

# UNCLOS Submission - text and figures

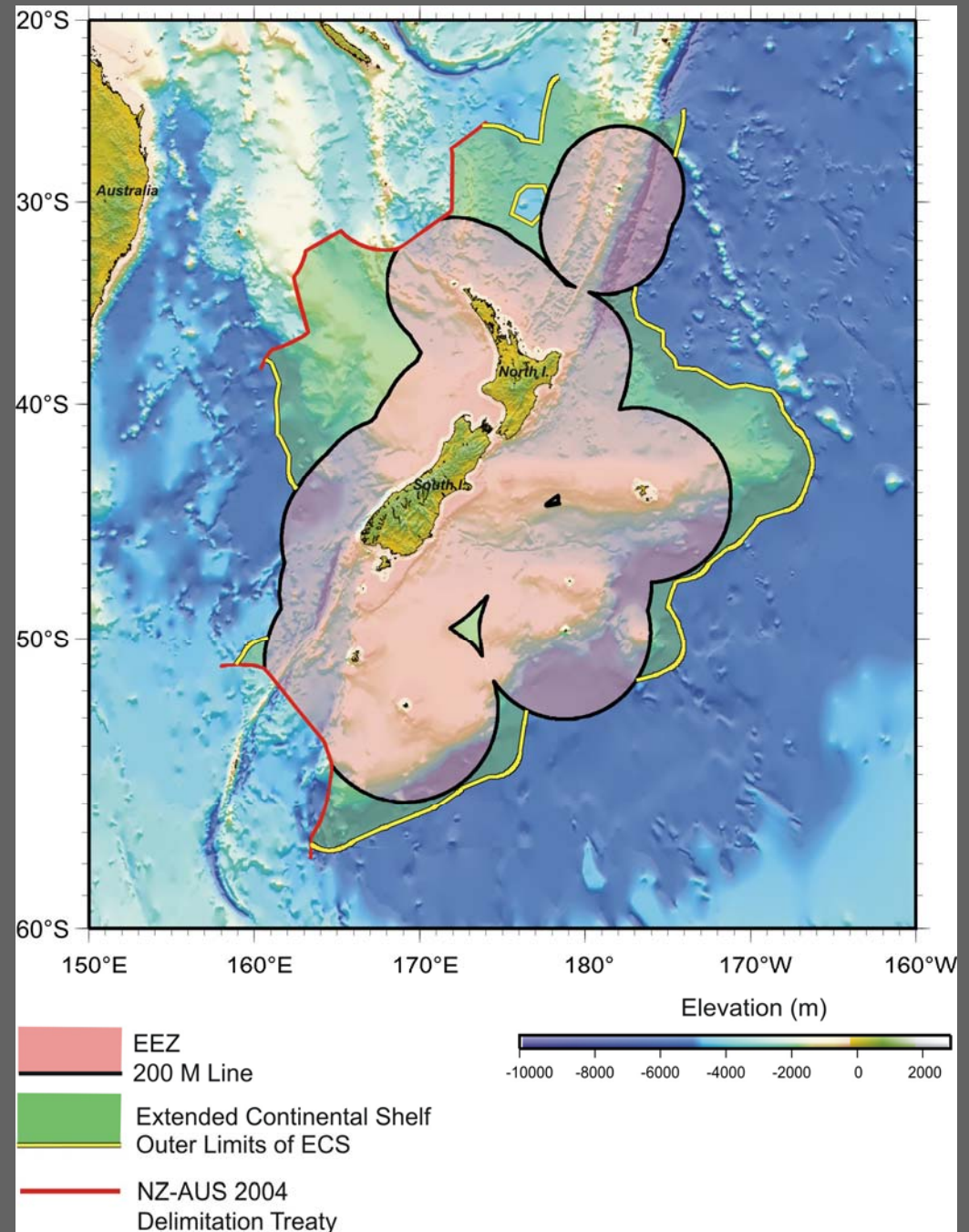


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## New Zealand's extended continental shelf

- 10 years preparation
- 2 years discussion with CLCS





## Talk outline

- What is the purpose of the submission?
- How is the submission used by the CLCS?
- Examples of text and figures
- Observations from our experience with the CLCS

## Purpose of the submission

### **The submission describes an entitlement, not a claim**

- tone should be positive, not defensive

### **The submission is neither a technical paper nor a legal brief**

- techniques for writing good papers or briefs not necessarily best for a submission

### **It may not be read like a book or a paper**

- document needs to be self-explanatory throughout

## How the submission is used

The CLCS is busy, will get busier, and time is precious

Good organization can make Commissioners' job easier

Digital submissions provide access to the document at any point

# How the submission is used

## Organize submission so

- main points are easily found
- detail available if required

**Commissioners are experts, but not in all disciplines or all geographic areas**

# Text tone

## Defensive words

suggest, may, could, should, perhaps, indicate

## Positive

is, show, confirm, none, all, must



## Text tone

### Defensive

Geophysical data, including seismicity and gravity anomalies, suggest that Samurai Trough is not a true plate boundary between Saki Ridge and the land mass of Japan.

### Positive

Geophysical data, including seismicity and gravity anomalies, show that Samurai Trough is not a true plate boundary between Saki Ridge and the land mass of Japan.

or

There is no morphological, geological or geophysical evidence for a plate boundary between Saki Ridge and the land mass of Japan.

# Text tone

## Defensive

Saki Ridge is regarded as a prolongation of the land mass of Japan.

## Positive

All morphological, geological and geophysical data show that Saki Ridge is a prolongation of the land mass of Japan.

# Structure of scientific article

**Introduction**

 **Evidence**

 **Evidence**

 **Evidence**

**= Conclusion**

# Structure of submission

**Conclusion**  
**= Evidence**  
**= Evidence**  
**= Evidence**  
**= Evidence**

# Structure of submission

## Scientific paper

Seismic reflection data show rift graben extend to the western edge of Saki Ridge. Sea floor spreading magnetic anomalies are interpreted in the Geisha Basin. Two-dimensional gravity modelling shows that the crust is 11 km thick beneath Geisha Basin, and thickens to 22 km beneath Saki Ridge. The continent-ocean transition therefore lies at the western edge of Saki Ridge.

## Submission

All of the morphological, geological and geophysical data show that Saki Ridge is a natural prolongation of the land mass of Japan. There is a continuous morphological connection between Saki Ridge and the land mass of Japan, and a clear boundary between the ridge and the deep ocean floor of the Geisha Basin (Figure A.1). Seismic reflection data show that basement half graben, formed by continental rifting prior to the onset of sea floor spreading in Geisha Basin, extend to the western margin of Saki Ridge (Figure A.2). Magnetic anomaly 22 has been identified in Geisha Basin, along the margin with Saki Ridge. Sea floor spreading therefore began along this part of the basin margin 49 million years ago (Figure A.3). Two-dimensional gravity modelling shows that the crust is 11 km thick beneath Geisha Basin, and thickens to 22 km beneath Saki Ridge (Figure A.4).

# Figures

## Figures are there to

- Support the text
- Provide alternative, quick access to main points

## Figures must be

- Simple
- Clear

## Figures should not raise other questions

# Figures

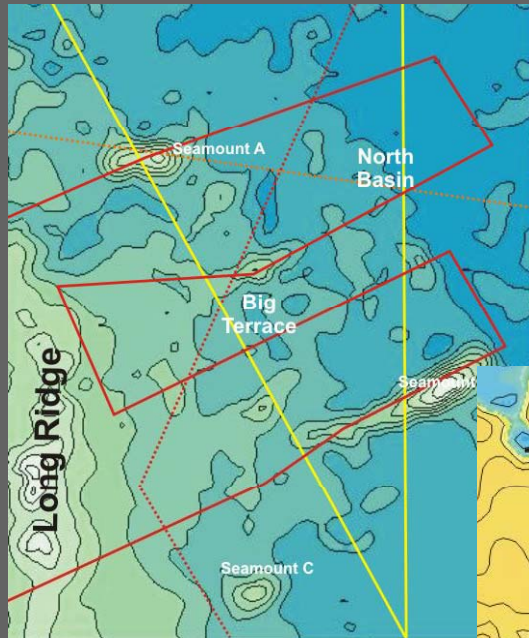
## For each figure ask

- What is the simple message?
- How can this be conveyed most convincingly?

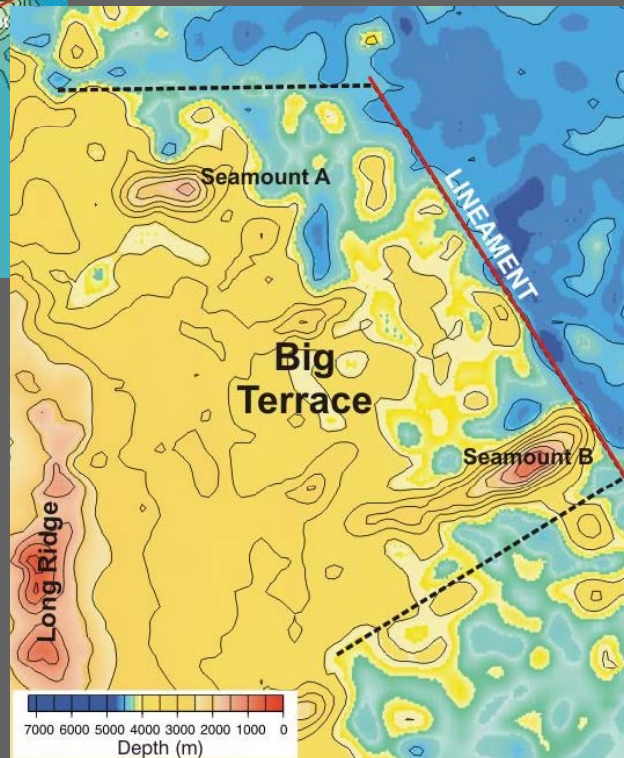
**Restrict each figure to one key point**

**Don't be afraid to use lots of figures**

# Detail Bathymetry Map



conventional image



submission image

## Main message:

- Continental prolongation is reflected in complex seafloor structure

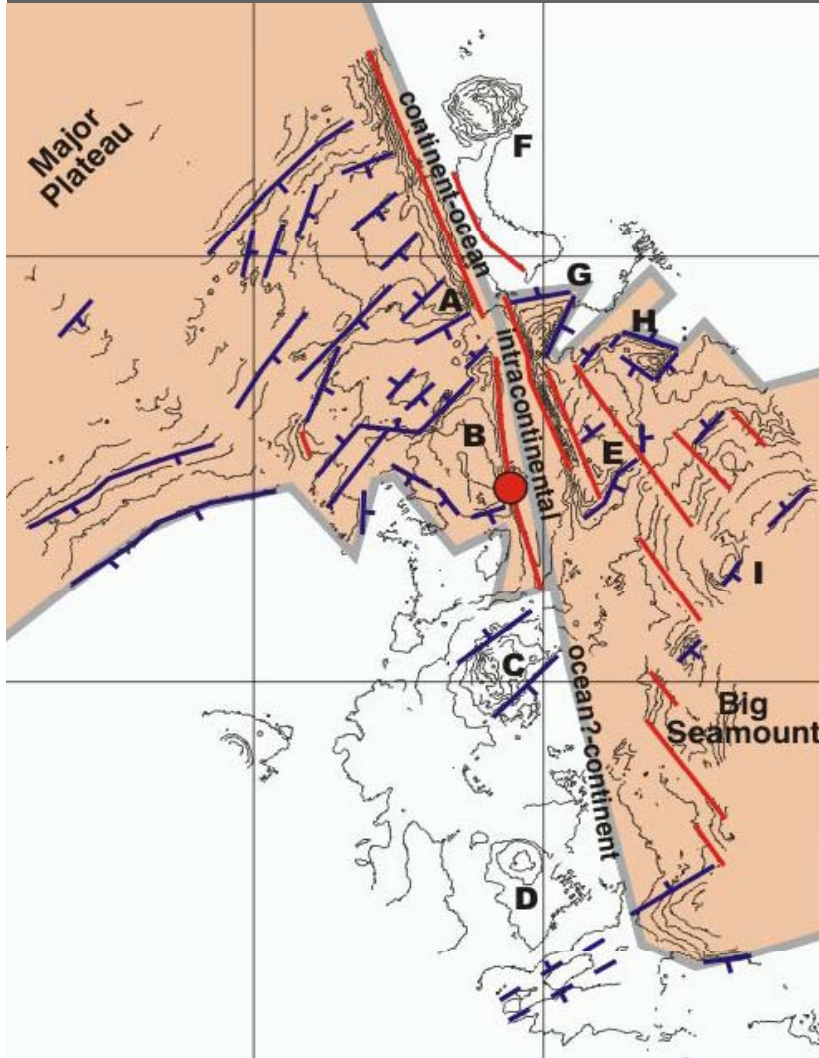
## Underlying message:

- The location of the outer limits of the continental margin
- Radical colour palette
- Depth scale
- Essential features labelled
- Non-essential details removed

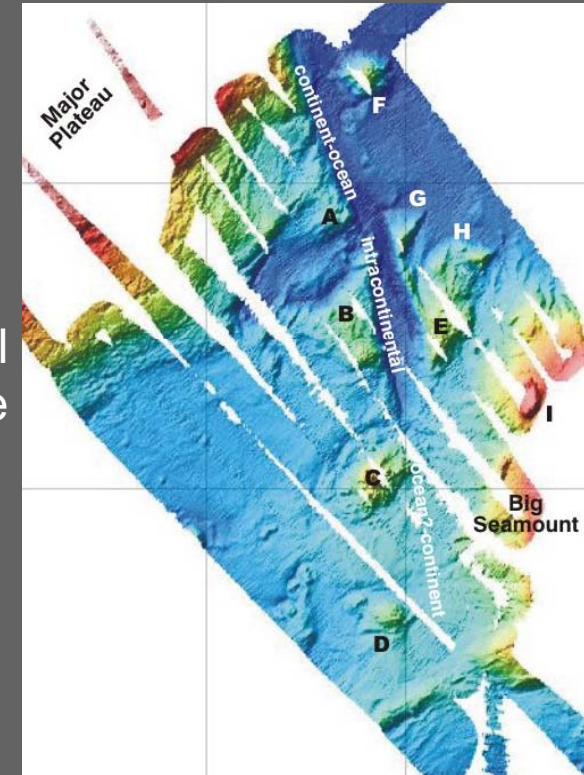


# Structural Interpretation Map

submission image



conventional image



Main message:

- Continental rocks are continuous across the saddle

Underlying message:

- The location of the outer limits of the continental margin
- Colour overlain on contours
- Essential features labelled

## Perfection is not always required

The submission is a process, not a finished document

- You will have the opportunity to present more data and analyses during the sessions with the Subcommittee
- You can't predict which aspects will be closely scrutinized and which will be immediately accepted
- You will agree with some of their recommendations, disagree with others
- **You are the world experts on your submission**

# The Subcommittee

All Commissioners are not created equal

Commissioners are scientists first, bureaucrats second

- Prefer technical discussions

## Challenges

- Strong bias for morphological evidence
- Evidence to the contrary and region of the base of the slope
- Areas beyond 350 M
- Continental prolongation

## No queries

- Sediment thickness calculations
- Isolated 2,500 m isobaths
- Bridging lines

# Interaction with the Subcommittee

## Very formal

- Almost no face-to-face interaction at the sessions
- Written questions and responses, carefully numbered
- NZ responded during a session if possible, but completeness was more important than speed
- NZ spent a considerable effort on figures and text in our responses
- A team is essential, a small team is probably best

# Summary

Completion of the submission is the beginning, not the end

Submission organization and content can

- Make Commissioners' job easier
- Speed up the process
- Improve the chance of the desired outcome