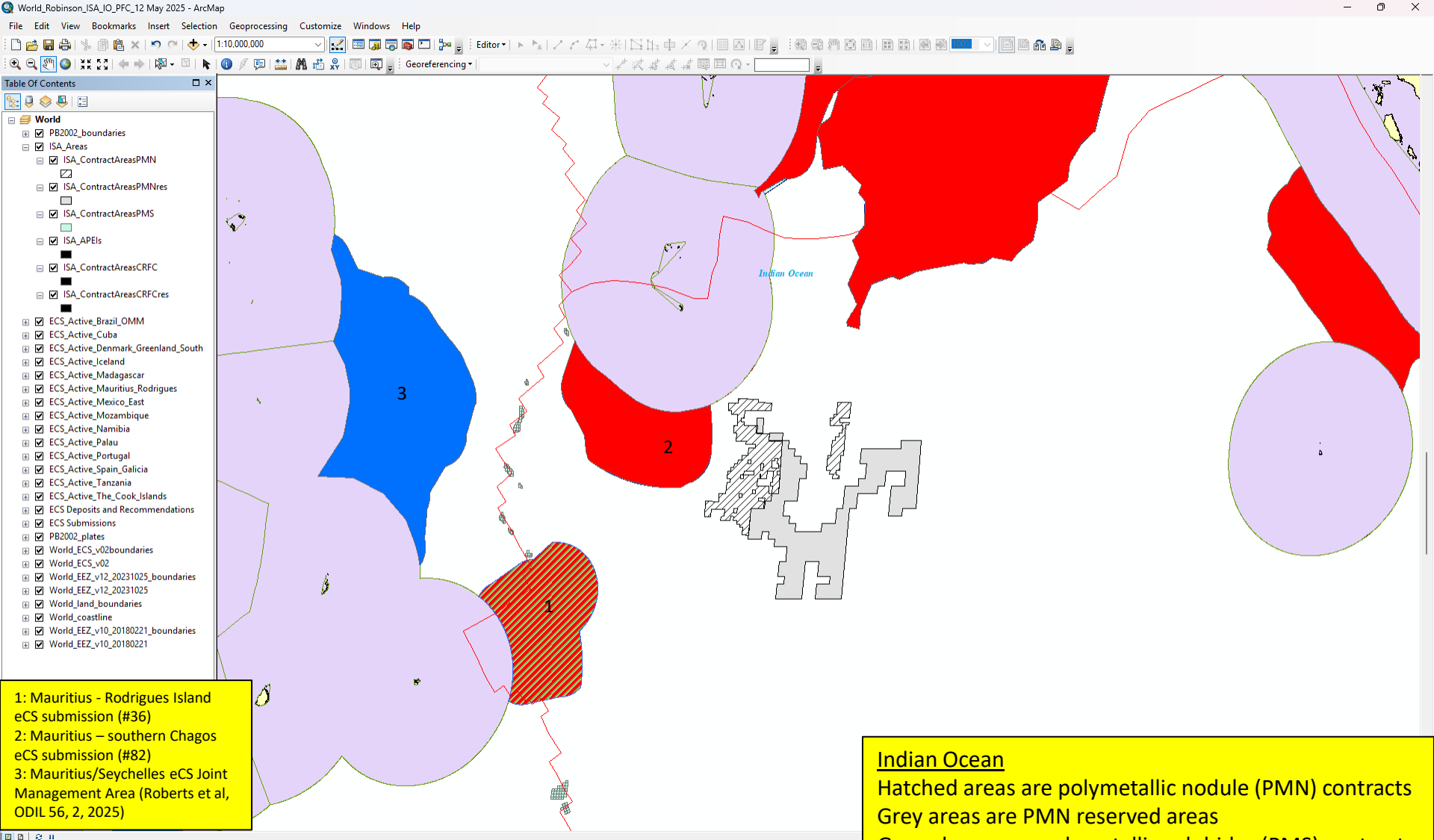


1: Portugal south of
Azores eCS
submission (#44)

Slide 13b

Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Northern Atlantic

Green boxes are polymetallic sulphides (PMS) contracts
(GIS elements for these areas courtesy of ISA)



3

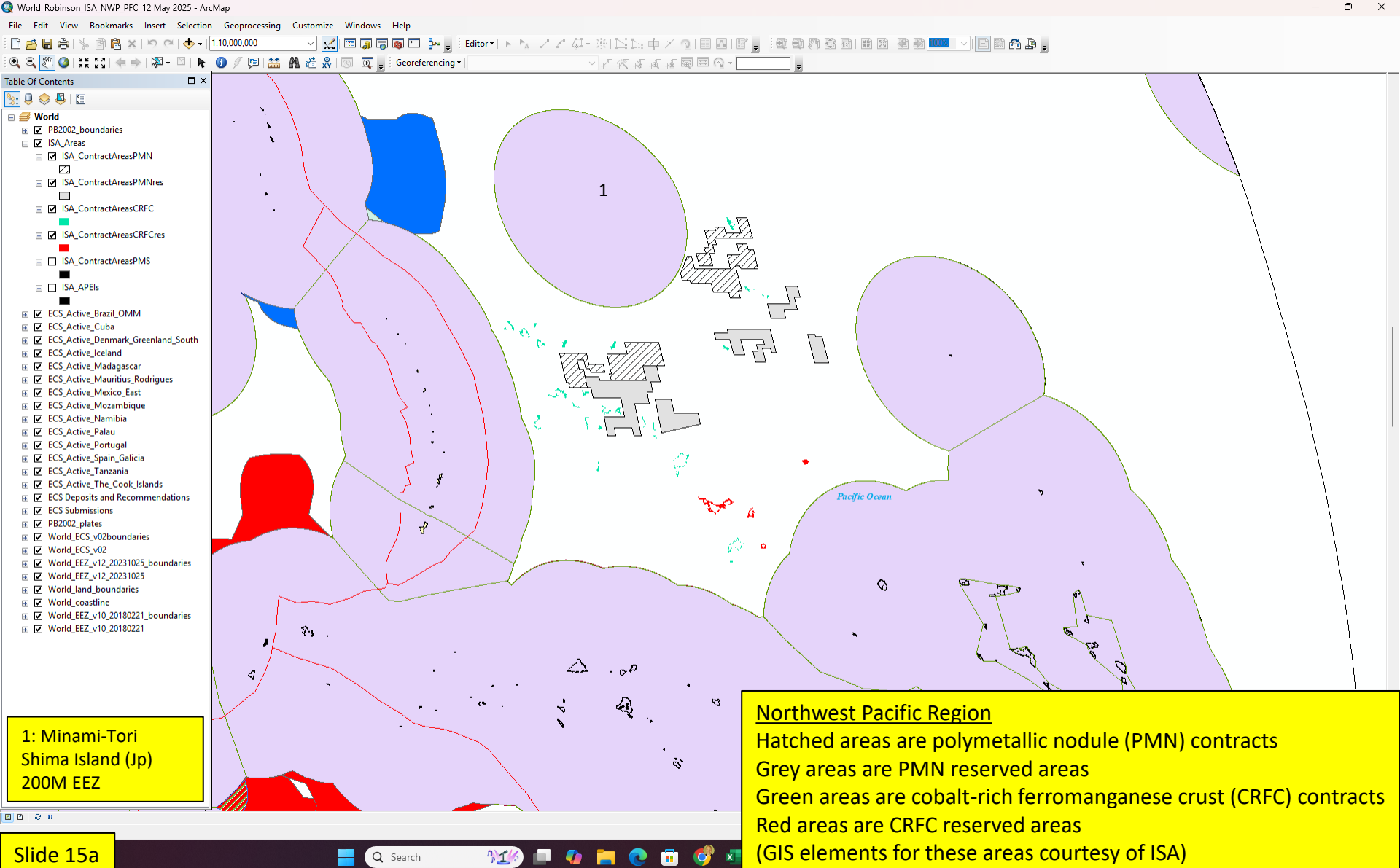
2

1

1: Mauritius - Rodrigues Island
eCS submission (#36)
2: Mauritius – southern Chagos
eCS submission (#82)
3: Mauritius/Seychelles eCS Joint
Management Area (Roberts et al,
ODIL 56, 2, 2025)

Indian Ocean

Hatched areas are polymetallic nodule (PMN) contracts
Grey areas are PMN reserved areas
Green boxes are polymetallic sulphides (PMS) contracts
(GIS elements for these areas courtesy of ISA)



N.B. The South Atlantic Ocean Region is not shown
Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crust (CRFC) contract (Brazil)
Rio Grande Rise area
Completely overlapped by Brazil's submission to CLCS

1

1: Minami-Tori
Shima Island (Jp)
200M EEZ

Slide 15b

Northwest Pacific Region
Hatched areas are polymetallic nodule (PMN) contracts
Grey areas are PMN reserved areas
Green areas are cobalt-rich ferromanganese crust (CRFC) contracts
Red areas are CRFC reserved areas
(GIS elements for these areas courtesy of ISA)

The BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Agreement (aka The High Seas Treaty)

The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, also known as the “BBNJ Agreement”, was adopted on 19 June 2023. It is currently awaiting ratification by 60 States (currently 32* have done so), after which it will enter into force.

The BBNJ Agreement covers four main issues:

- Marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
- Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas;
- Environmental impact assessments; and
- Capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

It also addresses so-called “cross-cutting issues”, which are transversal topics that support the implementation of the Agreement and are relevant to the four main issues.

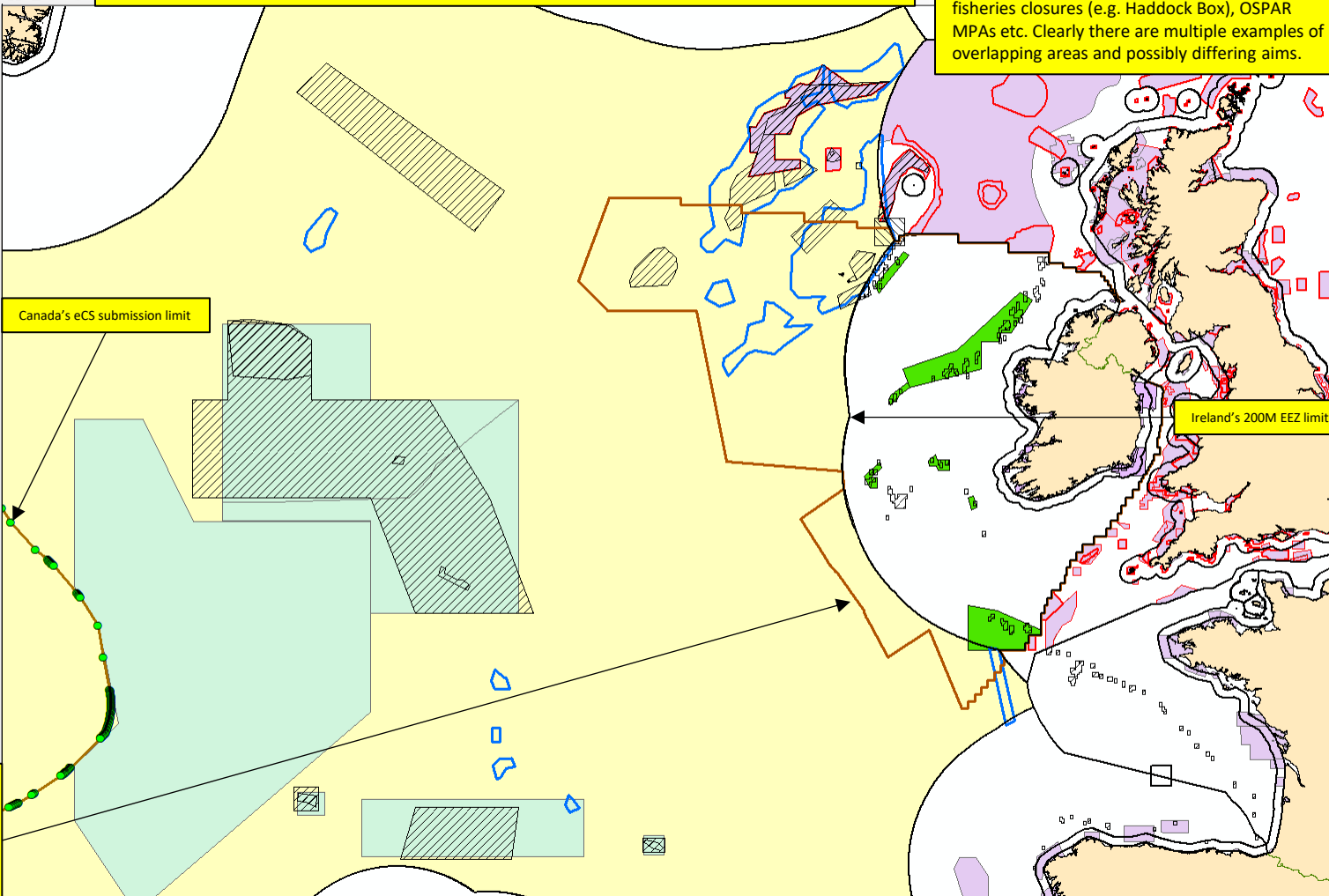
“Areas beyond National Jurisdiction” means the High Seas and the Area.

Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under the (UNCLOS) Convention, including in respect of the Exclusive Economic Zone and the continental shelf within and beyond 200 nautical miles.

- ☐ World_ECS_boundaries
- ☒ World_EEZ_boundaries
- ☒ IRL_CS_Designated Area
- ☒ Land borders
- ☒ Coastline
- ☒ World_12NM
- ☐ ICES_VME_Weighting_Algorithm_VME_Habitat
- ☐ ICES_VME_Weighting_Algorithm_High
- ☐ ICES_VME_Weighting_Algorithm_Medium
- ☐ ICES_VME_Weighting_Algorithm_Low
- ☒ NEAFC_Rockall_Bank_Haddock_Box
- ☒ NEAFC VME Closures
- ☒ EU_Closures_as_of_September_2022
- ☒ NEAFC VME Bottom fishing areas
- ☐ C-sqs_overlapping_400-800m_depth
- ☒ NPWS_SAC_Offshore_WGS84_2022_11
- ☒ NPWS_SAC_ITM_2024_05
- ☒ NPWS_SPA_ITM_2024_01_Marine
- ☒ NPWS_SPA_2023_05
- ☒ MCZ_Natural_England_and_JNCC
- ☒ UK_SACs_with_Marine_Components_WGS84
- ☒ UK_OffshoreMPAs_WGS84
- ☒ Canada_Atlantic_ECS_Points_Submission_2013
- ☒ Canada_Atlantic_ECS_Lines_Submission_2013
- ☒ OSPAR_MPAs_WGS84
- ☐ OSPAR_MPAs_ABNI_simplified
- ☒ OSPAR_all_polygons
- ☒ World_High_Seas
- ☐ ICES_VME_DataSet_2023125_Points
- ☐ ICES_VME_Scenarios_A-E
- ☐ EMODnet_2022_bathymetry
- ☐ Source data
- ☐ Basemap

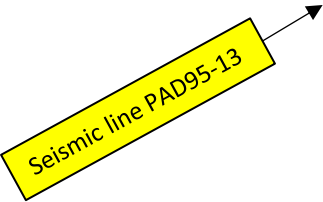
The Collective Arrangement, subscribed to by OSPAR and NEAFC and presented as a model by these organisations, suggests that regional seas organisations, such as OSPAR, are to act as standard setters for the conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) (Hey, 2022).

Green polygons are SACs (inside Ireland's 200M EEZ). Hatched areas are EU closures, NEAFC VME closures (beyond 200M) and other specific fisheries closures (e.g. Haddock Box), OSPAR MPAs etc. Clearly there are multiple examples of overlapping areas and possibly differing aims.

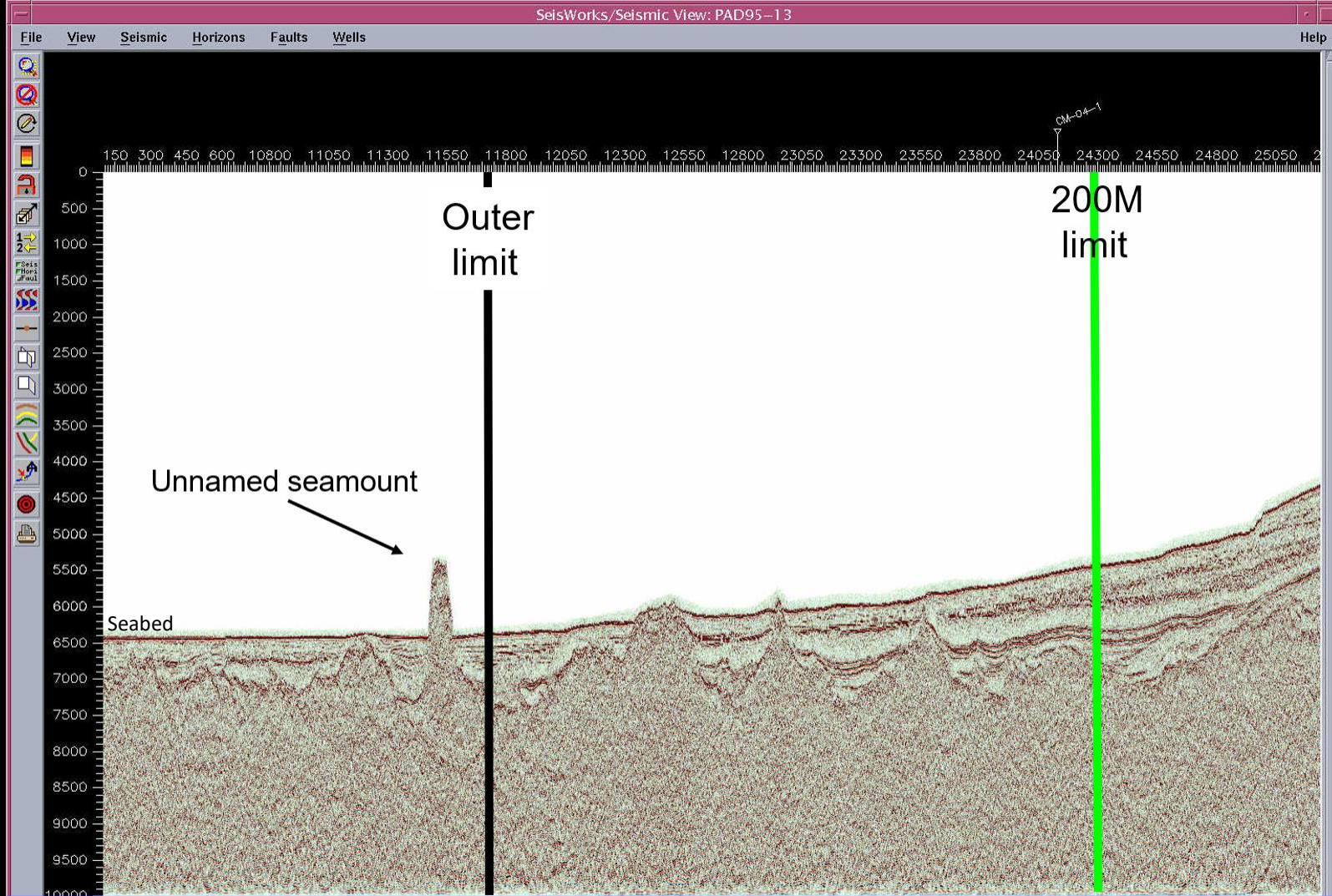


In this part of the Atlantic, the only location where the boundary of the Area has been established thus far is the Porcupine Abyssal Plain, following Ireland's partial submission to the CLCS in 2005.

Location of seismic profiles across
the Porcupine Abyssal Plain.



From
Croker
(2007)



From
Crocker
(2011)

Seabed

From
Croker
(2011)

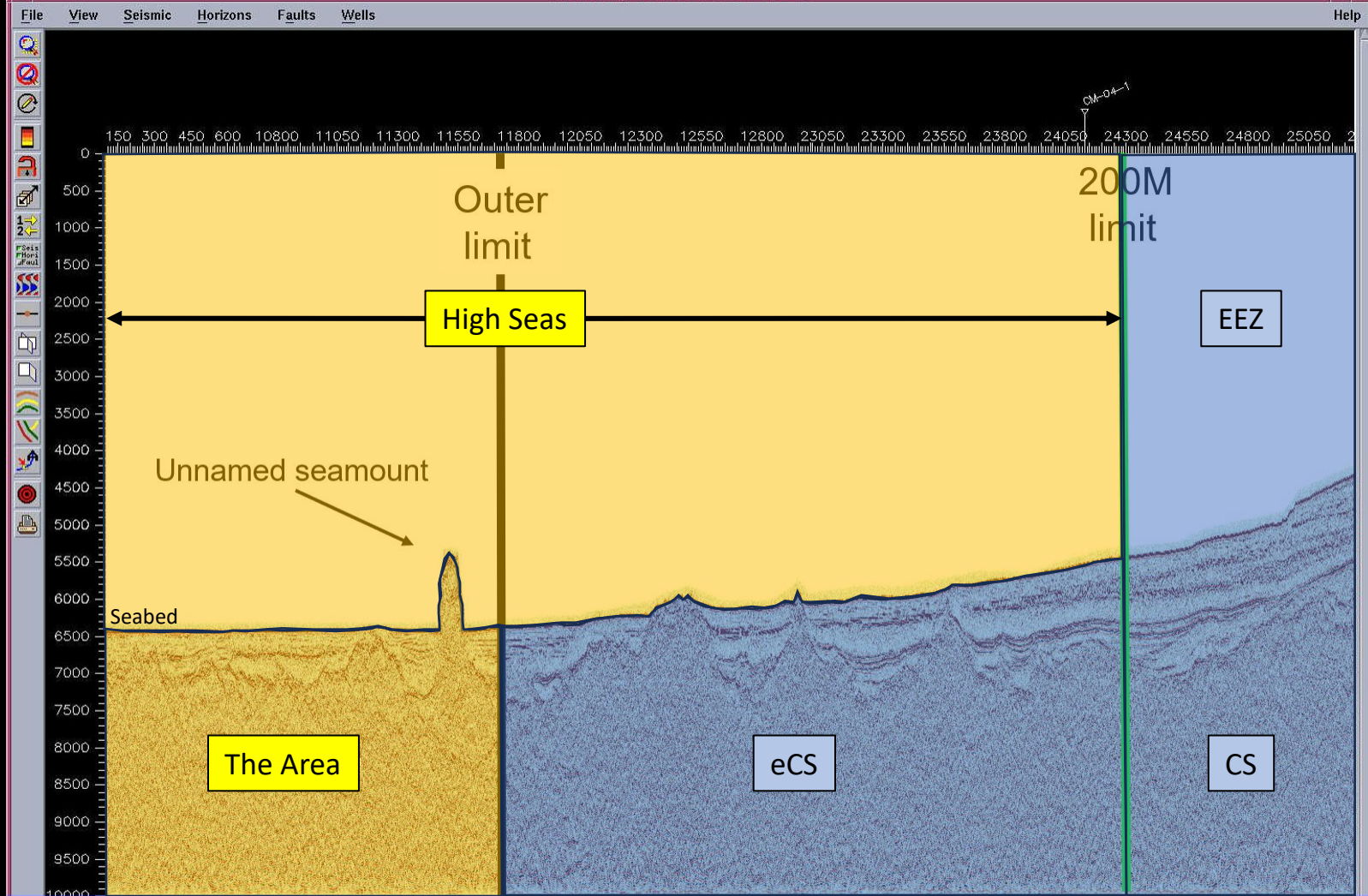


Illustration of areas under National Jurisdiction (Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Continental Shelf (CS) and extended Continental Shelf (eCS)) and those Beyond National Jurisdiction (High Seas and the Area). Note that the terms 'Continental Shelf' and 'extended Continental Shelf' in this context are legal/administrative terms rather than being understood in a geological sense.



Seabed

The Area

eCS

CS

Illustration of areas under National Jurisdiction (Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Continental Shelf (CS) and extended Continental Shelf (eCS)) and those Beyond National Jurisdiction (High Seas and the Area). Note that the terms 'Continental Shelf' and 'extended Continental Shelf' in this context are legal/administrative terms rather than being understood in a geological sense.

Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and the Convening of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement

First session

New York, 14–25 April 2025

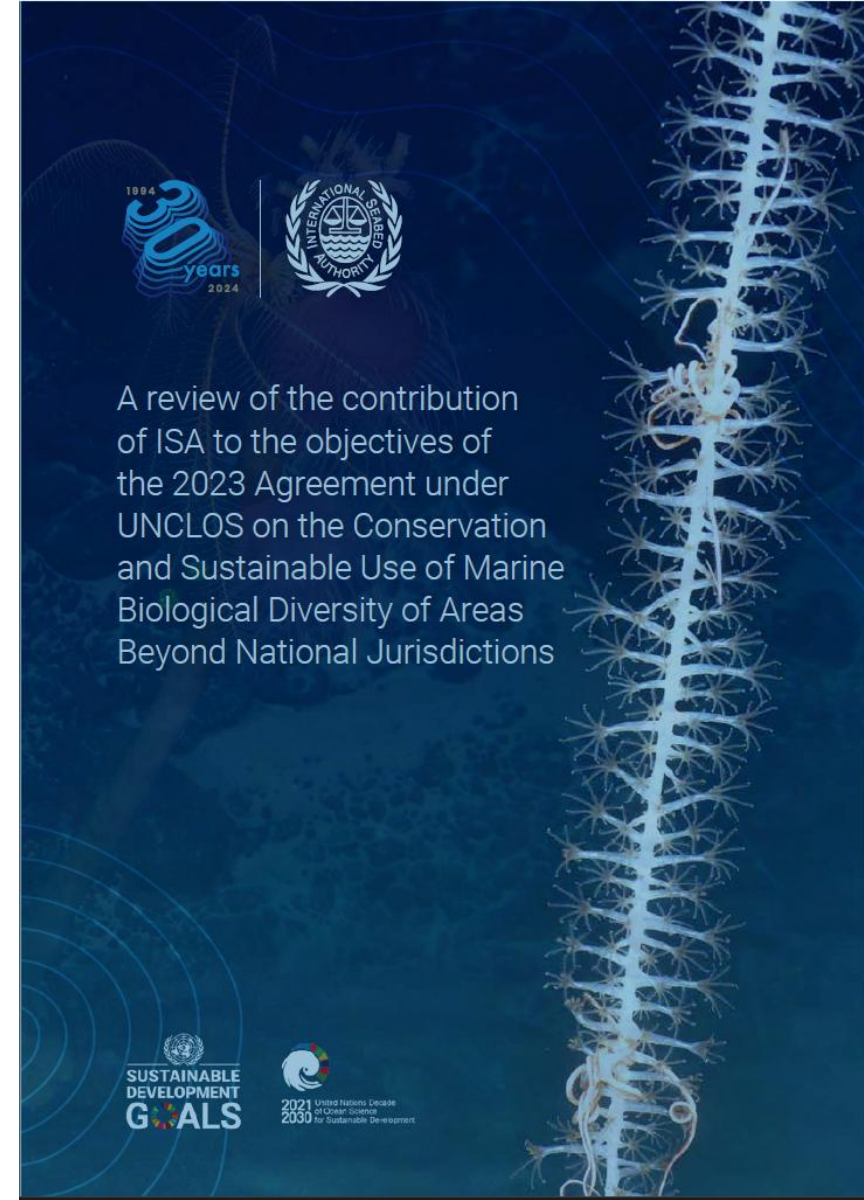
Agreed clusters of issues to be addressed by the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the Agreement

1. Governance issues
2. Issues pertaining to the operation of the Clearing-House Mechanism
3. Financial rules, and financial resources and mechanism

Schedule of future meetings

The Preparatory Commission will hold its second meeting from 18 to 29 August 2025, and the third session of the Preparatory Commission will be from 23 March to 2 April 2026.

The ISA and the BBNJ working together



Article 82: Revenue Sharing

Canada
Brazil
Namibia

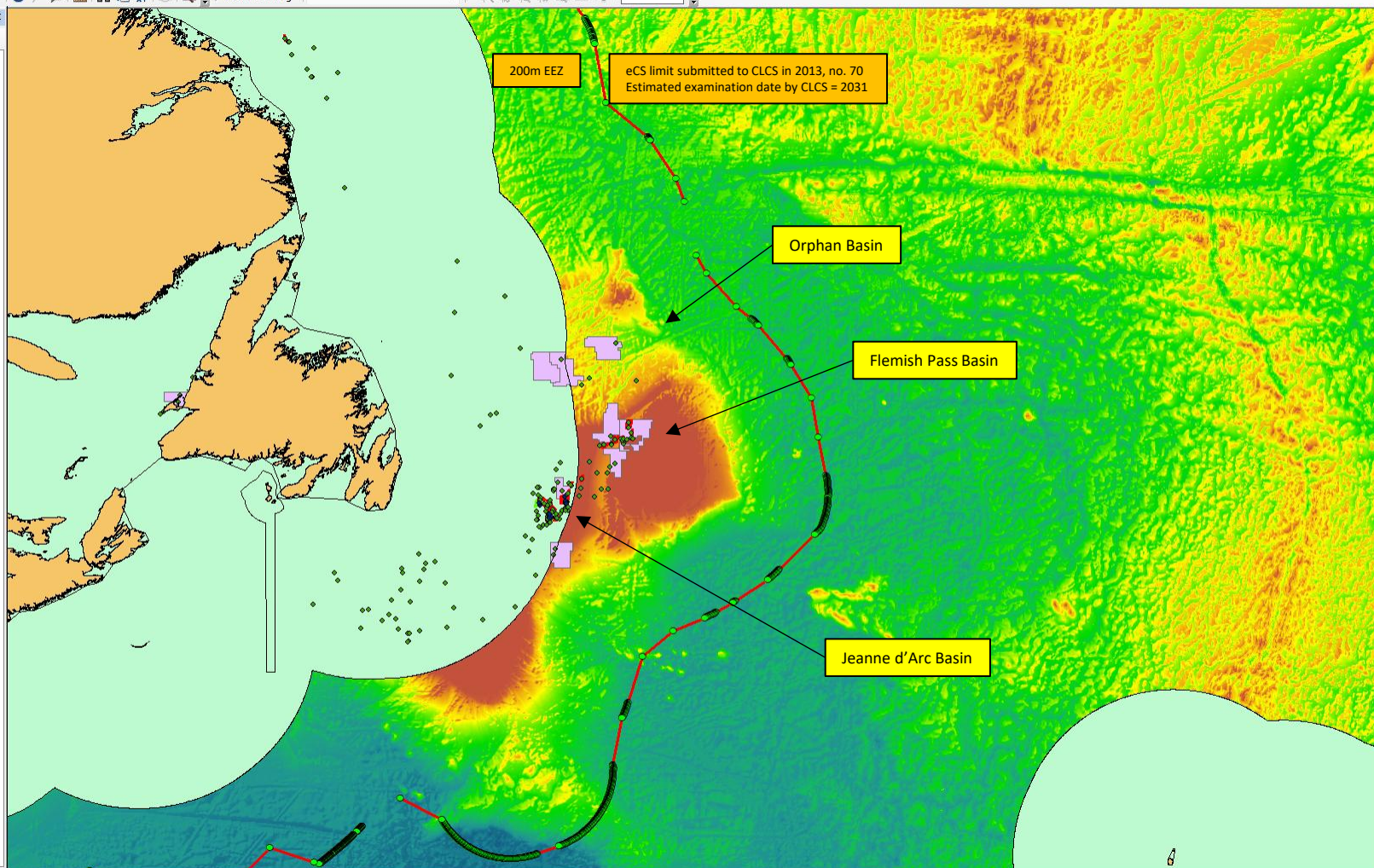
Article 82: Revenue Sharing

Details



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 - ☒ Land borders
 - ☒ Coastline
 - ☒ DevelopmentWells_May_2025
 - ☒ ExplorationWells_May_2025
 - ☒ SignificantDiscoveryLicences_May_2025
 - ☒ ProductionLicences_May_2025
 - ☒ Active-EL_May_2025
 - ☒ ECS_Points_Submission_2013
 - ☒ ECS_Lines_Submission_2013
 - ☐ ECS_Polygon_Submission_2013
 - ☒ World_EEZ
 - ☒ GEBCO_2022_n90.0_s0.0_w-90.0_e0.0.tif
 - ☐ ECS_Polygons_August_2015
 - ☐ ECS_Points_August_2015
 - ☐ ECS_Lines_August_2015

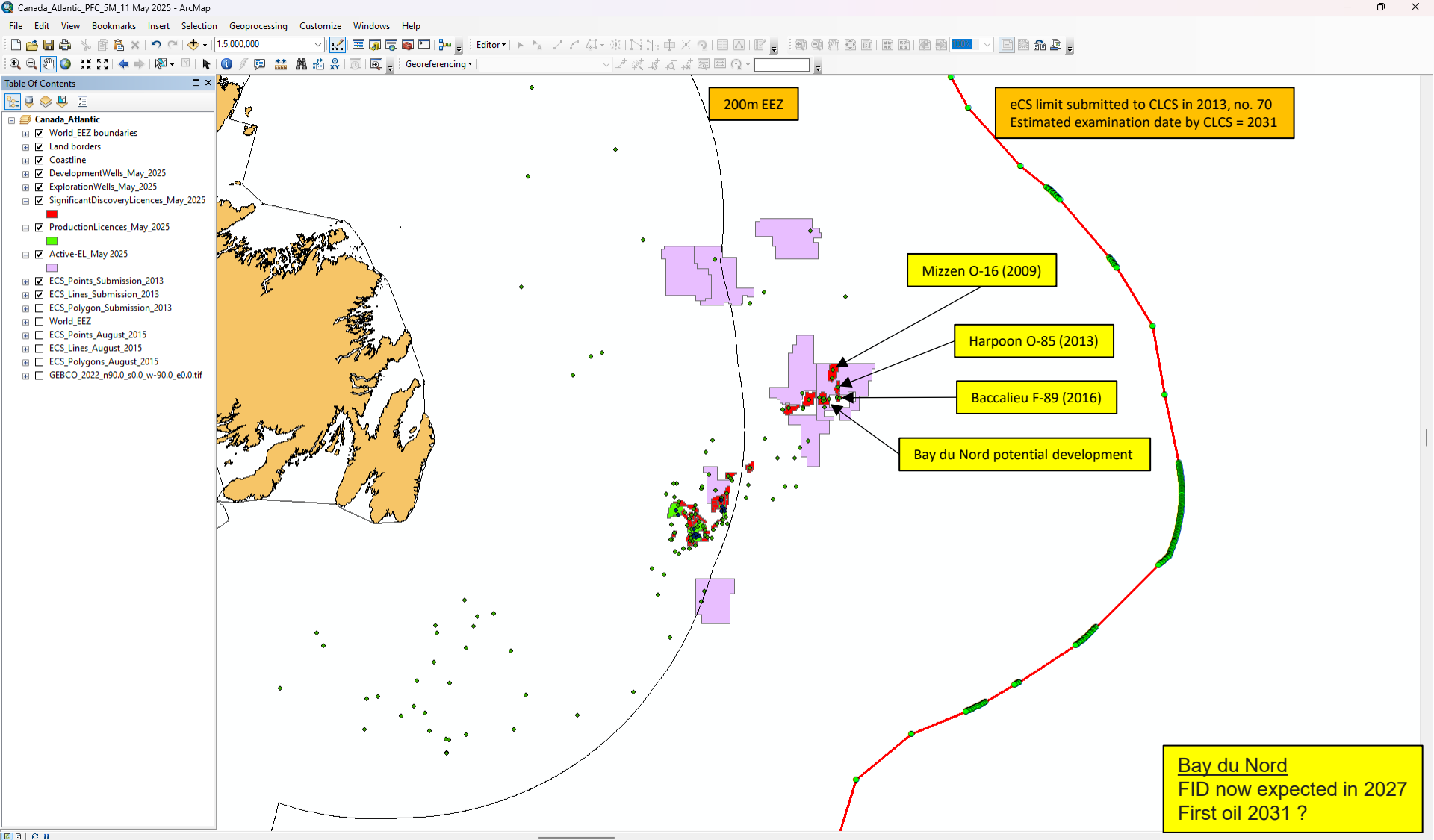


Slide 22. Canada – offshore Newfoundland (1:10,000,000) –200M limit, eCS limit as submitted to CLCS, bathymetry, basins, wells and licences.

(“Article 82 may well be first tested by Canada and possibly within the decade” Chircorp & Marchand, 2003)

Let us focus on Canada as it still looks likely that it will be the first coastal State to activate Article 82.

The colour background is bathymetry and shows the extent of the Grand Banks offshore Newfoundland. It also shows the 200M EEZ and the eCS limit as submitted by Canada.



Slide 23. Canada – offshore Newfoundland (1:5,000,000) –200M limit, eCS limit as submitted to CLCS, wells and licences, recent discoveries and potential development (Bay du Nord) beyond 200M.

Here I have removed the bathymetry and zoomed in to show more detail. The green areas are existing production licences while the red areas are significant discovery licences, and you can see the progression of discoveries in the last number of years beyond the 200M limit.

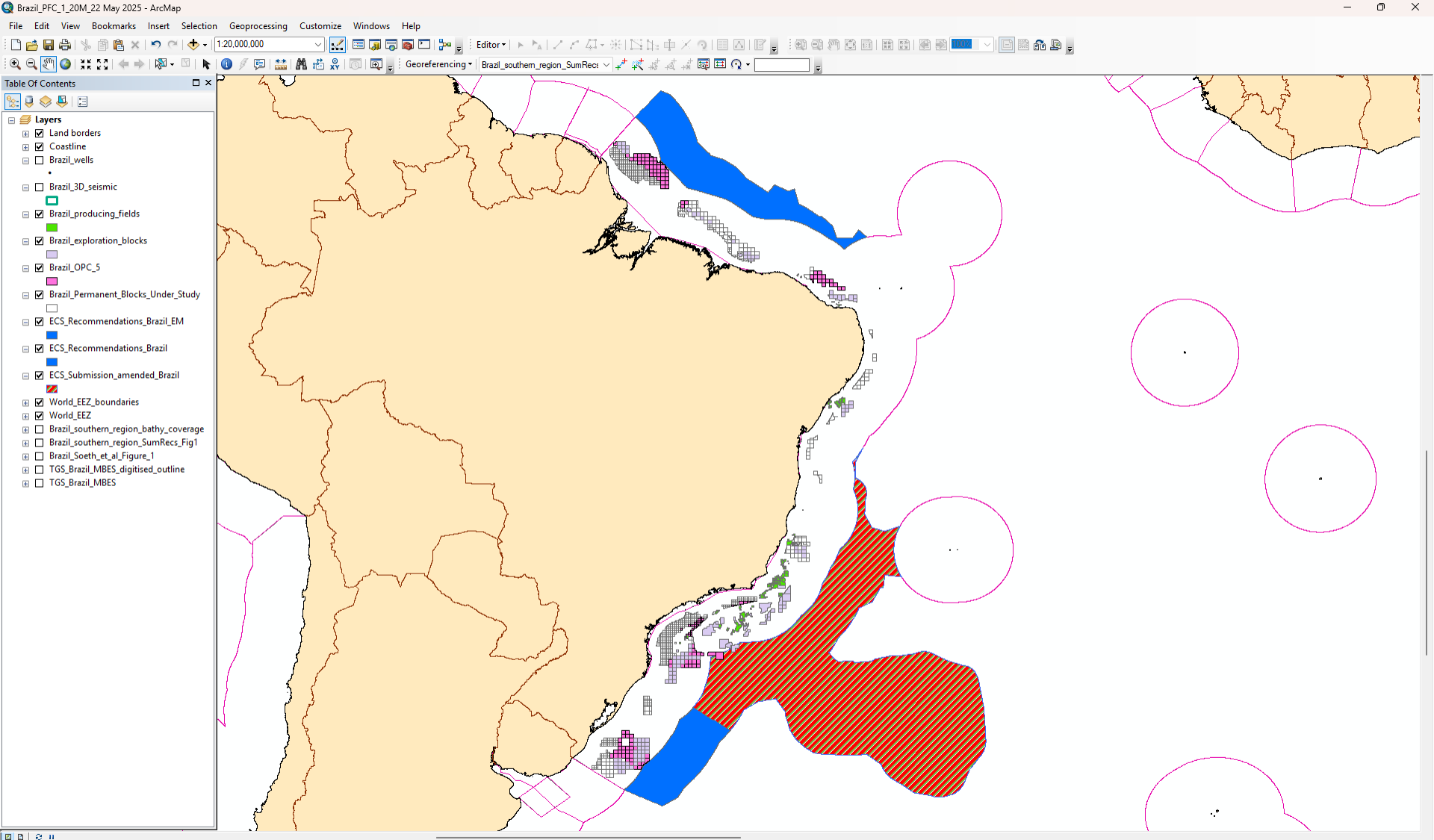
The Canadian government has already indicated its approval for the Bay du Nord development, but the Operator (Equinor, formerly Statoil) has yet to make its Final Investment Decision (FID).

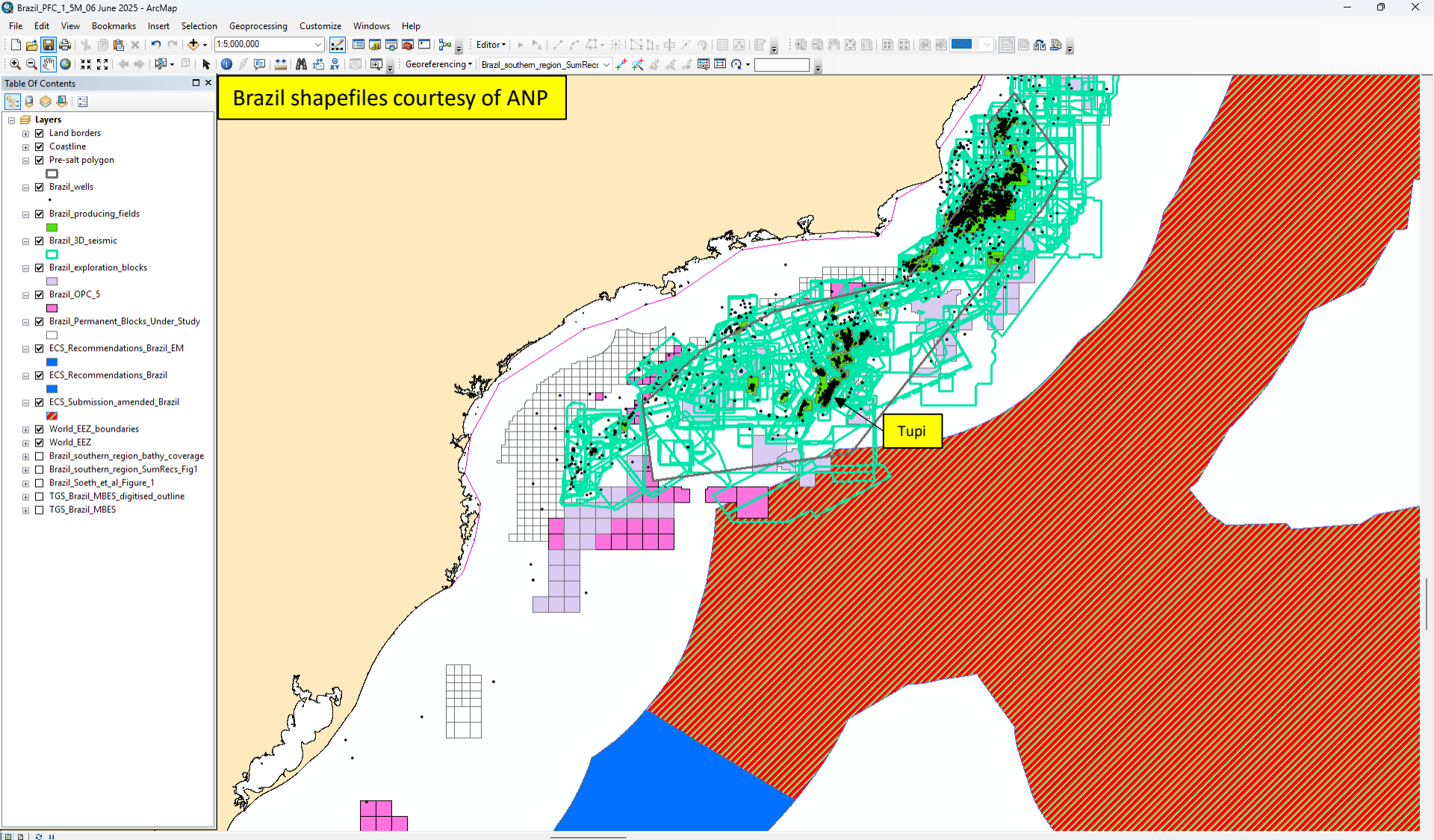
As you know, Article 82 provides for a system of revenue sharing between coastal States and the international community in respect of the exploitation of non-living resources of the eCS. Coastal States will be required to share the revenues from the exploitation of these resources on the OCS by paying a portion of those revenues (annually, up to 7% of the value or volume of production at the site) through the International Seabed Authority for distribution to the international community, and particularly to the developing States, according to equitable sharing criteria (which have yet to be developed).

There is as yet no agreement or common understanding as to how Article 82 should be implemented, not only by the Authority in terms of distributing any revenue, but also as concerns the coastal States. The Authority has convened a number of studies and workshops (e.g. see ISA Technical Study No. 12) aimed at providing guidance on the interpretation and application of Article 82, but much work remains to be done. See also Spicer (2015).

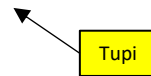
From C-NLOPB website

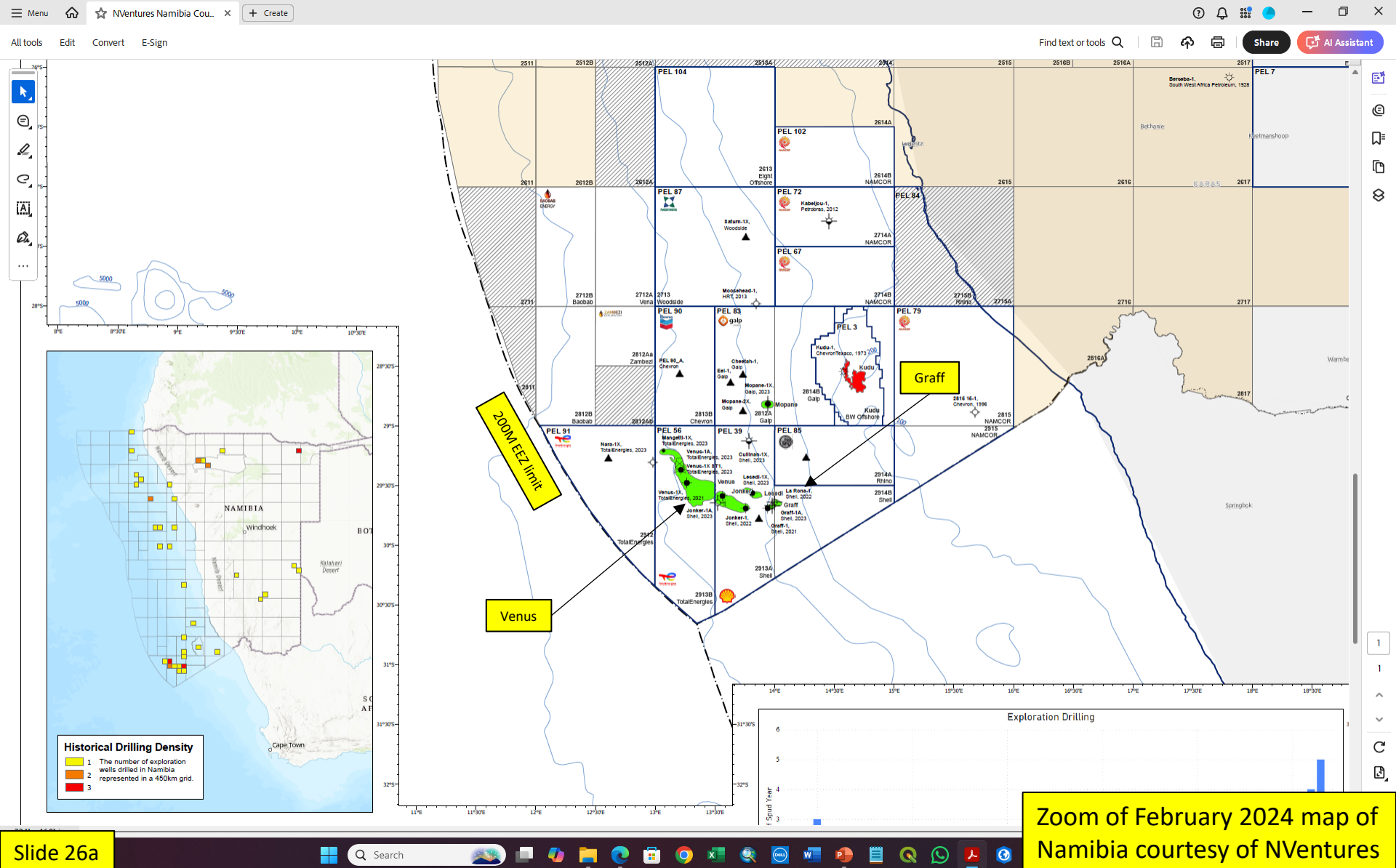
“For any lands entirely or partially beyond Canada’s 200 nautical mile zone, additional terms and conditions may be applied (e.g. through legislation, regulations, amendments to licences or otherwise) to any resulting licence from a Call for Bids in order to meet obligations arising pursuant to article 82 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.”

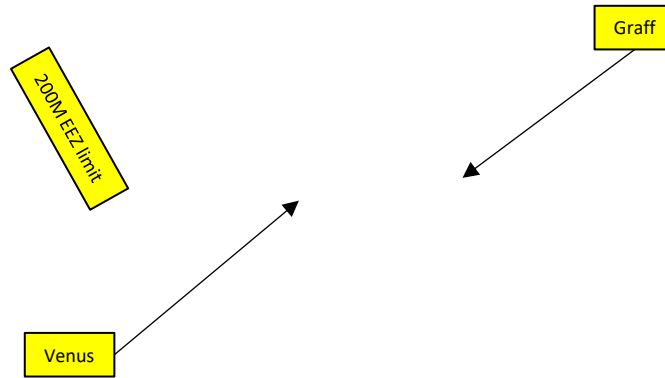




Brazil shapefiles courtesy of ANP







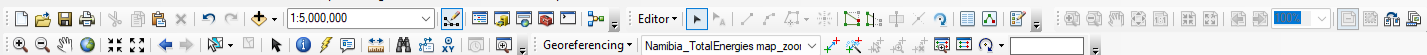
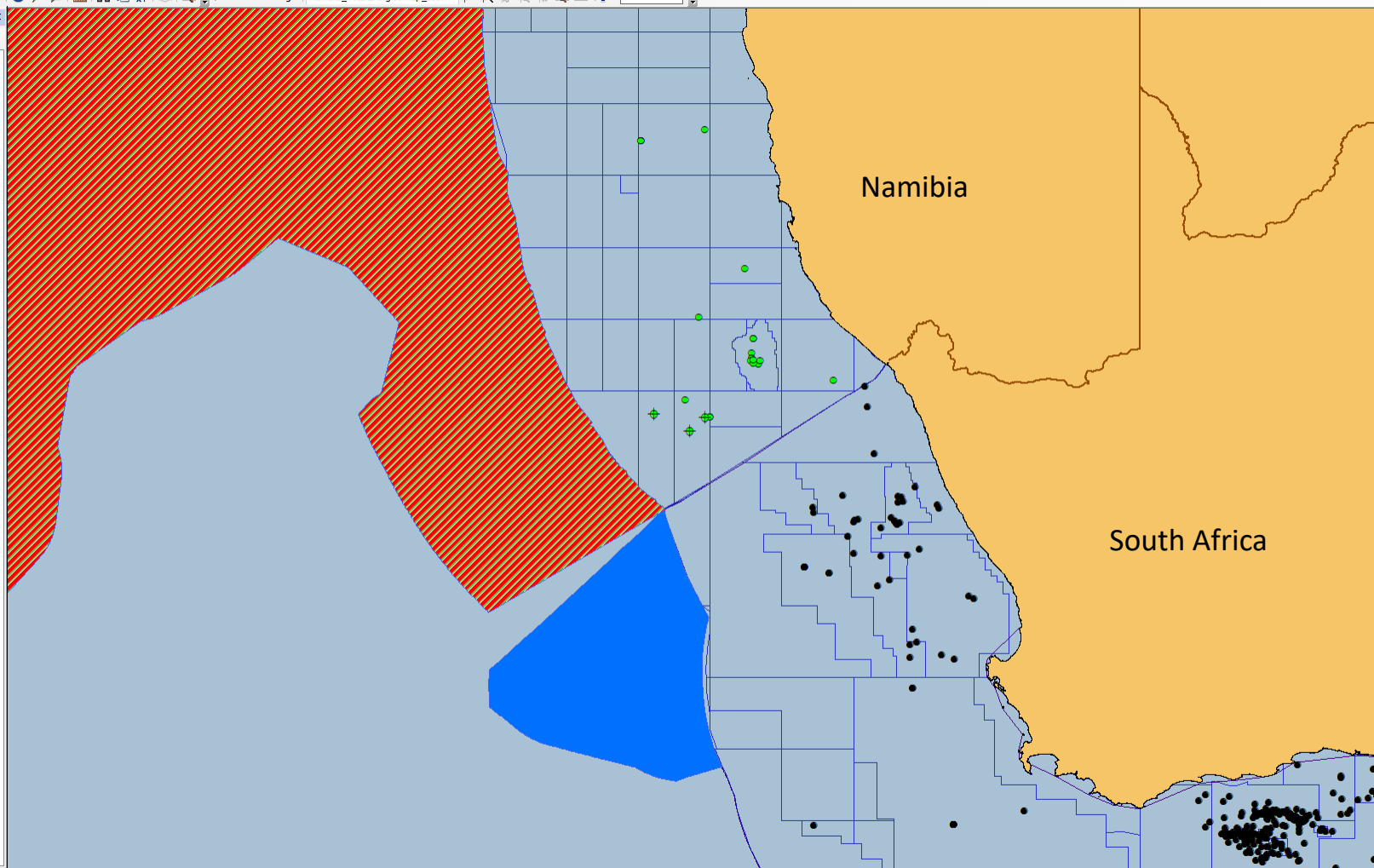


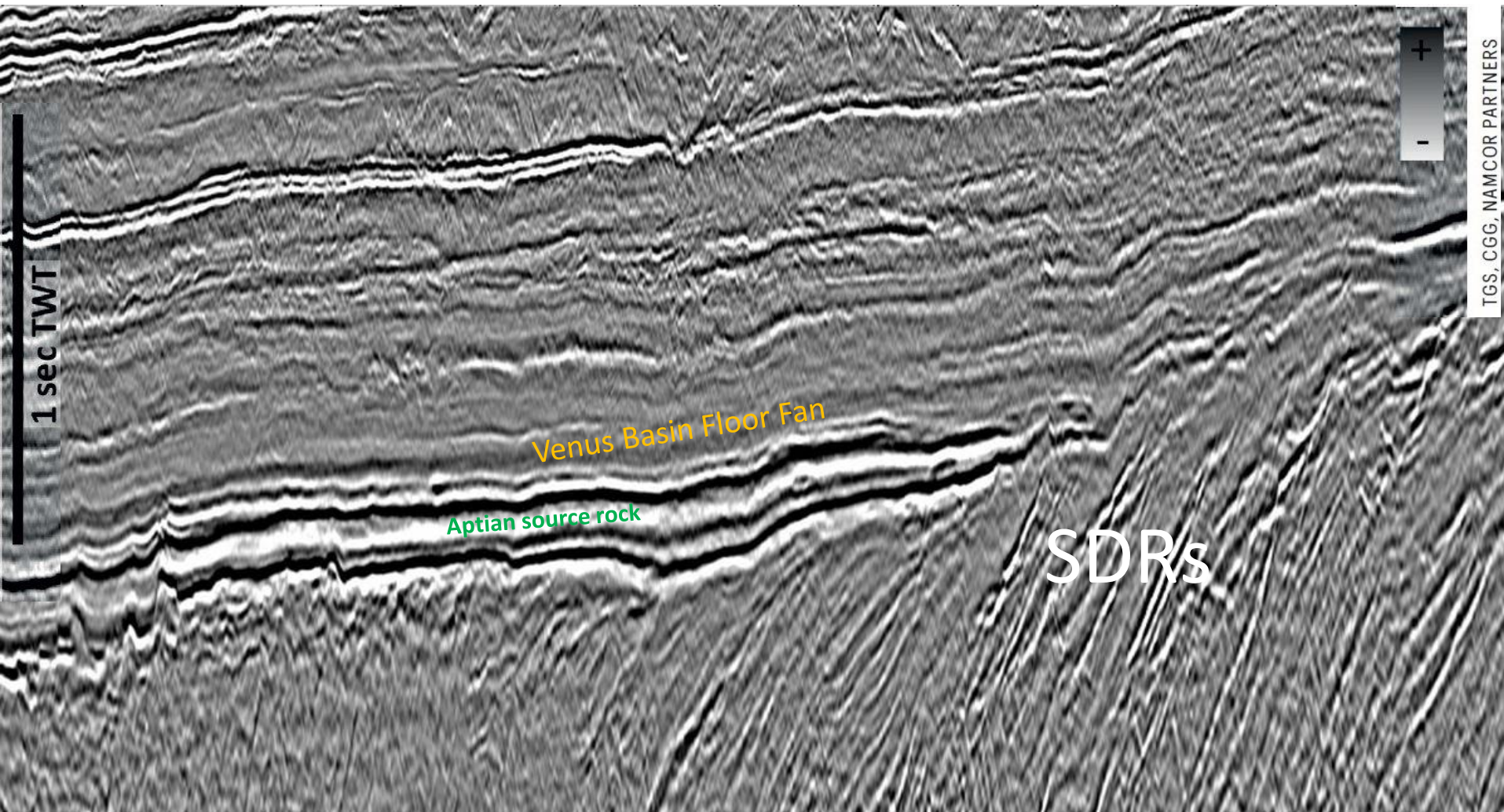
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Namibia

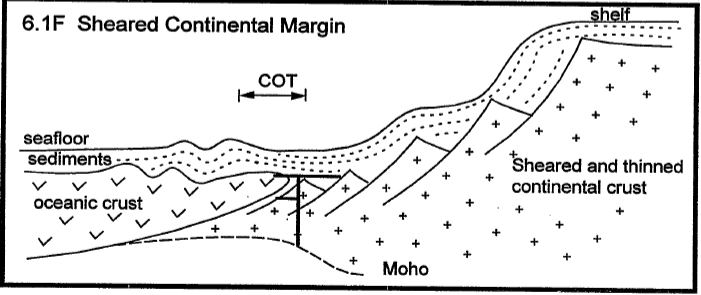
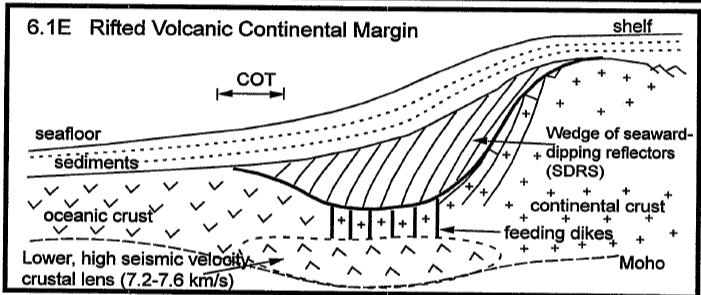
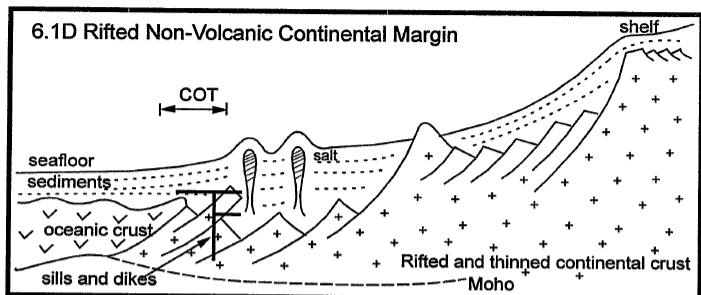
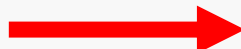
South Africa



Venus Basin Floor Fan

Aptian source rock

SDRs



COT - CONTINENT/OCEANIC CRUST TRANSITION

MOHO - BOUNDARY SURFACE SEPARATING THE CRUST FROM THE SUBJACENT MANTLE.

ITLOS and ICJ involvement

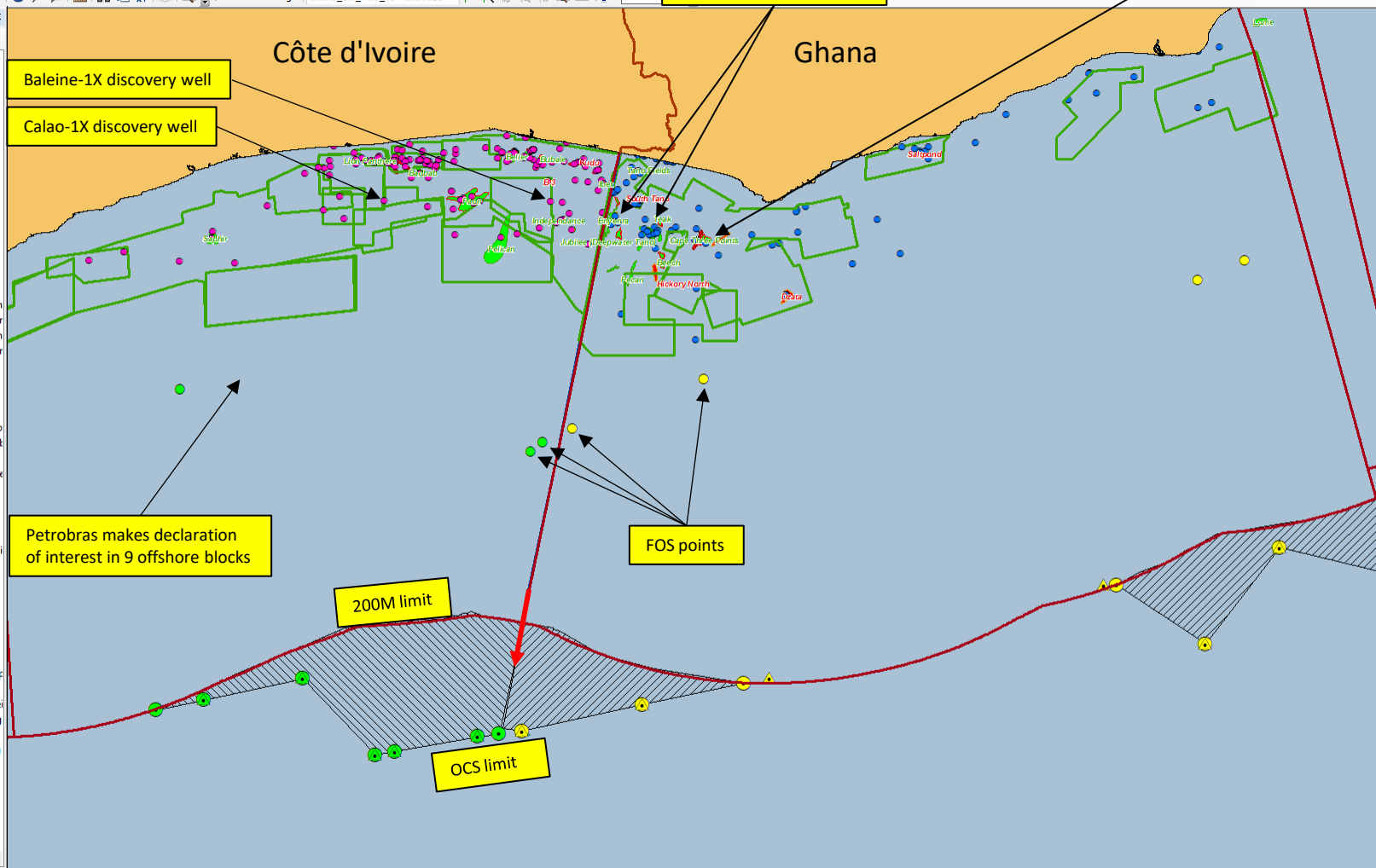
Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire (ITLOS, 2017)
Somalia v. Kenya (ICJ, 2021)

ITLOS and ICJ involvement

Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire (ITLOS, 2017)
Somalia v. Kenya (ICJ, 2021)

West Africa

- ☒ Land borders
- ☒ Coastline
- ☐ ECS_Polygon_Recommendations_Ghana
- ☐ ECS_Polygon_Recommendations_Cdl
- ☒ World_EEZ
- ☒ PGS_megasurvey_2019_East1
- ☒ PGS_megasurvey_2019_East2
- ☒ PGS_MegaSurvey_2019_West
- ☒ PGS_GeoStreamer_3D_2019_digited
- ☒ Cote_dIvoire_Recent_Wells_May_2025
- ☒ Wells_Cdl
- ☒ Ghana_Recent_Wells_February_2024
- ☒ Wells_Ghana
- ☒ Ghana_FOS_points_Table_1
- ☒ Ghana_GP_points_Table_2_eastern_region
- ☒ Ghana_GP_points_Table_4_western_region
- ☒ Ghana_OL_points_Table_3_eastern_region
- ☒ Ghana_OL_points_Table_5_western_region
- ☒ Cote_dIvoire_SumRec_Table1_FOS
- ☒ Cote_dIvoire_SumRec_Table2_GP
- ☒ Cote_dIvoire_SumRec_Table3_FP
- ☒ Ghana_eastern_polygon_CLCS_Reccs_Tab
- ☒ Ghana_western_polygon_CLCS_Reccs_Ta
- ☒ Cote_dIvoire_final_polygon
- ☒ Ghana_Cote_dIvoire_ITLOS_judgement_Se
- ☒ Ghana_Saltpond_2010_3D_survey_outline
- ☒ CGG 3D seismic
- ☒ PGS 3D seismic
- ☒ Cote_dIvoire_2001_CI_112_3D_outline
- ☒ Cote_dIvoire_PGS_megasurvey_2022_outli
- ☒ Cote_dIvoire_PGS_megasurvey_2019
- ☒ Fields
- ☐ Ghana_Cdl_PGS_3D March 2022.png
- ☐ Ghana_SumRecs_Figure3.png
- ☐ Ghana_SumRecs_Figure5.png
- ☐ Ghana_SumRecs_Figure6.png
- ☐ Blocks_Ghana_Licensed_July_2018
- ☐ Ghana_2014_2D_3D_seismic_map_GNPC.p
- ☐ GHfields_region
- ☐ Cote_dIvoire_PGS_megasurvey_2022_Balei
- ☐ Cote_dIvoire_Baleine-1_well_location.png
- ☐ Cote_dIvoire_PGS_megasurvey_2022.jpg
- ☐ Cote_dIvoire_Ghana_Eddy_Ong_2024.png
- ☐ Sandwell et al 2017 v24.1



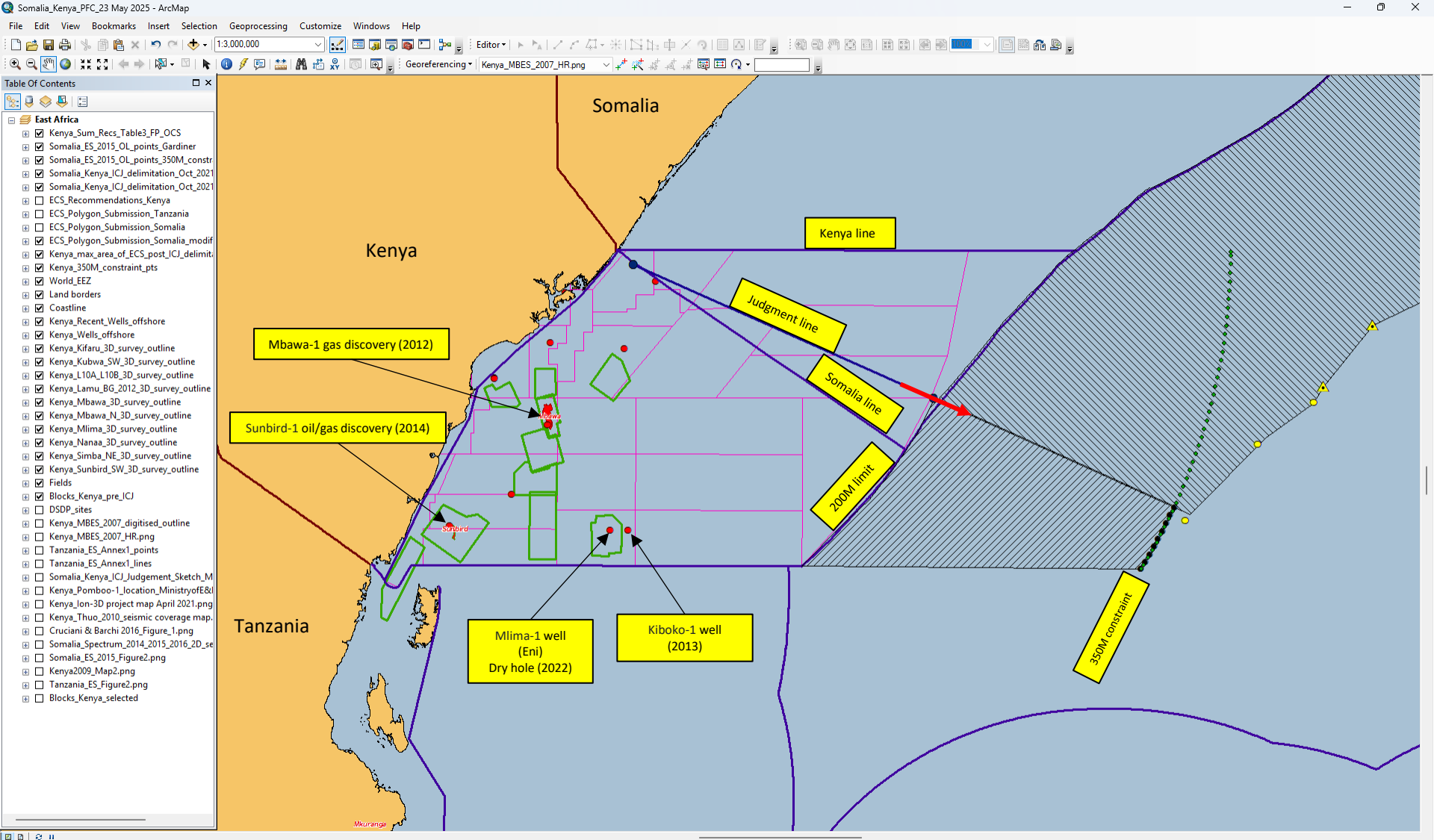
What are the impacts of delay in delivering recommendations to coastal States ?

Slide 31. Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire delimitation (ITLOS, 2017) – wells and 3D seismic, 200M limit and OCS limits in accordance with CLCS Recommendations for Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire

One particular issue is that judicial organs such as the ICJ and ITLOS have made and likely will continue to make judgments on issues of delimitation between coastal States beyond 200nm where the CLCS has not yet delivered its Final Recommendations to one or all of the coastal States involved, for example to Côte d'Ivoire in Ghana/Côte d'Ivoire (ITLOS, 2017). The ITLOS judgement emerged at a time when the CLCS was still considering the submission of Cdl, and meant that the CLCS had to allocate further time in order to complete its Recommendations.

The blue arrow indicates the ITLOS delimitation beyond 200M.

This map shows the eCS areas now established by Ghana and Cdl on the basis of CLCS Recommendations. Note that current oil and gas E&P activity is well inside the 200M limits of both States (as shown by 3D seismic (green polygons) and drilling (coloured dots)).



Slide 32. Somalia v. Kenya delimitation (ICJ, 2021) – wells and 3D seismic, 200M limit and eCS limits as submitted to CLCS by Kenya and Somalia

A second example is Kenya and Somalia in Somalia v. Kenya (ICJ, 2021).

This map shows the various lines and limits, and the blue arrow indicates the ICJ delimitation beyond 200M.

As an aside, Kenya's submission to the CLCS is based on the application of the Statement Of Understanding (an application outside the southern part of the Bay of Bengal), whereas Somalia's is based on the Gardiner (Irish) formula. Kenya received Recommendations from the CLCS on 7 March 2023, after the ICJ delimitation, while Somalia's submission is not likely to be considered until 2033 (No 74).

Again, current E&P activity offshore Kenya (as indicated by 3D seismic (green polygons) and drilling (coloured dots)) is located well inside the 200M limit.

Impacts of delay in finalisation of outer boundary of the Area for the International Seabed Authority (ISA or The Authority)

Issue 1. As of today, only nine* (9) States Parties have fulfilled their obligation under Article 84(2) to deposit charts or lists of geographical coordinates showing the outer limit lines of the continental shelf with the Secretary-General of the Authority.

* (Australia, Ireland (p), Mexico, Mauritius/Seychelles (j,p) New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation (p), Suriname)

What happens if the Authority receives an application for a plan of work for exploration in an area that may be covered by a pending submission to the Commission? One scenario of course is that the applicant may adjust its application accordingly, but what if the applicant does not wish to make any adjustment, which may indicate that it disputes the coastal State submission?

Issue 2. Delay in Article 82 (the International Royalty) payments to the ISA

Pending cases at the ICJ involving maritime delimitation/sovereignty in black (May 2025)

171. Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)

175. Alleged Violations of the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)

176. Relocation of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem (Palestine v. United States of America)

177. Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim (Guatemala/Belize)

178. Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)

180. Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)

181. Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)

182. Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)

183. Questions of Jurisdictional Immunities of the State and Measures of Constraint against State-Owned Property (Germany v. Italy)

184. Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)

185. Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos (Belize v. Honduras)

187. Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change (Request for Advisory Opinion)

188. Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)

189. Alleged Violations of State Immunities (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada)

190. Aerial Incident of 8 January 2020 (Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom v. Islamic Republic of Iran)

191. Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87 (Request for Advisory Opinion)

192. Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)

193. Alleged Breaches of Certain International Obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Nicaragua v. Germany)

194. Embassy of Mexico in Quito (Mexico v. Ecuador)

195. Glas Espinel (Ecuador v. Mexico)

196. Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Request for Advisory Opinion)

198. Appeal relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council under Article 84 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom)

199. Proceedings introduced by France against the Islamic Republic of Iran

200. Proceedings instituted by Lithuania against Belarus

Pending cases at the ICJ involving maritime delimitation/sovereignty and current status (May 2025)

171. Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)

Status: Court rejected Preliminary Objection raised by Venezuela (6 April 2023). Guyana lodged its Memorial on the merits on 8 March 2022. 14-15 November 2023 – hearings on request for provisional measures. 01 December 2023 – order on Provisional Measures issued. 8 April 2024 set for Venezuela to lodge C-M. 9 December 2024 for the Reply of Guyana. 11 August 2025 for the Rejoinder of Venezuela. Modified order for Provisional Measures issued by the Court on 1 May 2025.

Comment: Definitive settlement of the land boundary between the two countries is requested. Following this, a maritime delimitation will presumably be required (to be agreed or litigated).

177. Guatemala's Territorial, Insular and Maritime Claim (Guatemala/Belize)

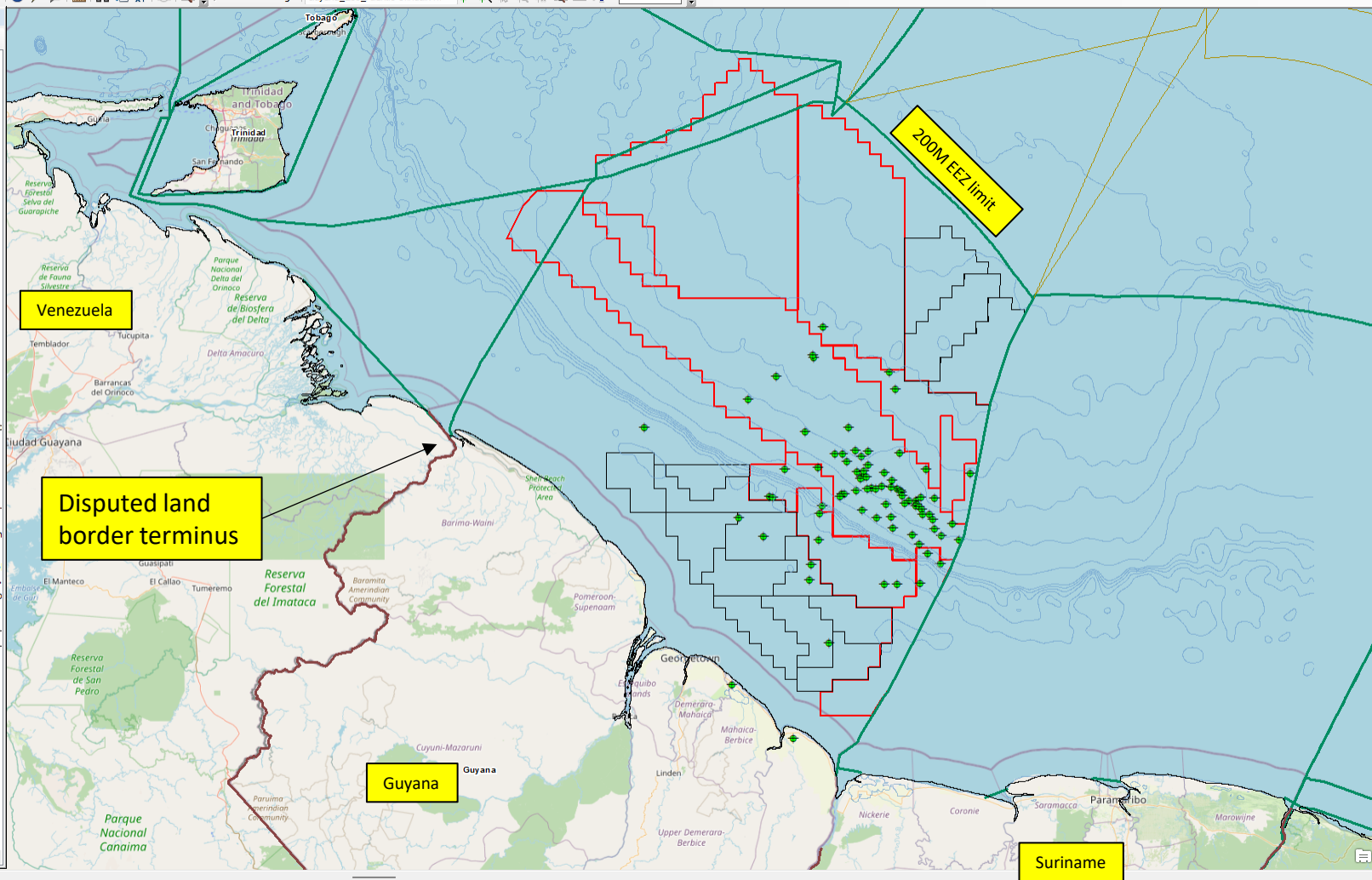
Status: Belize lodged its Counter-Memorial on 8 June 2022. 8 December 2022 set for the Reply of Guatemala; Belize's Rejoinder was due on 8 June 2023.

Comment: The two parties agreed to submit Guatemala's territorial, insular, and maritime claim to the International Court of Justice for the latter to hear and decide the case. Written proceedings concluded in June 2023. Linkage effect with 185?

185. Sovereignty over the Sapodilla Cayes/Cayos Zapotillos (Belize v. Honduras)

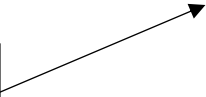
Status: Belize instituted proceedings on 16 November 2022. 2 May 2023 set for the Memorial of Belize. 4 December 2023 for the Counter-Memorial of Honduras. Written proceedings won't conclude until 2025 at the earliest. Guatemala has requested to intervene (December 2023). Linkage effect with 177?

- ☒ Land boundaries
- ☒ Coastline
- ☒ World_ECS_v2_boundaries
- ☒ World_ECS_v2
- ☒ World_EEZ_v12_boundaries
- ☒ World_EEZ_v12
- ☒ Guyana_ECS_Polygon_Submission
- ☒ Bathymetry Contours
- ☒ Guyana_wells_alphabetic_PFC
- ☒ Guyana_2023_Award_Blocks
- ☒ Guyana_2023_Auction_Blocks
- ☒ Guyana_Blocks_Canje
- ☒ Guyana_Blocks_Corentyne
- ☒ Guyana_Blocks_Kaieteur
- ☒ Guyana_Blocks_Kanuku
- ☒ Guyana_Blocks_Orinduik
- ☒ Guyana_Blocks_Roraima
- ☒ Guyana_Blocks_Stabroek
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- ☐ Blocks
- ☐ Basins
- ☐ Guyana_Eco_Atlantic Orinduik new map.png
- ☐ Guyana_Eco_Atlantic Canje map.png
- ☐ Guyana_Eco_Atlantic Orinduik map.png
- ☐ Guyana_68_wells.png
- ☐ Guyana_Trude_et_al_2023_Fig1.png
- ☐ Guyana_Welligence_Map_First_Licensing.
- ☐ Guyana_Canje_licence_wells.png
- ☐ Guyana_Corentyne_well_location_map.png
- ☐ Guyana_Tanager_location_map.png
- ☐ Guyana_Stabroek_Kokwari_location_map.png
- ☐ Guyana_Stabroek_block_discoveries_1-31.
- ☐ Guyana_offshore_discoveries_2015_2022.png
- ☐ Guyana_Surname_overview map.png
- ☐ Guyana_blocks_05 December 2022_North.
- ☐ Guyana_blocks_05 December 2022_South.
- ☒ OpenStreetMap



Venezuela

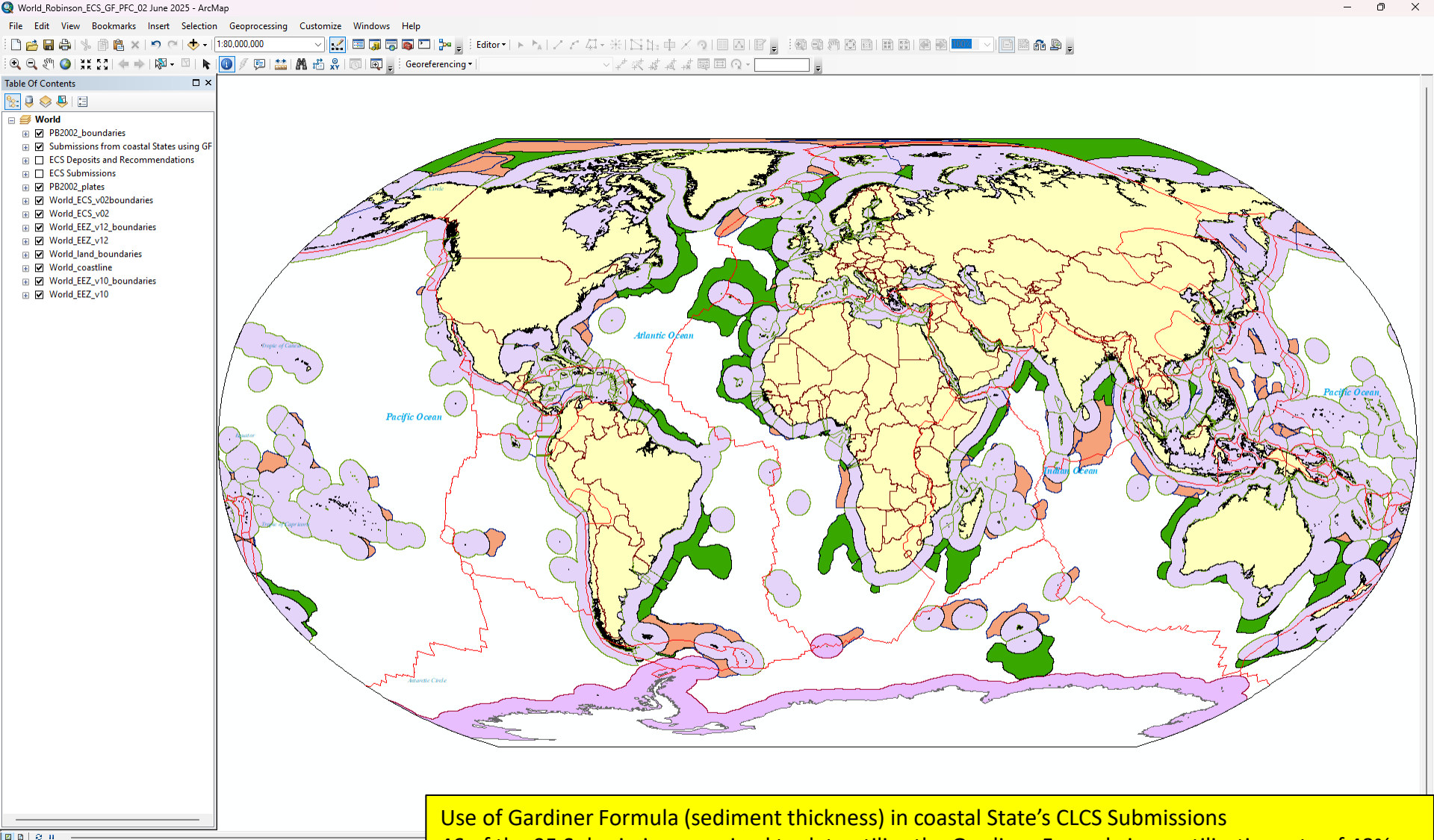
Disputed land
border terminus



200M EEZ limit

Guyana

Suriname



Use of Gardiner Formula (sediment thickness) in coastal State's CLCS Submissions
46 of the 95 Submissions received to date utilize the Gardiner Formula i.e. a utilization rate of 48%
(shown in green fill)

Use of Gardiner Formula (sediment thickness) in coastal State's CLCS Submissions
46 of the 95 Submissions received to date utilize the Gardiner Formula i.e. a utilization rate of 48%
(shown in green fill)

Use of Statement of Understanding* (SOU) in coastal State's CLCS Submissions

2 of the 95 Submissions made to date utilize the SOU

Both are outside the southern part of the Bay of Bengal (Kenya and Spain/Galicia)

* Statement of Understanding concerning a specific method to be used in establishing the outer edge of the continental margin, Annex II of the Final Act

“The Conference requests the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf set up pursuant to Annex II of the Convention, to be governed by the terms of this Statement when making its recommendations on matters related to the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margins of these States in the southern part of the Bay of Bengal.”

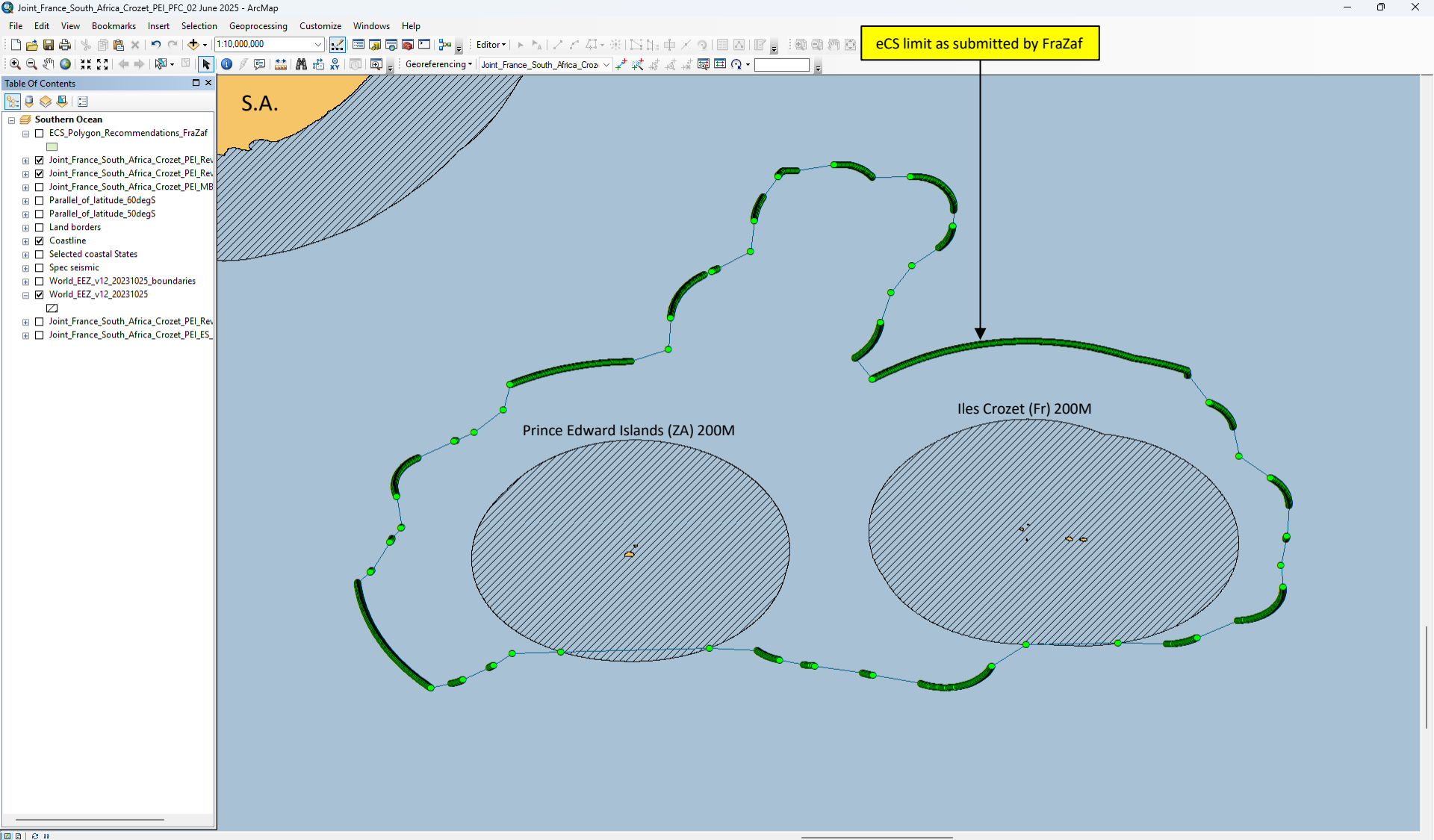
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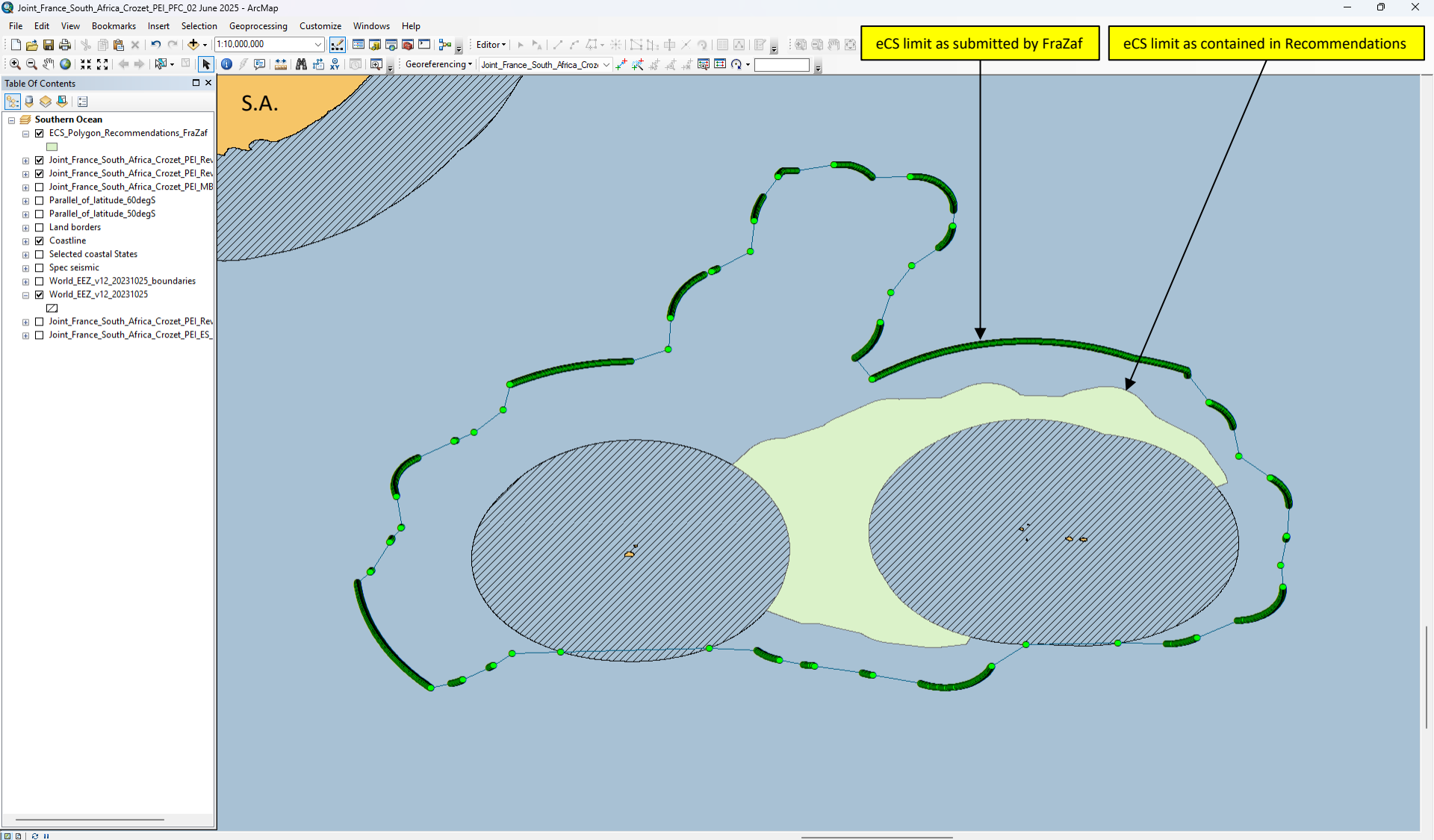
S.A.

eCS limit as submitted by FraZaf



Prince Edward Islands (ZA) 200M

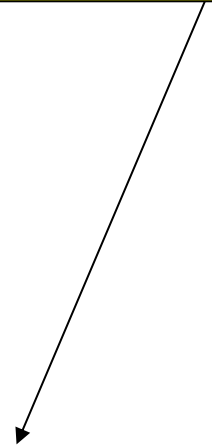
Iles Crozet (Fr) 200M



S.A.

eCS limit as submitted by FraZaf

eCS limit as contained in Recommendations



Provision of scientific and technical advice to coastal States

From Summary of Recommendations (7 March 2023)

The Commission recommends that France and South Africa make a revised submission concerning the western and northwestern regions (see section 2.4) of the Crozet Archipelago and the PEI.

On 24 July 2024, the Commission received its first request for scientific and technical advice pursuant to article 3, paragraph 1 (b), of annex II to the Convention, from the delegation of South Africa, as focal point for the submission made by France and South Africa in respect of the area of the Crozet Archipelago and the Prince Edward Islands. After referring the request to the Scientific and Technical Advice Committee pursuant to rule 55 of the rules of procedure and deliberating further, the Commission transmitted a communication to the delegation. The Commission took note of the response of the delegation dated 22 August 2024 and, owing to the limited time available as a result of the priority accorded to the analysis and approval of three sets of recommendations at the sixty-first and sixty-third sessions, the Commission decided to resume its consideration of this matter at the sixty-fourth session.

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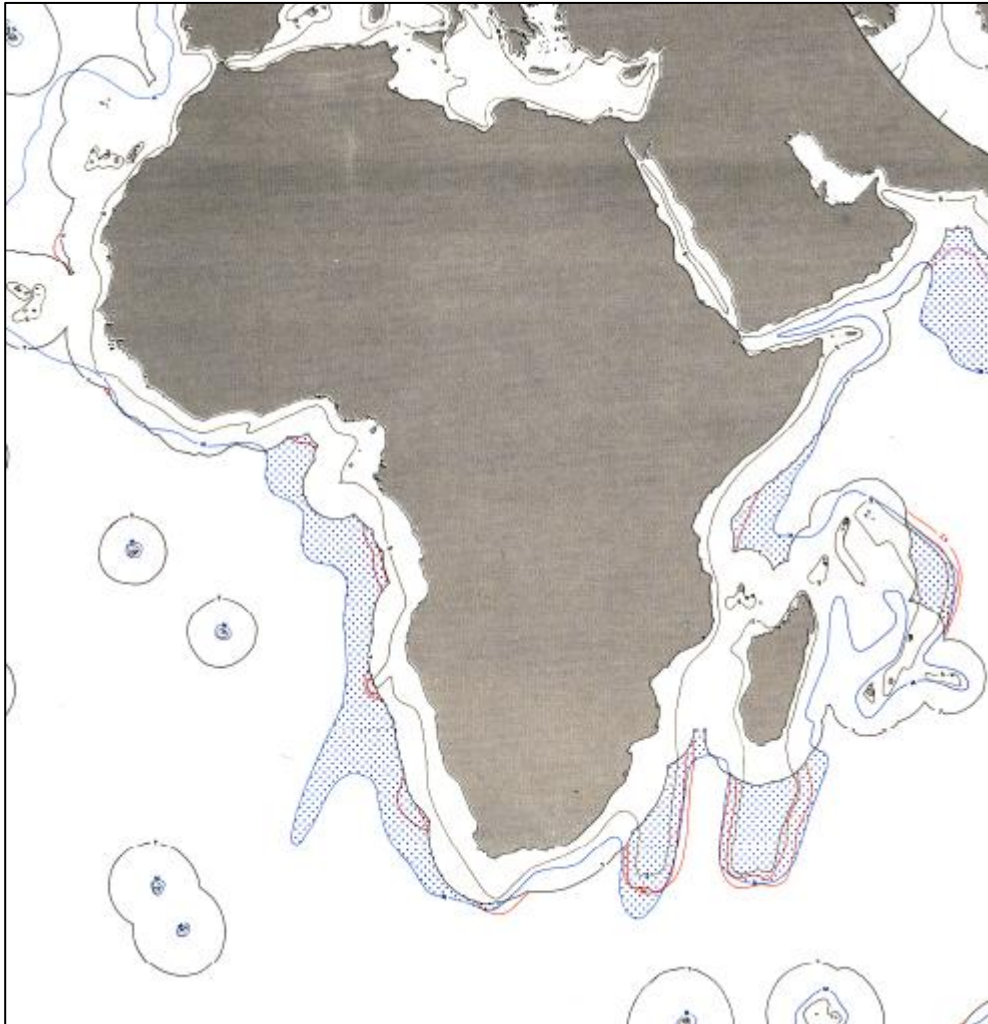
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References

- *United Nations (1978): Map prepared by the Secretariat with the assistance of experts from the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, the IHO and the IOC (A/CONF.62/C.2/L.98/Add.1).
- **Prescott, JRV (1998): National Rights to Hydrocarbon Resources of the Continental Margin beyond 200 Nautical Miles. In: Boundaries and Energy: Problems and Prospects. (Eds: Blake, GH; Pratt, MA; Schofield, CH) Kluwer Law International, 51-82 (International Boundary Studies Series, IBRU).
- ***Monahan et al. (2005) Applying the test of appurtenance globally: a new inventory of wide-margin States from public domain data. International Hydrographic Review Volume 6, 1.
- ****Crocker (2005) Presentation to the 15th Meeting of States Parties, June 2005.
- ****Crocker (2007) Presentation to the 17th Meeting of States Parties, June 2007.
- ****Crocker et al (2011) Presentation to the Informal Working Group (facilitated by the Bureau of the Meeting of States Parties) to consider the issues related to the workload of the Commission, 5 April 2011.
- *****ISA Technical Study 12 (2013) Implementation of Article 82 of UNCLOS.
- ***** Chircop & Marchand (2003) International royalty and continental shelf limits: emerging issues for the Canadian offshore.
- ***** Spicer (2015) Canada, The Law of the Sea Treaty and International Payments – where will the money come from?

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African States with eCS (Lamont-Doherty map, 1978)

Angola
Guinea
Madagascar
Mauritius
Namibia
Seychelles
South Africa

A/CONF.62/C.2/L.98/ADD.1

MAPS ILLUSTRATING VARIOUS FORMULAE FOR THE DEFINITION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

Preliminary study prepared by the Secretariat at the request
of the Second Committee of the Third United Nations
Conference on the Law of the Sea.

LEGEND

Mercator Projection

Scale 1: 30,000,000

Stereographic Projection for Arctic

Scale 1: 30,000,000

200 nautical miles from nearest land

— T —

500 meter isobath where present seaward
of 200 nautical mile line

.....

Outer edge of the continental margin

— M —

Foot of the continental slope

— S —

Irish formula 3(b) outside the 200 nautical mile line

— Ib —

Irish formula 3(a) outside the 200 nautical mile line

— Ia —

