CONTINENTAL SHELF SUBMISSIONS: THE RECORD TO DATE

Ron Macnab

Geological Survey of Canada (Retired)

Lindsay Parson

UK National Oceanographic Centre

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

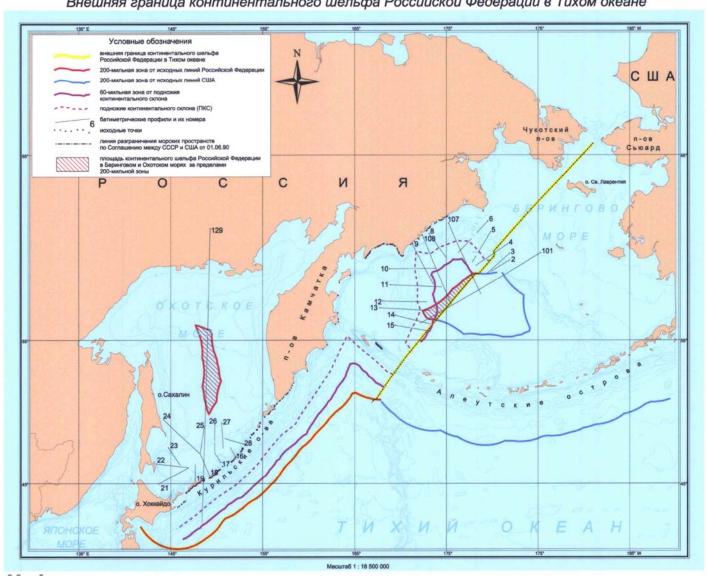
- Current continental shelf submissions
 - Russia
 - Brazil
 - Australia
 - Ireland
- Commentary on the timing of future submissions

COASTAL STATES AND DATES OF THEIR SUBMISSIONS

STATE	YEAR
	2001
	2004
* * *	2004
	2005

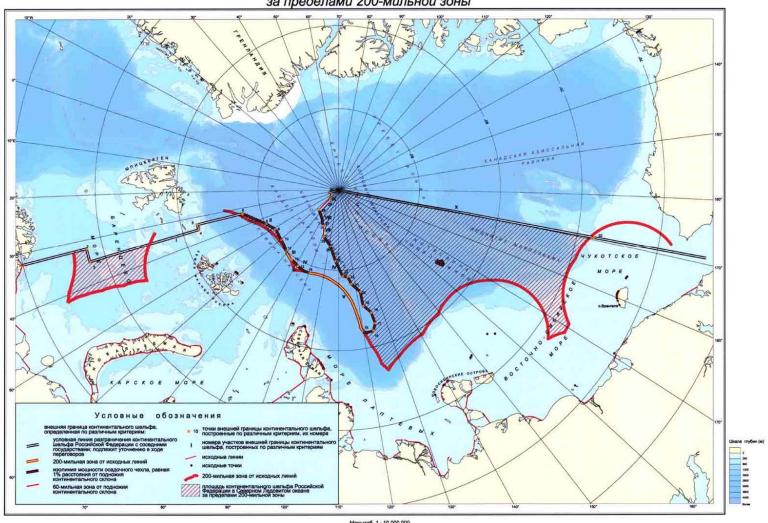
RUSSIA'S SUBMISSION: BERING SEA AND SEA OF OKHOTSK

Внешняя граница континентального шельфа Российской Федерации в Тихом океане



RUSSIA'S SUBMISSION: BARENTS SEA AND CENTRAL ARCTIC

Площадь континентального шельфа Российской Федерации в Северном Ледовитом океане за пределами 200-мильной зоны



HUS-CLCE-OF TUT-LOWS

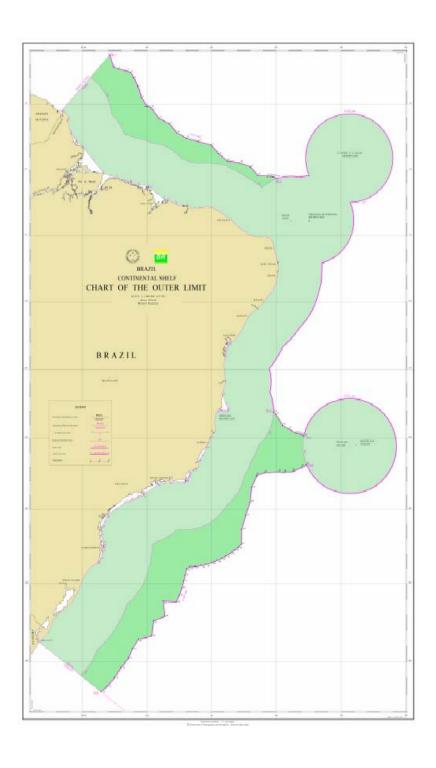
RUSSIA'S SUBMISSION: REACTIONS FROM FIVE COASTAL STATES

STATE	INSUFFICIENT DATA TO ASSESS	AREA UNDER DISPUTE	FAILS TEST OF APPURTENANCE
*	V		
	V		
		$\sqrt{}$	
		√	
			V

RUSSIA'S SUBMISSION: OBSERVATIONS

- Presented early eight years prior to deadline.
- Extended shelf comprises four separate areas two in NW Pacific Ocean, two in Arctic Ocean.
- Attracted reactions from five States one consisted of a strong scientific rebuttal from the USA.
- Proposed outer limits in the Sea of Okhotsk and central Arctic Ocean not fully approved by CLCS.

BRAZIL'S CONTINENTAL SHELF SUBMISSION



BRAZIL'S SUBMISSION: REACTION FROM ONE COASTAL STATE

STATE	INSUFFICIENT DATA TO ASSESS	FAILS TEST OF APPURTENANCE		
0000000 0000000	V	V		

BRAZIL'S SUBMISSION: OBSERVATIONS

- Extended shelf encompasses two separate areas off north and south Brazil.
- Characterized by 'volume and complexity of the data'.
- Attracted one reaction from the USA, which was 'not [..] taken into consideration by the Commission'.
- Recommendations still pending.

AUSTRALIA'S CONTINENTAL SHELF SUBMISSION

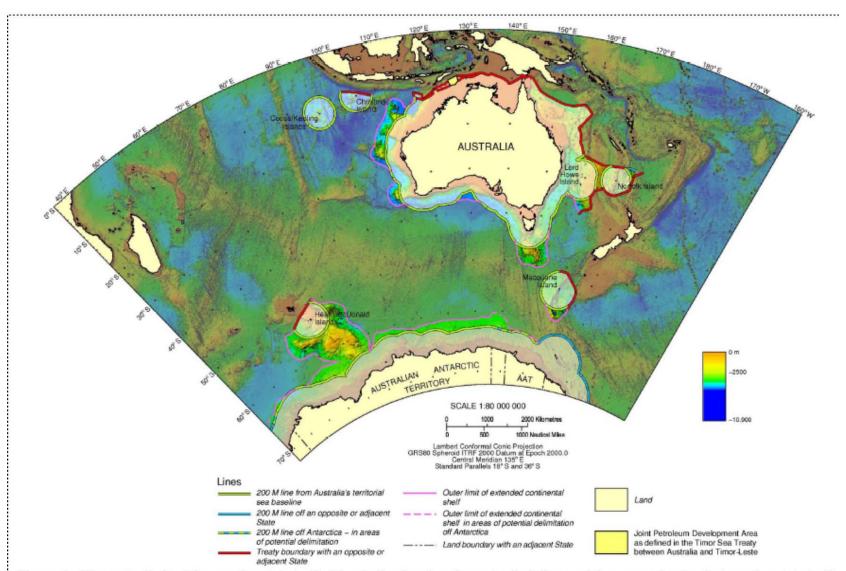


Figure 1. The outer limit of the continental shelf of Australia showing the outer limit line and the area of extended continental shelf.

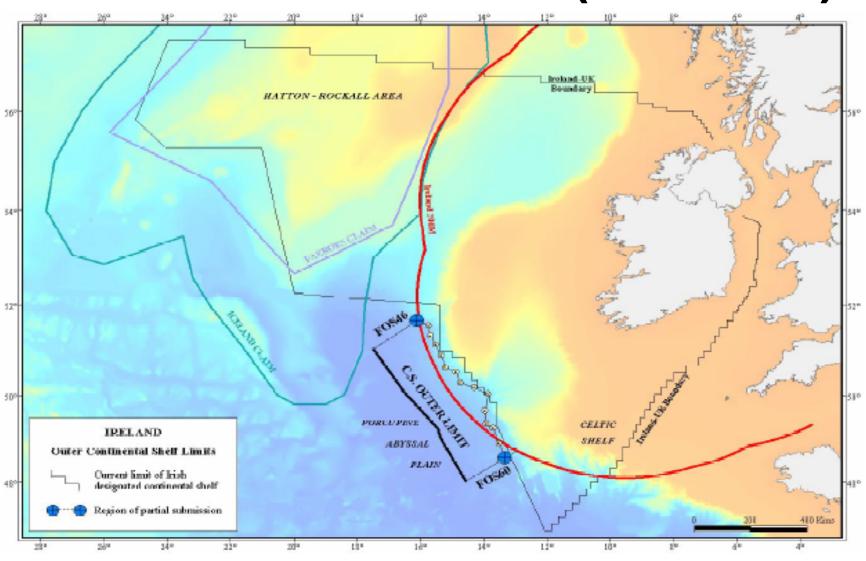
AUSTRALIA'S SUBMISSION: REACTIONS FROM EIGHT COASTAL STATES

STATE	WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO BILATERAL BOUNDARY	NO RIGHT TO ANTARCTIC SHELF
	$\sqrt{}$	
		V
		√
		√
		√
		√
*	√	
		√

AUSTRALIA'S SUBMISSION: OBSERVATIONS

- Extended shelf comprises ten separate areas, including an area off Antarctica.
- CLCS consideration of Antarctic shelf deferred for the time being.
- Voluminous and detailed, addressing variety of geological and tectonic frameworks.
- Very professional, raising the bar for other submitting States.
- Recommendations still pending.

IRELAND'S CONTINENTAL SHELF SUBMISSION (PARTIAL)



IRELAND'S SUBMISSION: REACTIONS FROM TWO COASTAL STATES

STATE	WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO BILATERAL BOUNDARIES		
	V		
	V		

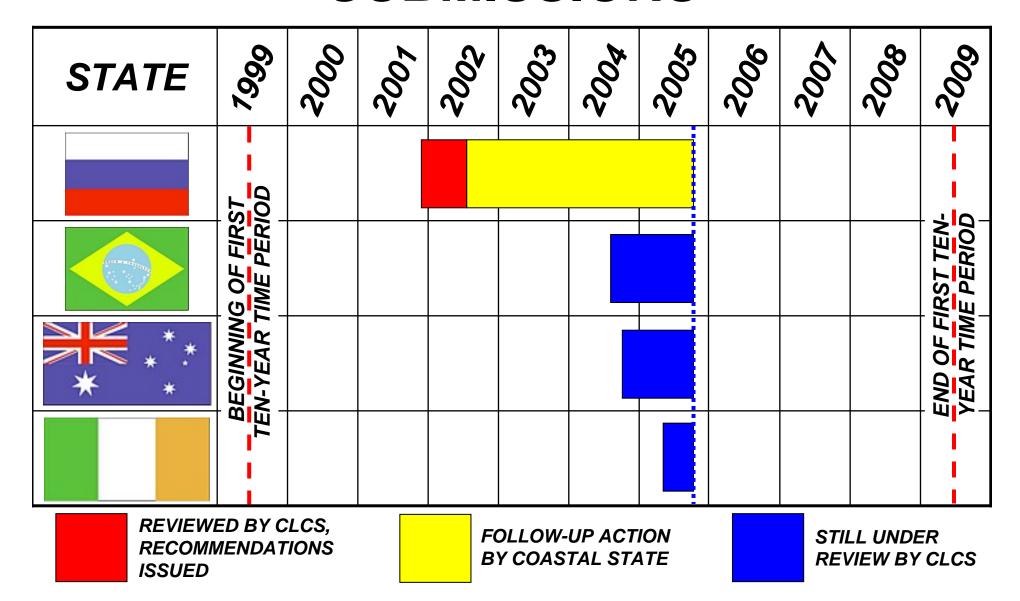
IRELAND'S SUBMISSION: OBSERVATIONS

- Partial submission encompasses a zone in the Porcupine Abyssal Plain.
- Perceived by Ireland to be non-prejudicial to interests of neighbouring States.
- No indication of when the remainder of the submission will be presented.
- Recommendations still pending.

THE QUESTION OF TIMING



STATUS OF CURRENT SUBMISSIONS



CLCS Member Information		Terms		Subcommissions			
Name	State	1997- 2002	2002- 2007	Russia 2001	Brazil 2004	Australia 2004	Ireland 2005
Al-Azri	Oman						
Albuquerque	Brazil						
Astiz	Argentina						
Awosika	Nigeria						
Beltagy	Egypt						
Betah	Cameroon						
Brekke	Norway						
Carrera	Mexico						
Chan Chim Yuk	Mauritius						
Croker	Ireland						
Fagoonee	Mauritius						
Francis	Jamaica						
German	Romania						
Hamuro	Japan						
Hinz	Germany						
Jaafar	Malaysia						
Juračić	Croatia						
Kazmin	Russia						
Lamont	New Zealand						
Lu	China						
M'Dala	Zambia						
Park	S Korea						
Pimentel	Portugal						
Rio	France						
Symonds	Australia						
Srinivasan	India						
Tamaki	Japan						
Thakur	India						
Woeledji	Togo						

Member

Advisor

Legend

Chairman

COMING SOON: THE BIG CRUNCH

- The ten-year time frame for making submissions began in 1999, applying to several dozen qualifying States.
- Only four States have made submissions since 1999.
- Less than four years remain for the other qualifying States to follow suit.
- Some future submissions will no doubt prove complex and time-consuming to review.
- The CLCS will likely find itself swamped with submissions as the deadline approaches.

IN CONCLUSION...

- Four submissions have so far been presented.
- Only one submission has proceeded to the recommendation stage, with mixed results.
- The remaining three submissions are still under consideration.
- The present record is too scanty to predict the tone of future recommendations.
- CLCS could have a problem coping with the expected pre-2009 deluge of submissions.

THANK YOU!