

# **THE DEFINITION OF THE BASE OF THE SLOPE ON THE AMAZON DEEP SEA FAN**

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According to UNCLOS Article 76 and to CLCS/11 the first step to define the extended continental shelf is the identification of the base of the slope. In this paper the authors present some possibilities to defined the base of slope in the Amazon Deep Sea Fan area, where the classical definition of Heezen et alli (1959) is not applicable.

The Amazon Fan is a unique physiographic feature of the Brazilian Continental Margin. The huge sediment accumulation coming from the continent triggered an intense progradation of the margin. The continental shelf is the widest one and there is no typical continental slope and rise, instead, there is a continuous slope from the shelf break to the Demerara Abyssal Plain, rarely interrupted by locally erosive or constructive features.

In this context one possibility to define the base of the slope is analyzing the geological processes throughout the Upper, Middle and Lower Fan, in order to identify similarities and differences to the slope/rise sedimentary processes.