

**SUMMARY
OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF (CLCS) IN REGARD TO
THE SUBMISSION MADE BY NEW ZEALAND 19 APRIL 2006 ¹⁶**

Adopted by CLCS on 22 August 2008

¹⁶ The aim of this summary is to provide information which is not of confidential or proprietary nature in order to facilitate the function of the Secretary-General in accordance with CLCS/40/Rev. 1, Annex III, Part V, Rule 11.3. The summary is based on excerpts of these Recommendations and should be made public together with the tables contained in Annex III of these Recommendations. Only additions to excerpted text are paragraph 126 and Figures 2 and 3.

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IV. INTRODUCTION

- 124 New Zealand transmitted a Submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (hereinafter “the Commission”), through the Secretary-General of the United Nations (hereinafter “the Secretary-General”), on 19 April 2006 by note verbale NZ-CLCS-TPN-01. This Submission was made pursuant to the provisions contained in article 76, paragraph 8, and article 4 of Annex II to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter “the Convention”). References to article 76 and paragraphs therein shall be understood to mean article 76 of the Convention. The Submission contained: Part I - Executive Summary; Part II – Main Body which is the analytical and descriptive part and Part III- Scientific and Technical Data.
- 125 The Subcommission carried out its examination of the Submission during the following sessions: nineteenth, twentieth, resumed twentieth and twenty-first. During these sessions, as well as intersessionally the Subcommission held 11 meetings with the New Zealand Delegation in which it presented 4 preliminary considerations and posed 9 questions in writing. In response, the New Zealand Delegation provided to the Subcommission 11 documents (with enclosures), 12 PowerPoint presentations as well as 16 CD/DVD-Roms. In addition, the Commission held two meetings with the Delegation.
- 126 The Commission took note of the notes verbales regarding possible overlapping continental shelf areas emanating from the Submission of New Zealand, submitted to the Secretary-General by the Republic of Fiji, France, the Kingdom of Tonga, and New Zealand. The notes verbales are posted on the website of the Commission.

V. GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BASED

- 127 It is hereby reiterated that the examination of New Zealand’s Submission by the Commission have been made in accordance with the mandate contained in article 76 and Annex II of the Convention. The examination of the Submission and the Recommendations of the Commission are based on the scientific and technical data provided by New Zealand in the application of article 76. The Recommendations of the Commission only deals with issues related to article 76 and Annex II to the Convention and are without prejudice to matters relating to delimitation between States or application of other parts of the Convention or any other treaties.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 128 New Zealand’s submission has been divided into four regions (Fig.1):
- 129 **Northern** (which covers the Three Kings Ridge, Colville Ridge, and northern Kermadec Ridge and Kermadec Trench);
- 130 **Eastern** (which covers the southern Kermadec Ridge and Kermadec Trench, Hikurangi Plateau, Chatham Rise, Bounty Trough, and northern Campbell Plateau);
- 131 **Southern** (which covers the southern margin of the Campbell Plateau); and
- 132 **Western** (which covers the southern Norfolk Ridge System, New Caledonia Basin, Challenger Plateau, Lord Howe Rise, and the Macquarie Ridge Complex).

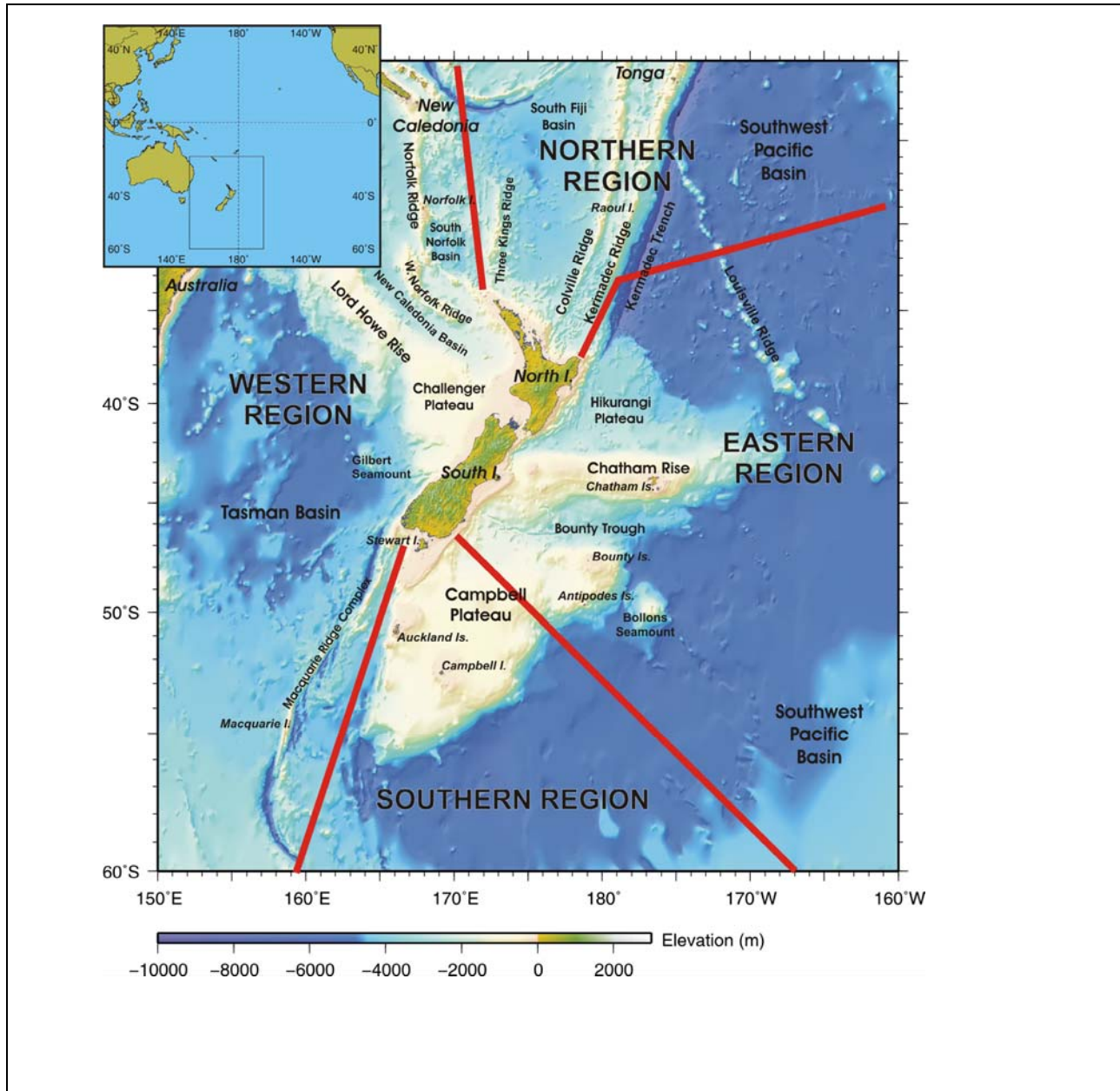


Fig. 1. Regional subdivision and main geomorphological elements of the New Zealand continental margin

A. Northern Region

1. Geographical region description

133 The Northern Region covers the continental margin north of New Zealand, from the Kermadec Trench in the east to the Three Kings Ridge in the west. The region comprises two areas, which together are part of the same continental margin (Fig 1):

- a. The prolongation along the Kermadec and Colville ridges, north of the line 200 nautical miles (hereinafter “M”) from the New Zealand territorial sea baseline (derived from basepoints on Raoul Island) to the intersection with the lines 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of Fiji and Tonga:

b. The prolongation along the Three Kings Ridge, north from the New Zealand 200 M line at about latitude 31°S, derived from basepoints on the North Island and Three Kings Islands, to the intersection with the line of the maritime boundary between New Zealand and Australia delimited by the Treaty line of the New Zealand-Australia 2004 Delimitation Treaty.

2. Submarine prolongation of landmass and entitlement to the continental shelf beyond 200 M

134 The outer edge of the continental margin, as generated from the foot of the continental slope of the Northern Region by applying the provisions of article 76, paragraph 4, extends beyond the 200 M limits of New Zealand. On this basis, the Commission recognises the legal entitlement of New Zealand to establish continental shelf beyond its 200 M limits in this region (Figure. A.1).

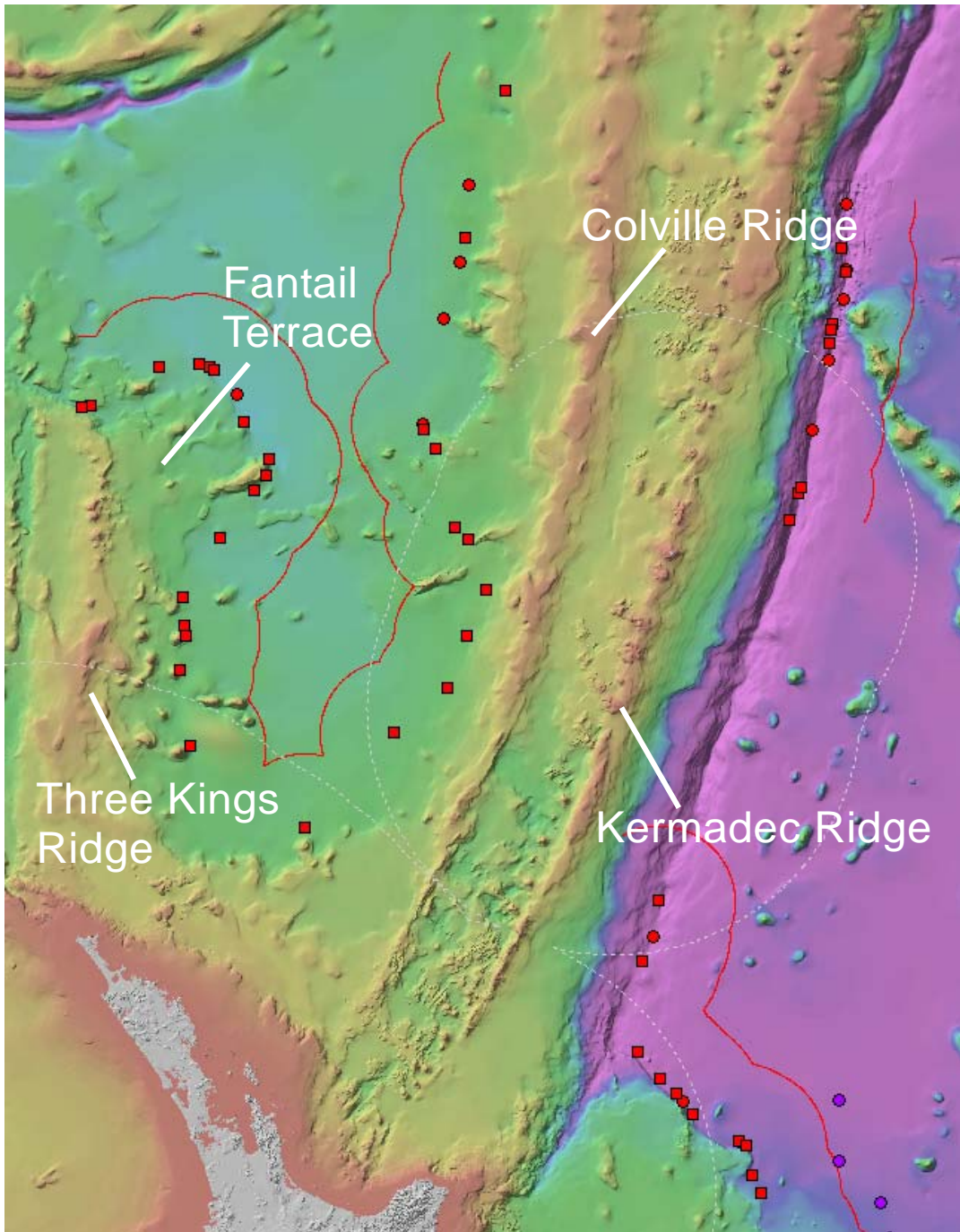


Figure A.1. Overview of the foot of the continental slope (FOS) points and the associated formula points that are the basis for demonstrating the submerged prolongation of the landmass of New Zealand and establishing the outer edge of its continental margin in the Northern Region. White line (stippled) is the 200 M line from the territorial sea baseline of New Zealand, Red circles and squares are critical and relevant foot of the FOS points, red line is arc of Hedberg points, purple circles are Gardiner points.

3. Recommendations regarding the determination of foot of the continental slope

3.1 Considerations

- 135 FOS points that generate formula points beyond 200 M in the Northern Region are found along the eastern and western flanks of the Kermadec and Coville Ridge pair on the eastern side of South Fiji Basin, and along the eastern flank of the Three Kings Ridge on the western.
- 136 The Kermadec and Colville Ridges form a set of coalesced ridges with the Kermadec Ridge facing the Pacific Ocean to the east and the Colville Ridge facing the South Fiji Basin to the west. The Kermadec Trough is the oceanic subduction zone along the eastern flank of the Kermadec Ridge. The eastern continental slope of the Kermadec Ridge is steep and the base of the slope, being the base of the subduction trough, is readily identified on a morphological basis. Accordingly, the eastern flank of the Kermadec Ridge may be readily delineated by its foot of the continental slope envelope and the Commission agrees with the way the foot of the continental slope is established by New Zealand in this area.
- 137 The location of the base of the continental slope towards the South Fiji Basin, i.e. the transition from the slope of the Colville to the deep ocean floor of the South Fiji Basin is generally easily identified on a morphological basis.
- 138 The Three Kings Ridge is an ancient island arc ridge extending northward from the North Island between the South Fiji Basin to the east and the Norfolk Basin to west. The northern end of the Three Kings ridge is dominated by the deeper Fantail Terrace. The location of the base of the continental slope, i.e. the transition from the slope to the deep ocean floor of the South Fiji Basin is identified on a morphological basis, recognising that the Fantail Terrace is an integral part of the Three King Ridge system. Accordingly, the eastern flank of the Three King Ridge may be readily delineated by its foot of the continental slope envelope and the Commission agrees with the way the foot of the continental slope is established by New Zealand in this area. The western flank is on the Australian side of the treaty line and is not dealt with in the Submission.

3.2 Recommendations

- 139 Based on its consideration of the technical and scientific documentation contained in the Submission of 19 April 2006 and the information provided in document NZ-CLCS-DOC-08, the Commission concludes that, in the Northern Region, the FOS listed in Table 1.A, Annex III, fulfil the criteria in accordance with article 76 and Chapter 5 of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines (hereinafter the "Guidelines"). The Commission recommends that these FOS points should form the basis for the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin of New Zealand, for the purposes of the Convention, in the Northern Region.

4. Recommendations regarding the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin - The application of the 60 M distance criterion

- 140 In the Northern Region, the outer edge of the continental margin is based on points on arcs constructed at 60 M distance from the FOS points (Table 1.A, Annex III) in accordance with the provision contained in article 76, paragraph 4(a)(ii) (Fig. A.1). The Commission agrees with the way these points have been established by New Zealand and recommends that they are used as the basis for establishing the outer limit of the continental shelf in this region.

5. Recommendations regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf

141 The outer limits of the continental shelf should be based on the established outer edge of the continental margin and taking into consideration the constraints provided in article 76, paragraphs 2, 5 and 6.

5.1 The application of constraint criteria

142 The outer limits of the continental shelf cannot extend beyond the constraints as per the provisions of article 76, paragraphs 5 and 6. Accordingly, the provision that the outer limits of the continental shelf may not exceed 350 M distance from the territorial sea baselines (the distance criterion constraint) may be applied in all cases. Alternatively, the provision that the outer limits of the continental shelf may not exceed 100 M distance from the 2500 meters isobath (the depth criterion constraint) may be applied for those parts of the continental margin that are classified as natural components of that margin.

5.1.1 The construction of the distance criterion line

143 The distance criterion constraint line submitted by New Zealand is constructed by arcs at 350 M distance from the territorial sea baselines included in the Submission. The Commission agrees with the procedure and methods applied by New Zealand in the construction of this constraint line.

5.1.2 The construction of the depth criterion line

144 The 2500 meters isobaths on which the depth criterion constraint line is based are located along the Colville Ridge and the Three Kings Ridge including the Fantail Terrace. Since all these isobaths are landward of the foot of the continental slope, they conform to the general outline of the continental margin as defined for the purposes of the Convention. Therefore, the application of these isobaths as basis for the depth criterion constraint is in accordance with the Convention and with paragraphs 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 of the Guidelines and the Commission recommends that the depth criterion constraint line is constructed as submitted by New Zealand.

5.1.3 Consideration and classification of submarine highs

145 Based on the literature and the evidence in the Submission, the Commission agrees that the Kermadec and Colville Ridge system, as well as the Three Kings Ridge with the Fantail Terrace are natural components of the continental margin of the North Island of New Zealand and may be classified as submarine elevations in the sense of article 76, paragraph 6. Hence, the depth constraint line originating from these elevations may be applied as submitted by New Zealand.

5.1.4 The application of the combination of the distance and the depth constraint criteria

146 In the Northern Region New Zealand has applied a constraint line based on the combination of lines constructed by the application of both the distance and depth criteria contained in article 76, paragraph 5 (see sections 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 above). The Commission agrees with the way this combined constraint line has been applied.

5.2 The outer limits of the continental shelf

147 The outer limits of the continental shelf in the Northern Region as submitted by New Zealand in its Submission of 19 April 2006 and revised in NZ-CLCS-DOC-08 consist of fixed points connected by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length (Fig. A.2). The fixed points are listed in Table 2, Annex III as submitted on

27 March 2008. The fixed points are formula points established by the provisions contained in article 76, paragraph 4(a) or points on the constraint line where the outer edge of the continental margin extends beyond the constraints. One point, N001 is located on the 200 M line of New Zealand; one point, N064 is located on the 200 M line of the Kingdom of Tonga; one point, N065, is located on the 200 M line of the Republic of the Fiji Islands; and one point, N284, is located on the treaty line with Australia.(Fig. A.2).

5.3 Recommendations

- 148 The Commission agrees with the determination of the fixed points listed in Table 1.A, Annex III, delineating the outer edge of the continental margin of New Zealand. However, the Commission does not agree to include the whole of that part of the South Fiji Basin that is located to the south of points N177 and N178 in Table 2, Annex III as part of the continental shelf of New Zealand. The Commission recommends that the delineation of the outer limit of the continental shelf in the South Fiji Basin be conducted in accordance with article 76, paragraph 7, by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length, connecting fixed points, defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude. The establishment of the final outer limits of the continental shelf of New Zealand in this region may depend on delimitation between States. The Commission recommends, taking into consideration article 9 of Annex II, that New Zealand proceeds to establish the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Northern Region on the basis of the outer edge of the continental margin recommended in paragraph 140 and in accordance with article 76, paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10.

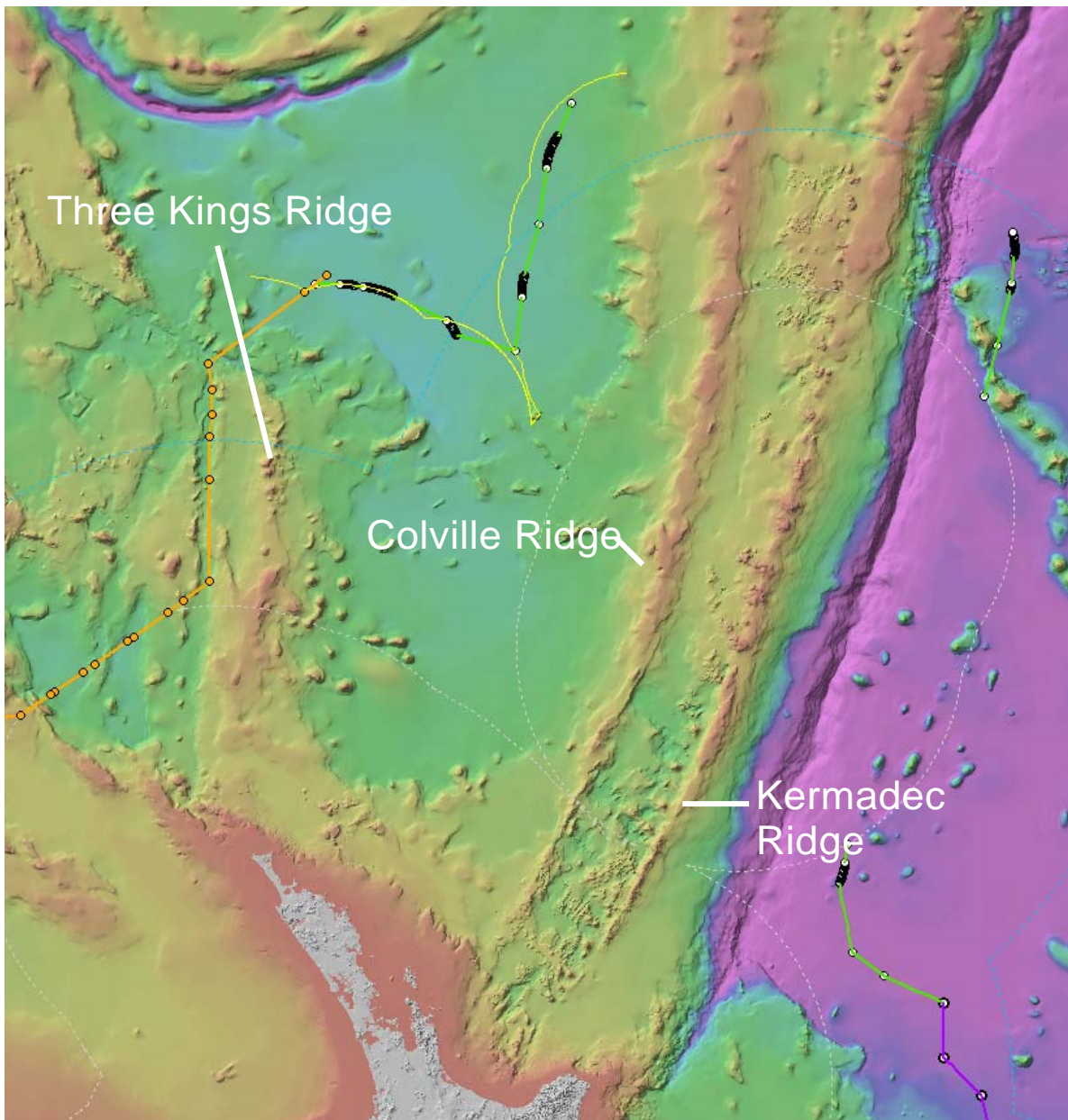


Figure A.2. Final outer limit of the continental shelf in the Northern Region as submitted by New Zealand as at 27 March 2008. The outer limit fixed points are shown as white circles with black rims, the continental shelf outer limit line is shown in green, the 350 M constraint line in blue (stippled), the 2500 m isobath + 100 M constraint in yellow, the New Zealand-Australian Delimitation Treaty line in orange, and the 200 M lines of New Zealand and neighbouring States in white.

B. Eastern Region

1. Geographical region description

149 The Eastern Region covers the southern Kermadec Ridge and Kermadec Trench, Hikurangi Plateau, Chatham Rise, Bounty Trough, and northern Campbell Plateau (Fig 1).

2. Submarine prolongation of landmass and entitlement to the continental shelf beyond 200 M

150 The outer edge of the continental margin, as generated from the foot of the continental slope of the Eastern Region by applying the provisions of article 76, paragraph 4, extends beyond the 200 M limits of New Zealand. On this basis, the Commission recognises the legal entitlement of New Zealand to establish continental shelf beyond its 200 M limits in this region (Fig. B.1).

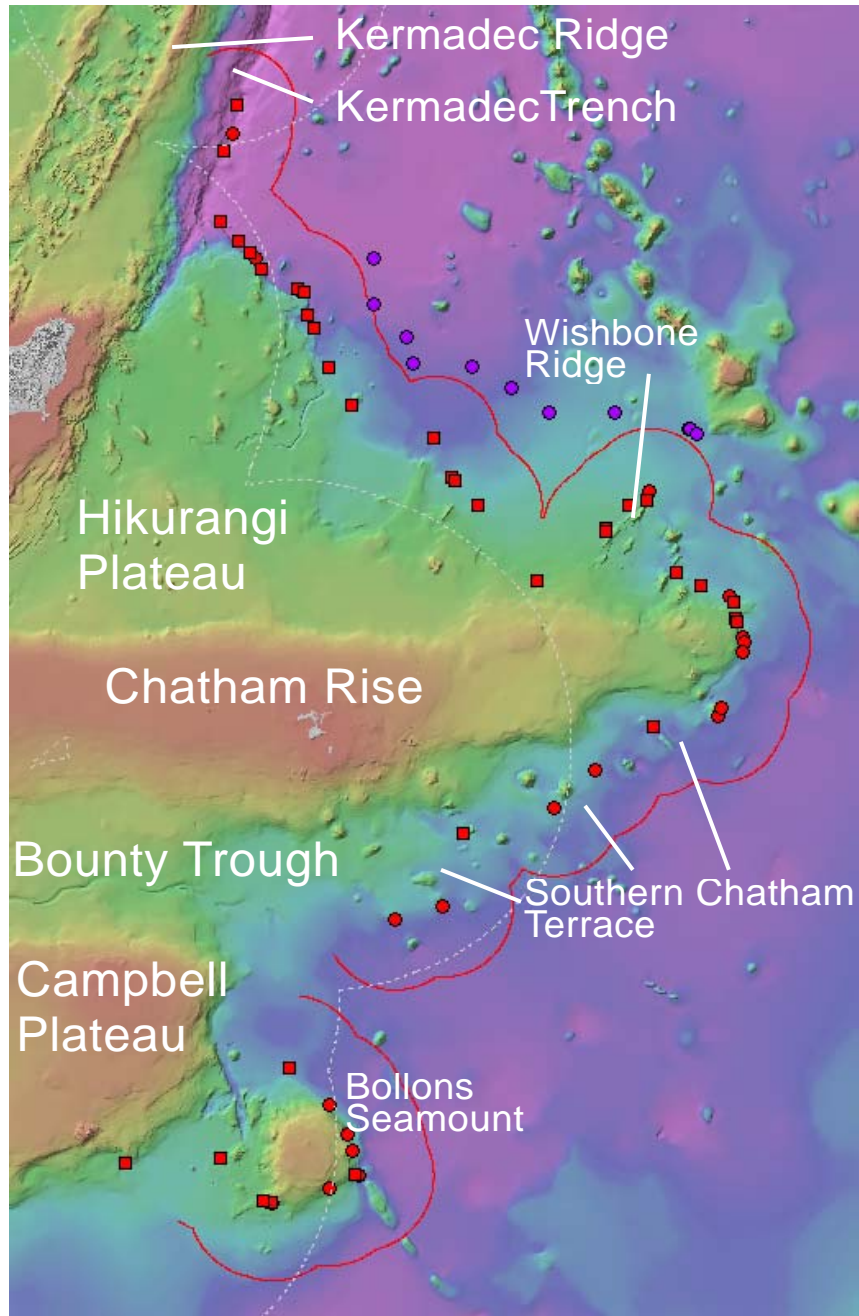


Figure B.1. Overview of the FOS points and the associated formula points that are the basis for demonstrating the submerged prolongation of the landmass of New Zealand and establishing the outer edge of its continental margin in the Eastern Region. White line (stippled) is the 200 M line from the territorial sea baseline of New Zealand, Red circles and squares are critical and relevant FOS points, red line is arc of Hedberg points, purple circles are Gardiner points.

3. Recommendations regarding the determination of foot of the continental slope

3.1 Considerations

- 151 FOS points that generate formula points beyond 200 M in the Eastern Region are found along the Hikurangi Plateau, Chatham Rise and north Campbell Plateau areas. The character of the continental slope varies between these three areas of the Eastern Region.
- 152 The Hikurangi Plateau is a northward sloping plateau situated east of the North Island and north of the Chatham Rise. The location of the base of the continental slope, i.e. the transition from the slope to the deep ocean floor to the north of the Hikurangi Plateau is distinct and easily identified on a morphological basis. Accordingly, the plateau may be readily delineated by its foot of the continental slope envelope and the Subcommittee agreed in general with the way this foot of the continental slope is established by New Zealand.
- 153 The eastern end of the Chatham Rise is dominated by the Weta Seamount, separated from the rise to the west by a saddle area. The location of the base of the continental slope of the Weta Seamount and other seamounts in the area is distinct and easily identified on a morphological basis. Accordingly, the seamount area may be readily delineated by its foot of the continental slope envelope and the Subcommittee agreed in general with the way this foot of the continental slope is established by New Zealand, except in the cases of FOS point CH-262 which seemed to be established on a feature not attached to the adjacent seamount.
- 154 The Southeast Chatham Terrace is situated along the south-eastern flank of the Chatham Rise, and defined in the Submission as a 100-200 km wide area at 4000 – 4800 m depth, separating the Chatham Rise main slope from abyssal water depths (i.e. >5000 m). New Zealand argues that the Southeast Chatham Terrace is part of the continental slope so that the FOS points in this area should be located along the seaward side of the terrace. The terrace is generally low lying with an outer slope of 300 - 1000 meters drop in elevation. In a series of exchanges of communications, the Subcommittee wanted to satisfy itself that the areas of the relevant FOS points could be justified to represent the base of the continental slope by the bathymetric and geo-scientific data provided. Based on the Submission and the further information the Subcommittee agreed with New Zealand that FOS points CH-80, -160, -247, -251, -262 and CH_G-3 should be deleted, and that the outer limit in the area should be established based on points CH-72, -129, -154, -217, -248, -263, -264 and CH-287.
- 155 The Campbell Plateau is a submarine high that extends about 1000 km south and 900 km east of the South Island. It is separated from the Chatham Rise by the Bounty Trough. The location of the base of the continental slope of the northern Campbell Plateau, including the Bollons Seamount, is distinct and easily identified on a morphological basis. The saddle area between the plateau and the Bollons Seamount is significantly shallower than the surrounding deep seafloor, and allows the seamount to be included in the foot of the continental slope envelope. Accordingly, the plateau may be readily delineated by its foot of the continental slope envelope and the Commission agrees in general with the way this foot of the continental slope is established by New Zealand.

3.2 Recommendations

- 156 Based on its consideration of the technical and scientific documentation contained in the Submission of 19 April 2006 and the information provided in documents

NZ-CLCS-DOC-05, NZ-CLCS-DOC-07, NZ-CLCS-DOC-08 and NZ-CLCS-DOC-09, the Commission concludes that, in the Eastern Region, the FOS points listed in Table 1.B, Annex III, fulfil the criteria in accordance with article 76 and Chapter 5 of the Guidelines. The Commission recommends that these FOS points should form the basis for the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin of New Zealand for the purposes of the Convention in the Eastern Region.

4. Recommendations regarding the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin

4.1 The application of the 60 M distance criterion

157 In the Eastern Region, the outer edge of the continental margin is partly based on points on arcs constructed at 60 M distance from the FOS points (Table 1.B, Annex III) in accordance with the provision contained in article 76, paragraph 4(a)(ii). The Commission agrees with the way these points have been established by New Zealand.

4.2 The application of the sediment thickness criterion

158 In the Eastern Region adjacent to the Hikurangi Plateau, New Zealand has submitted 12 fixed points based on the sediment thickness provision of article 76, paragraph 4 (a)(i). The Commission agrees with the procedure applied by New Zealand to establish the sediment thickness points based on the FOS points contained in Table 1.B, Annex III, including the data provided, the seismic interpretation, the methods of depth conversion, and the distance calculations.

4.3 Recommendations

159 In the Eastern Region, the outer edge of the continental margin beyond 200 M is based on the arcs and points described in sections 4.1 and 4.2 above in accordance with article 76, paragraphs 4(a) and 7 (see Fig. B.1). The Commission recommends that these arcs and points are used as the basis for establishing the outer limit of the continental shelf in this region.

5. Recommendations regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf

160 The outer limits of the continental shelf should be based on the established outer edge of the continental margin and taking into consideration the constraints contained in article 76, paragraphs 2, 5 and 6.

5.1 The application of constraint criteria

161 The outer limits of the continental shelf cannot extend beyond the constraints as per the provisions contained in article 76, paragraphs 5 and 6. Accordingly, the provision that the outer limits of the continental shelf may not exceed 350 M distance from the territorial sea baselines (the distance criterion constraint) may be applied in all cases. Alternatively, the provision that the outer limits of the continental shelf may not exceed 100 M distance from the 2500 meters isobath (the depth criterion constraint) may be applied for those parts of the continental margin that are classified as natural components of that margin.

5.1.1 The construction of the distance criterion line

162 The distance criterion constraint line submitted by New Zealand is constructed by arcs at 350 M distance from the territorial sea baselines included in the Submission. The Commission agrees with the procedure and methods applied by New Zealand in the construction of this constraint line.

5.1.2 The construction of the depth criterion line

163 The 2500 meters isobath on which the depth criterion constraint line is based are located along the Wishbone Ridge and the Chatham Bank including the Weta Seamount area. Since all these isobaths are landward of the foot of the continental slope, they conform to the general outline of the continental margin as defined for the purposes of the Convention. Therefore, the application of these isobaths as basis for the depth criterion constraint is in accordance with the Convention and with paragraphs 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 of the Guidelines and the Commission recommends that the depth criterion constraint line is constructed as submitted by New Zealand.

5.1.3 Consideration and classification of submarine highs

164 Based on the literature and the evidence in the Submission, including the additional material provided, the Commission agrees that the Wishbone Ridge is a natural component of the continental margin and may be classified as a submarine elevation in the sense of article 76, paragraph 6. Hence, the depth constraint line originating from the Wishbone Ridge may be applied as submitted by New Zealand.

5.1.4 The application of the combination of the distance and the depth constraint criteria

165 In the Eastern Region New Zealand has applied a constraint line based on the combination of lines constructed by the application of both the distance and depth criteria contained in article 76, paragraph 5 (see sections 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 above). The Commission agrees with the way this combined constraint line has been applied (Fig. B.2).

5.2 The outer limits of the continental shelf

166 The outer limits of the continental shelf in the Eastern Region as submitted by New Zealand in its Submission of 19 April 2006 and revised in NZ-CLCS-DOC-09 of 13 March 2008 consist of fixed points connected by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length (Fig. B.2). The fixed points are listed in Table 2, Annex III, as submitted on 27 March 2008. The fixed points are formula points established by the provisions contained in article 76, paragraph 4(a), or points on the constraint line where the outer edge of the continental margin extends beyond the constraints. Two points E001 and E886 are located on the 200 M limit line (Fig. B.2).

5.3 Recommendations

167 The Commission agrees with the principles applied in establishing the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Eastern Region, including the determination of the fixed formula points listed in Table 2, Annex III, and the construction of the straight lines connecting those points. The Commission recommends that New Zealand proceeds to establish the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Eastern Region accordingly. Further, the Commission also recommends that New Zealand includes in its continental shelf the seabed and subsoil of the polygon located beyond 200 M on the Chatham Rise as the natural prolongation of its land territory.

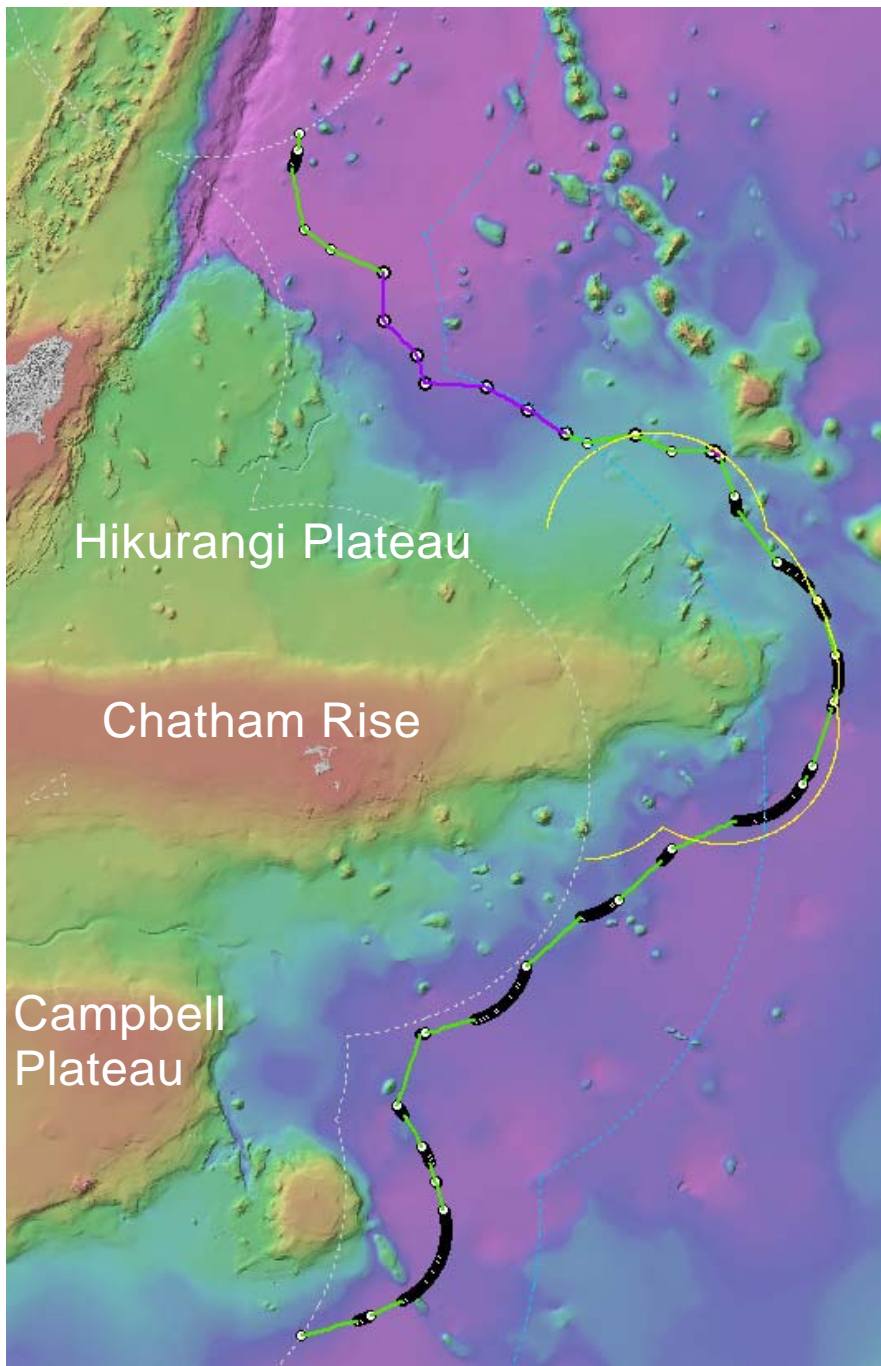


Figure B.2. Final outer limit of the continental shelf in the Eastern Region as submitted by New Zealand as at 27 March 2008. The outer limit fixed points are shown as white circles with black rims, the continental shelf outer limit line where based on Hedberg points is shown in green, the continental shelf outer limit line where based on Gardiner points is shown in purple, the 350 M constraint line in blue (stippled), the 2500 m isobath + 100 M constraint in yellow, and the 200 M lines of New Zealand in white.

C. Southern Region

1. Geographical region description

168 The Southern Region covers the southern margin of the Campbell Plateau (Fig. C.1), from its intersection with the negotiated maritime boundary with Australia in the west to the intersection with the line 200 M from New Zealand's territorial sea baseline at about 177°E longitude (Fig. 1).

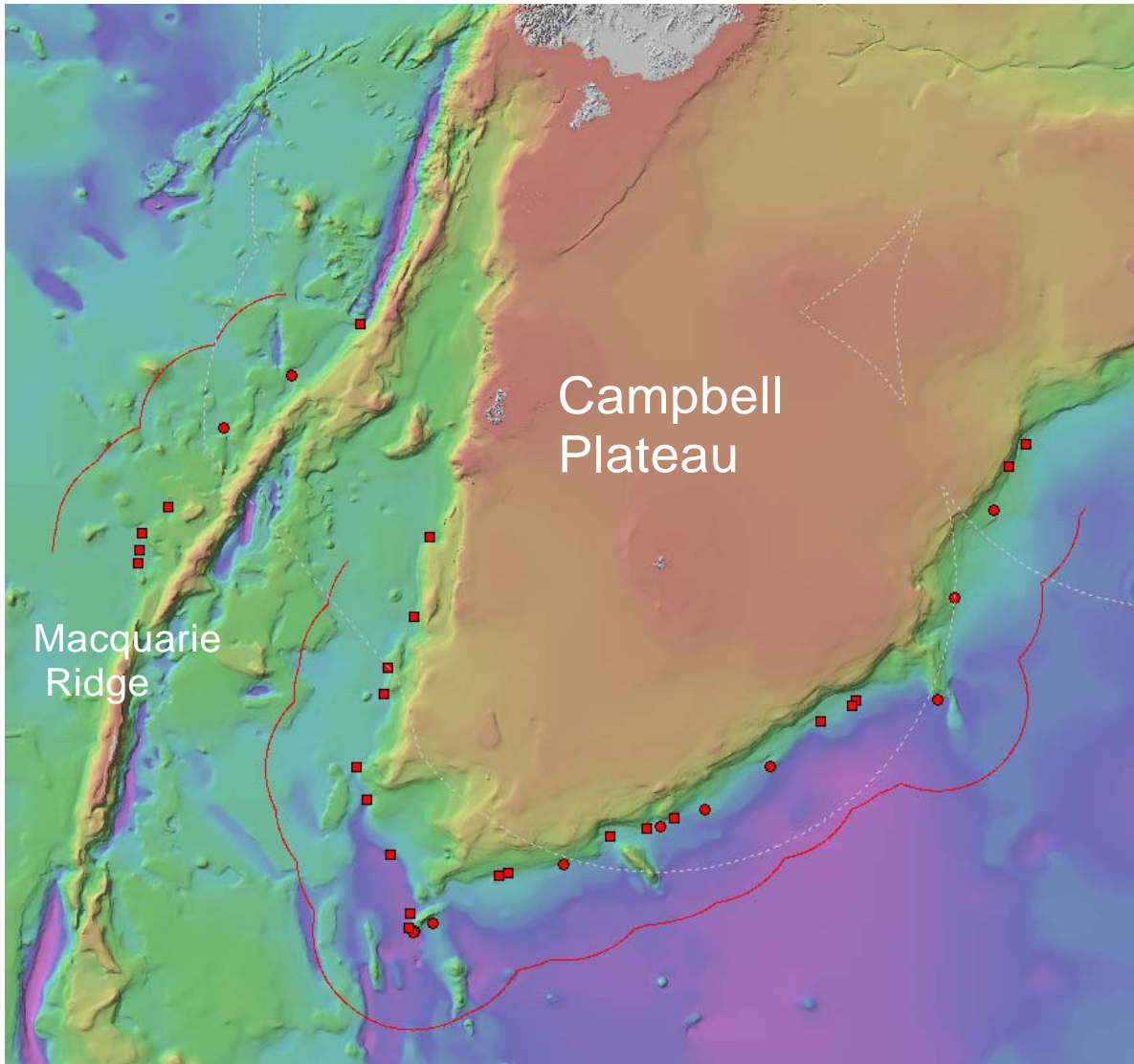


Figure C.1. Overview of the FOS points and the associated formula points that are the basis for demonstrating the submerged prolongation of the landmass of New Zealand and establishing the outer edge of its continental margin in the Southern Region. White line (stippled) is the 200 M line from the territorial sea baseline of New Zealand, Red circles and squares are critical and relevant FOS points, red line is arc of Hedberg points, purple circles are Gardiner points.

2. Submarine prolongation of landmass and entitlement to the continental shelf beyond 200 M

169 The outer edge of the continental margin, as generated from the foot of the continental slope of the Southern Region by applying the provisions of article 76, paragraph 4, extends beyond the 200 M limits of New Zealand. On this basis, the Commission recognises the legal entitlement of New Zealand to establish continental shelf beyond its 200 M limits in this region (Fig. C.1).

3. Recommendations regarding the determination of foot of the continental slope

3.1 Considerations

170 The location of the base of the continental slope of the southern Campbell Plateau is distinct and easily identified on a morphological basis. Accordingly, the plateau may be readily delineated by its foot of the continental slope envelope and the Commission agrees in general with the way this foot of the continental slope is established by New Zealand.

3.2 Recommendations

171 Based on its consideration of the technical and scientific documentation contained in the Submission of 19 April 2006 and the information provided the Commission concludes that, in the Southern Region, the FOS points listed in Table 1.C, Annex III, fulfil the criteria in accordance with article 76 and Chapter 5 of the Guidelines. The Commission recommends that these FOS points should form the basis for the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin of New Zealand for the purposes of the Convention in the Southern Region.

4. Recommendations regarding the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin - The application of the 60 M distance criterion

172 In the Southern Region, the outer edge of the continental margin is based on points on arcs constructed at 60 M distance from the FOS points (Table 1.C, Annex III) in accordance with the provision contained in article 76, paragraph 4(a)(ii) (see Fig. C.1). The Commission agrees with the way these points have been established by New Zealand, and recommends that they are used as the basis for establishing the outer limit of the continental shelf in this region.

5. Recommendations regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf

173 The outer limits of the continental shelf should be based on the established outer edge of the continental margin and taking into consideration the constraints contained in article 76, paragraphs 2, 5 and 6.

5.1 The application of constraint criteria

174 For the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Southern Region, New Zealand has invoked the distance criterion constraint only.

5.1.1 The construction of the distance criterion line

175 The distance criterion constraint line submitted by New Zealand is constructed by arcs at 350 M distance from the territorial sea baselines included in the submission. The Commission agrees with the procedure and methods applied by New Zealand in the construction of this constraint line.

5.1.2 The application of the of the constraint criteria

176 In the Southern Region New Zealand has applied a constraint line based on the distance criterion contained in article 76, paragraph 5 (see section 5.1.1 above).

The Commission agrees with the way this constraint line has been applied (Fig. C.2).

5.2 The outer limits of the continental shelf

177 The outer limits of the continental shelf in the Southern Region as submitted by New Zealand in its Submission of 19 April 2006 consist of fixed points connected by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length (Fig. C.2). The fixed points are listed in Table 2, Annex III, as submitted on 27 March 2008. The fixed points are formula points established by the provisions contained in article 76, paragraph 4(a), or points on the constraint line where the outer edge of the continental margin extends beyond the constraints. One point, S455, is located on the 200 M limit line, and one point, S001, is located on the treaty line with Australia (Fig. C.2).

5.3 Recommendations

178 The Commission agrees with the principles applied in establishing the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Southern Region, including the determination of the fixed formula points listed in Table 2, Annex III, and the construction of the straight lines connecting those points. The Commission recommends that New Zealand proceeds to establish the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Southern Region accordingly. Further, the Commission also recommends that New Zealand includes in its continental shelf the seabed and subsoil of the polygon located beyond 200 M on the Campbell Plateau as the natural prolongation of its land territory.

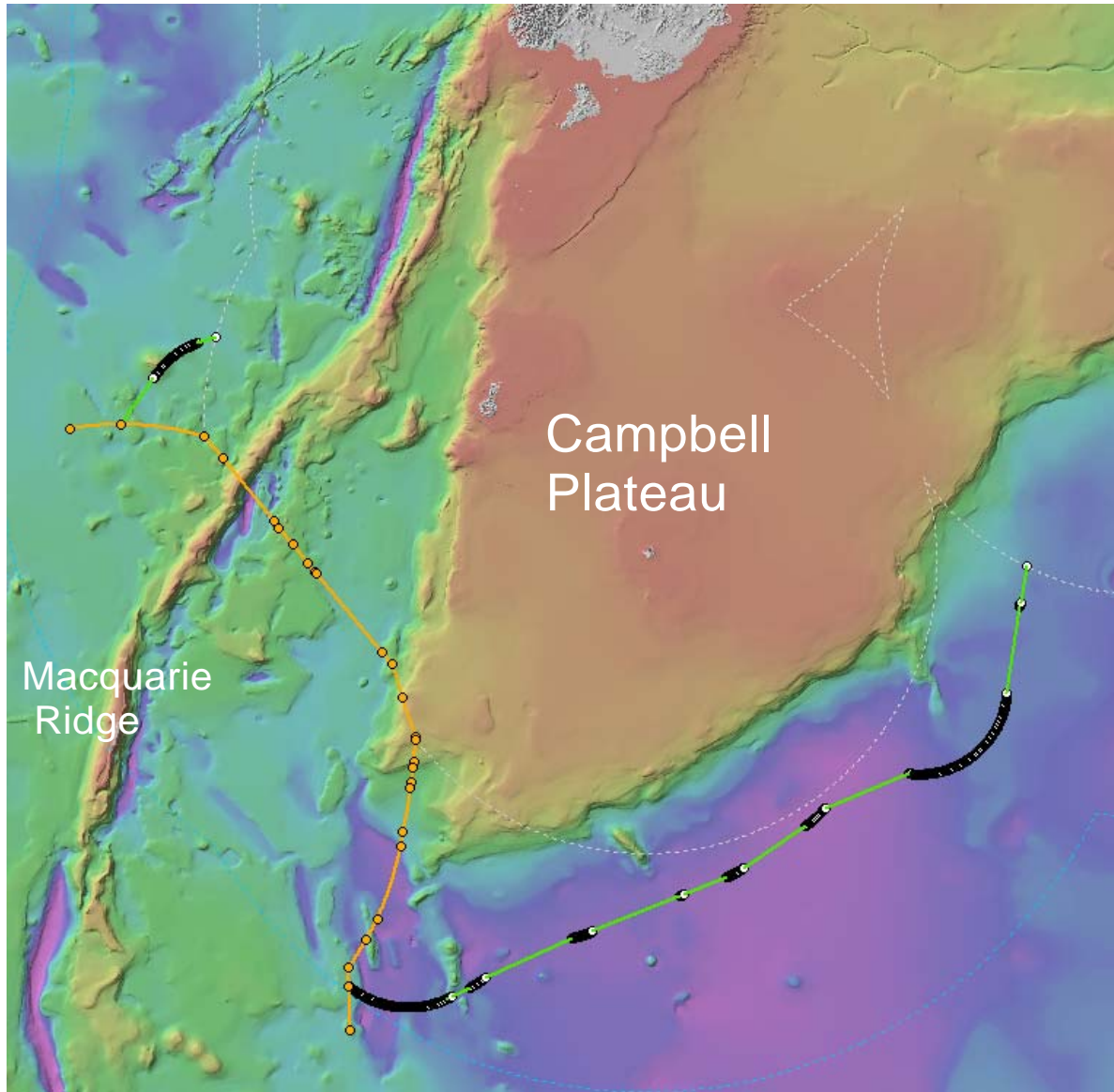


Figure C.2. Final outer limit of the continental shelf in the Southern Region as submitted by New Zealand as at 27 March 2008. The outer limit fixed points are shown as white circles with black rims, the continental shelf outer limit line is shown in green, the 350 M constraint line in blue (stippled), the 2500 m isobath + 100 M constraint in yellow, the New Zealand-Australian Delimitation Treaty line in orange, and the 200 M lines of New Zealand and neighbouring states in white.

D. Western Region

1. Geographical region description

179 The Western Region covers the southern Norfolk Ridge System, New Caledonia Basin, Challenger Plateau, Lord Howe Rise, and the Macquarie Ridge Complex and may be subdivided into the two main areas (Fig. 1):

a. The area along the southwest margin of the Challenger Plateau, Lord Howe Rise, New Caledonia Basin and the Norfolk Ridge System, from New Zealand's 200 M line at about 172°E longitude to the New Zealand–Australia 2004 Delimitation Treaty line, and then along this treaty line to the intersection of

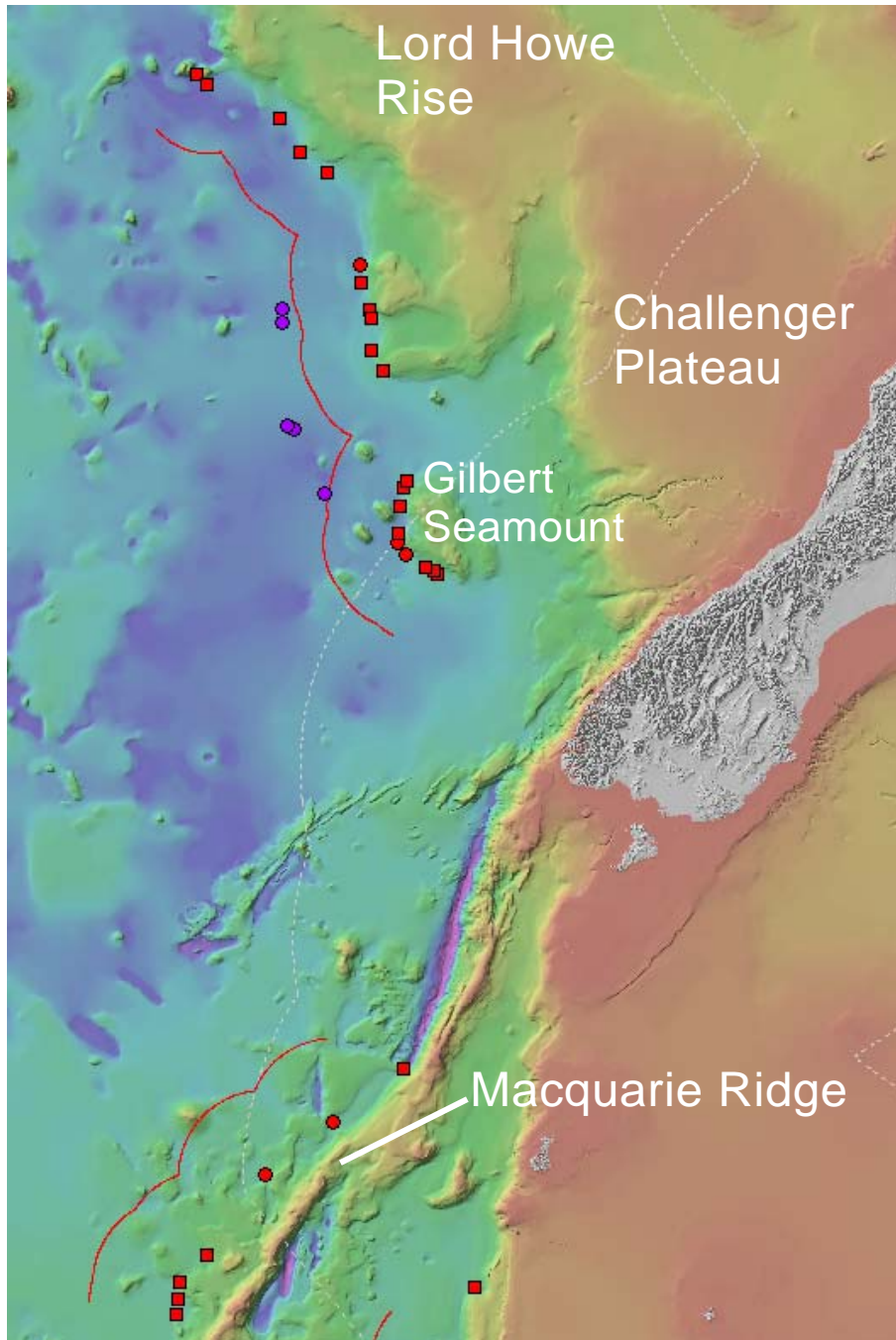


Figure D.1. Overview of the FOS points and the associated formula points that are the basis for demonstrating the submerged prolongation of the landmass of New Zealand and establishing the outer edge of its continental margin in the Western Region. White line (stippled) is the 200 M line from the territorial sea baseline of New Zealand, Red circles and squares are critical and relevant FOS points, red line is arc of Hedberg points, purple circles are Gardiner points.

the New Zealand and Australian 200 M lines near 166°E longitude.
b. The area along the western margin of the Macquarie Ridge Complex, beyond the 200 M lines of New Zealand and Australia.

2. Submarine prolongation of landmass and entitlement to the continental shelf beyond 200 M

180 The outer edge of the continental margin, as generated from the foot of the continental slope of the Western Region by applying the provisions of article 76, paragraph 4, extends beyond the 200 M limits of New Zealand. On this basis, the Commission recognises the legal entitlement of New Zealand to establish continental shelf beyond its 200 M limits in this region (Fig. D.1).

3. Recommendations regarding the determination of foot of the continental slope

181 The foot of the continental slope should be established in accordance with article 76, paragraph 4(b).

3.1 Considerations

182 FOS points that generate formula points beyond 200 M in the Western Region are found along the western flanks of the Lord Howe Rise and the Challenger Plateau, including the Gilbert Seamount, and along the north-western flank of the Macquarie Ridge.

183 The Lord Howe Rise and the Challenger Plateau form a continuous continental slope adjacent to the Tasman Basin. The base of this continental slope is in general distinct and easily identified on a morphological basis, except in the area of the Gilbert Seamount. Accordingly, the Lord Howe Rise and the Challenger Plateau may be readily delineated by their foot of the continental slope envelope outside of the Gilbert Seamount area. In the view of the Subcommission, the establishment of the base of the continental slope along the flank of the Gilbert Seamount needed further supportive geological and geophysical data and information, especially with respect to the Gilbert saddle area. Such data and information was provided. After considering this supplementary data and information, the Subcommission accepted the establishment of the base of the continental slope along the flank of the Gilbert Seamount as submitted. Accordingly, the Commission agrees with the way this foot of the continental slope is established by New Zealand in the whole of this area of the Western Region.

184 The Macquarie Ridge Complex is a transform ridge system that extends southwards from the South Island. The base of the continental slope along the western flank of the Macquarie Ridge Complex is in general distinct and easily identified on a morphological basis. Accordingly, the western flank may readily be delineated by its foot of the continental slope envelope and the Commission agrees with the way the foot of the continental slope is established by New Zealand.

3.2 Recommendations

185 Based on its consideration of the technical and scientific documentation contained in the Submission of 19 April 2006 and the information provided the Commission concludes that, in the Western Region, the FOS points listed in Table 1.D, Annex III, fulfil the criteria provided for by article 76 and Chapter 5 of the Guidelines. The Commission recommends that these FOS points should form the basis for the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin of New Zealand for the purposes of the Convention in the Western Region.

4. Recommendations regarding the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin

4.1 The application of the 60 M distance criterion

186 In the Western Region, the continental margin is partly based on points on arcs constructed at 60 M distance from the FOS points (Table 1.D, Annex III) in accordance with the provision contained in article 76, paragraph 4(a)(ii) (Fig.D.1). The Commission agrees with the way these points and lines have been established by New Zealand.

4.2 The application of the sediment thickness criterion

187 In the Western Region adjacent to the Lord Howe Rise and the Challenger Plateau, New Zealand has submitted 9 fixed points based on the sediment thickness provision of article 76, paragraph 4 (a)(i) (Fig. D.1). The Commission agrees with the procedure applied by New Zealand to establish the sediment thickness points based on the FOS points contained in Table 1.D, Annex III, including the data provided, the seismic interpretation, the methods of depth conversion, and the distance calculations.

4.3 Recommendations

188 In the Western Region, the outer edge of the continental margin beyond 200 M is based on the arcs and points described in sections 4.1 and 4.2 above in accordance with article 76, paragraphs 4(a) and 7 (see Fig. B.1). The Commission recommends that these arcs and points are used as the basis for establishing the outer limit of the continental shelf in this region.

5. Recommendations regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf

189 The outer limits of the continental shelf should be based on the established outer edge of the continental margin and taking into consideration the constraints contained in article 76, paragraphs 2, 5 and 6.

5.1 The application of constraint criteria

5.1.1 The construction of the distance criterion line

190 The distance criterion constraint line submitted by New Zealand is constructed by arcs at 350 M distance from the territorial sea baselines included in the Submission. The Commission agrees with the procedure and methods applied by New Zealand in the construction of this constraint line.

5.1.2 The construction of the depth criterion line

191 The 2500 meters isobath on which the depth criterion constraint line is based are located along the Challenger Plateau and the Lord Howe Rise, including the Gilbert Seamount. Since all these isobaths are landward of the foot of the continental slope, they conform to the general outline of the continental margin as defined for the purposes of the Convention. Therefore, the application of these isobaths as basis for the depth criterion constraint is in accordance with the Convention and with paragraphs 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 of the Guidelines, and the Commission recommends that the depth criterion constraint line is constructed as submitted by New Zealand.

5.1.3 Consideration and classification of submarine highs

192 Based on the literature and the evidence in the Submission, the Commission agrees that the Challenger Plateau and the Lord Howe Rise, including the Gilbert

Seamount, are natural components of the continental margin of New Zealand and be classified as submarine elevations in the sense article 76, paragraph 6. Hence, the depth constraint line originating from these elevations may be applied as submitted by New Zealand.

5.1.4 The application of the combination of the distance and the depth constraint criteria

193 In the Western Region New Zealand has applied a constraint line based on the combination of lines constructed by the application of both the distance and depth criteria contained in article 76, paragraph 5 (see sections 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 above). The Commission agrees with the way this combined constraint line has been applied (Fig. D.2).

5.2 The outer limits of the continental shelf

194 The outer limits of the continental shelf in the Western Region as submitted by New Zealand in its Submission of 19 April 2006 and revised in NZ-CLCS-DOC-09 consist of fixed points connected by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length (Fig. D.2). The fixed points are listed in Table 2, Annex III as submitted on 27 March 2008. The fixed points are formula points established by the provisions contained in article 76, paragraph 4(a), or points on the constraint line where the outer edge of the continental margin extends beyond the constraints. Two points, W101 and W102 are located on the 200 M line of New Zealand and two points, W001 and W190, are located on the treaty line with Australia.(Fig. D.2).

5.3 Recommendations

195 The Commission agrees with the principles applied in establishing the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Western Region, including the determination of the fixed formula points listed in Table 2, Annex III, and the construction of the straight lines connecting those points. The Commission recommends that New Zealand proceeds to establish the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Western Region accordingly.

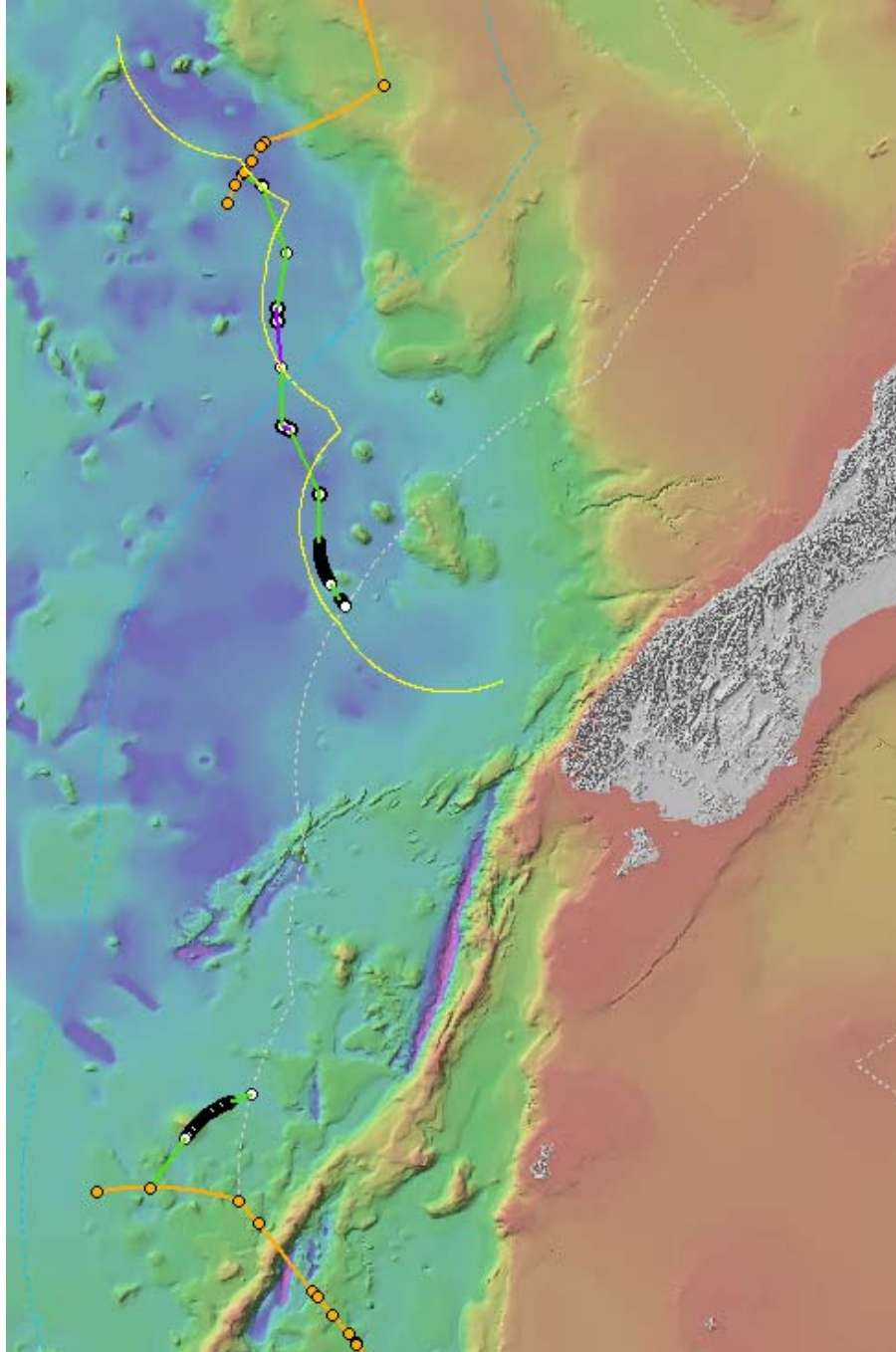


Figure D.2. Final outer limit of the continental shelf in the Western Region as submitted by New Zealand as at 27 March 2008. The outer limit fixed points are shown as white circles with black rims, the continental shelf outer limit line where based on Hedberg points is shown in green, the continental shelf outer limit line where based on Gardiner points is shown in purple, the 350 M constraint line in blue (stippled), the 2500 m isobath + 100 M constraint in yellow, the New Zealand-Australian Delimitation Treaty line in orange, and the 200 M line of New Zealand in white.

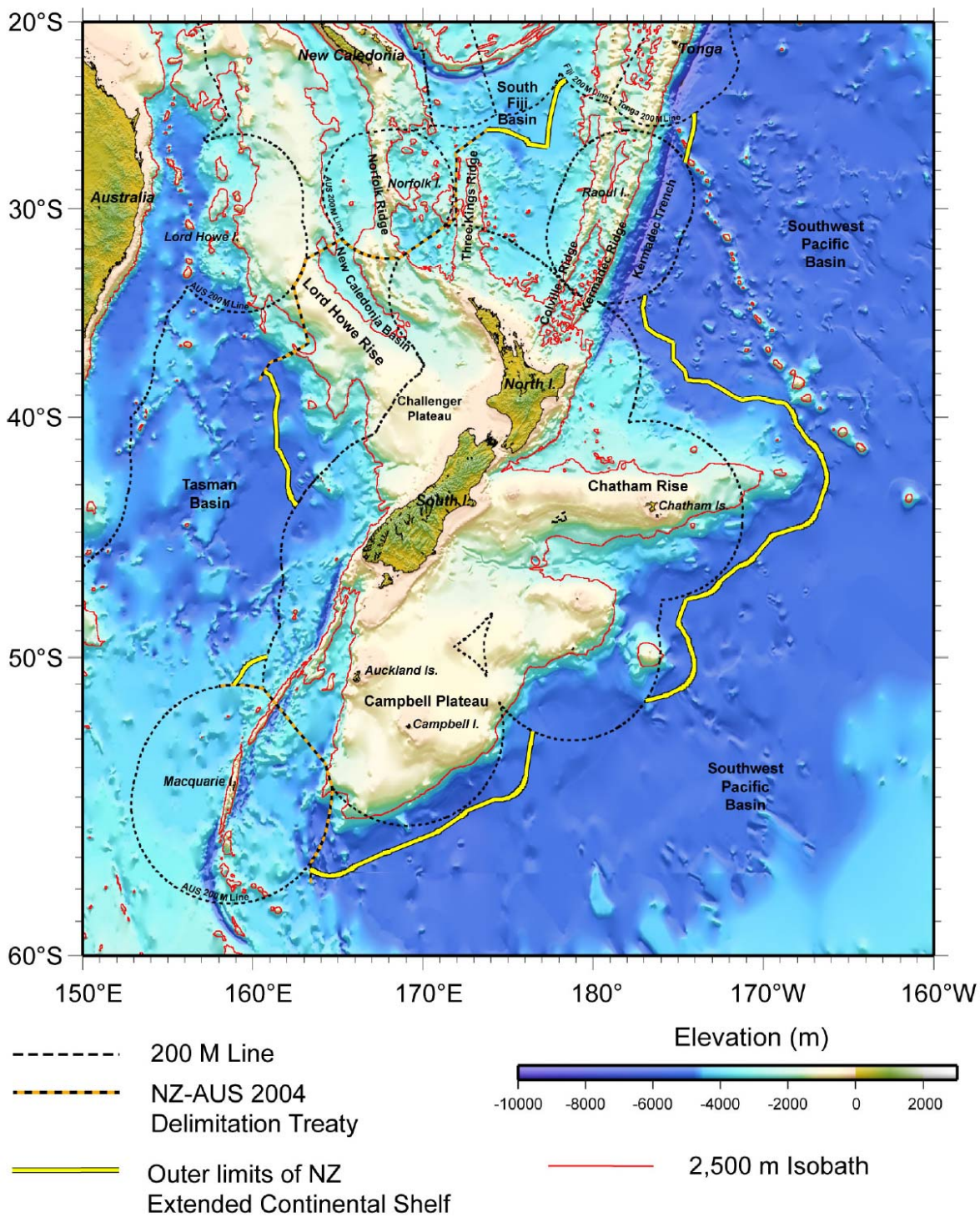


Figure 2. Outer limits of the continental shelf of New Zealand as submitted 19 April 2006

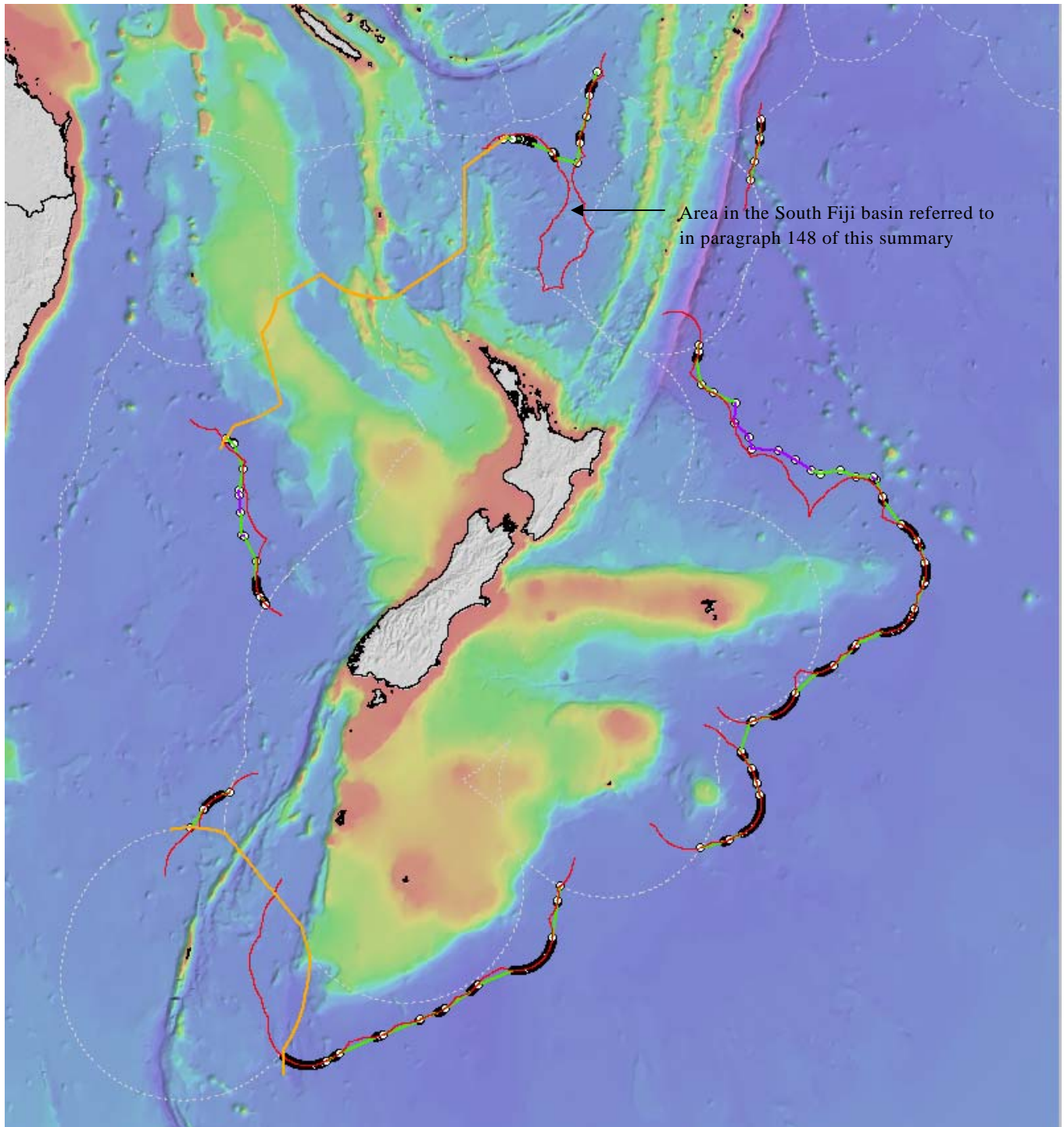


Figure 3. Outer limits of the continental shelf of New Zealand reflecting the recommendations of the Commission adopted 22 August 2008. The outer limit fixed points are shown as white circles with black rims, the continental shelf outer limit line where based on Hedberg points is shown in green, the continental shelf outer limit line where based on Gardiner points is shown in purple, at 60 M distance from the foot of the continental slope in red, the 200 M lines of New Zealand and neighbouring states in white, and treaty lines with Australia in orange.