

ANNEX IV



**Commission on the Limits
of the Continental Shelf**

**SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF IN REGARD TO THE JOINT SUBMISSION MADE BY FRANCE, IRELAND,
SPAIN, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND IN RESPECT
OF THE AREA OF THE CELTIC SEA AND THE BAY OF BISCAY ON 19 MAY 2006***

**Recommendations prepared by the Subcommittee established for the consideration
of the Joint Submission made by
France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**Adopted by the Subcommittee on 20 March 2009 and submitted to the Commission
on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for consideration and approval by
the Commission**

**Adopted by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
on 24 March 2009**

**UN Headquarters
New York**

* 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 of the United Nations in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS/40/Rev. 1, Annex III, Section V, Paragraph 11.3). This Summary is based on excerpts from the Recommendations.

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Figure 2. Map indicating the basis of the entitlement to the continental shelf beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of Ireland (IRL200M, pale green), the United Kingdom (GBR200M, pink), and France (FRA200M, pale blue) as illustrated by the 60 M formula line (thin black arcs) and the sediment thickness point labelled ‘SED’ (triangle), and beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of Spain (ESP200M, white) by the sediment thickness point labelled ‘Spain SED’ (triangle). Also shown are the outer edge of the continental margin (thick black line) and FOS points (small circles with critical FOS points).

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Figure 4. Map showing the outer edge of the continental margin (thick blue line) of Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and France. It also shows the locations of critical FOS points (critical FOS points FOS 1, FOS 4, and FOS 5 labeled); sediment thickness point (FP 30); relevant 200 M limits from the territorial sea baselines of these coastal States; the applicable 350 M constraint lines. For ease of reference, the final outer limits of the continental shelf as reflected in Table 3 depicted in Figure 5 below is indicated by a thin brown line.

Figure 5. Map showing the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of France, Ireland, Spain, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of the area of the Celtic Sea and the Bay of Biscay, as provided by the Four Delegations on 17 June 2008 (Table 3 above). For ease of reference, see Figure 4 above for the various points and lines that contribute to the delineation of the outer limits.

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Table 2. Formula points establishing the outer edge of the continental margin (based on the Appendix 1 of the Executive Summary).

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 19 May 2006, France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“the United Kingdom”) submitted, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations (“the Secretary-General”), a partial Joint Submission made by France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of the Celtic Sea and the Bay of Biscay (“Joint Submission”) to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (“the Commission”), by notes verbales [notes verbales dated 19 May 2006 from France (BC/fh No. 347), Ireland, Spain (416 JRO/mgm) and the United Kingdom (484/06)]. The 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 (“the Convention”). References to article 76 and paragraphs therein shall be understood to mean article 76 of the Convention. The Convention entered into force for France on 11 May 1996, for Ireland on 21 July 1996, for Spain on 14 February 1997 and for the United Kingdom on 24 August 1997.
2. The notes verbales accompanying the Submission stated that *"[t]he enclosed submission is of a joint nature, comprising a single project prepared collectively and collaboratively by the four coastal States. For each of these four coastal States the enclosed joint submission represents a partial submission in respect of a portion only of the outer limits of the continental shelf appurtenant to all four coastal States that lie beyond 200 nautical miles from their baselines from which the breadth of their respective territorial seas are measured. This portion of shelf is not the subject of any dispute and, in the view of the four coastal States, its consideration by the Commission will not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between the four coastal States and any other States."* The notes verbales accompanying the submission also stated that *"[i]n accordance with paragraph 3 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, in order not to prejudice unresolved questions relating to the delimitation of boundaries between France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and some of their neighbours in other portions of the continental shelf appurtenant to France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, submissions for those portions shall be made at a later date"*.
3. The Subcommittee carried out its examination of the Submission during the resumed eighteenth, nineteenth, resumed twentieth, twenty-first, and twenty-second sessions. During its examination of the Submission, the Subcommittee posed 16 questions to the Four Delegations, which provided to the Subcommittee 18 documents and 16 presentations. The Subcommittee also requested and received support from the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (“DOALOS”), Office of Legal Affairs, in particular in the form of technical support by its GIS staff.
4. This Summary is included as Annex IV of the Recommendations and is in conformity with Annex III, Section V, paragraph 11.3 of the Rules of the Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (“the Rules of Procedure”).

II. CONTENTS OF SUBMISSION

A. Original Submission

5. The original Submission received on 19 May 2006 contained: Part I - Executive Summary (ISBN 2-84433-157-2 France, ISBN 0-9542479-6-5 Ireland, ISBN 84-7840-633-6 Spain, ISBN 0-904175-52-9 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Part II – Main Body; and Part III - Scientific and Technical Data.

B. Communications and additional material

6. In the course of the examination of the Joint Submission by the Subcommittee, the Four Delegations submitted additional material in response to written preliminary considerations and questions of the Subcommittee.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BASED

7. The examination of the Joint Submission and the Recommendations of the Commission are based on the scientific and technical data provided by the Four Delegations in the application of article 76. The Recommendations of the Commission only deal 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.
8. These Recommendations take into account the conclusions reached by the Commission on general matters relating to joint submissions, as reflected in the "Statement by the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on the progress of work in the Commission - Twentieth session" (CLCS/56).

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

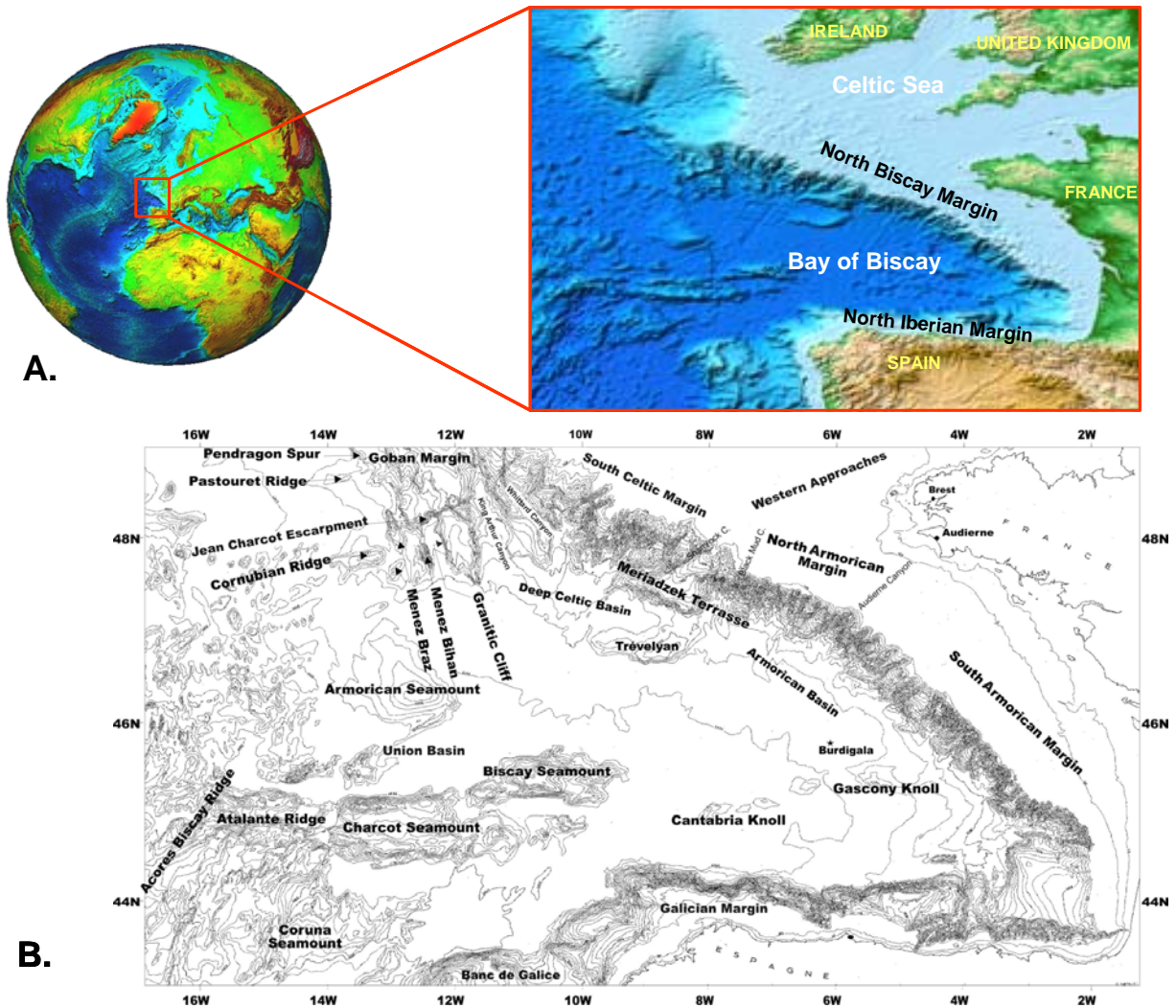


Figure 1. Maps of the area of the Joint Submission in the North East Atlantic: A. shows the locality of the Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay area (images from NGDC www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/global.html), and B. shows the main geomorphological features (after Sibuet et al., 1994 as per Figure 2.1 in the Main Body of the Joint Submission).

A. Geographical description of the area of the Celtic Sea and the Bay of Biscay

9. The area relevant to the Submission is illustrated by the bathymetric images in Figure 1 that depict the continental margin in the Celtic Sea and the Bay of Biscay area. The area extends southeast from the south-eastern limit of the Partial Submission of Ireland at the Pendragon Spur of the Goban Margin, along the South Celtic, North Armorian and South Armorian margins to the easternmost Bay of Biscay, and then westwards to the Galician Margin of Spain. The various morphological features of the area of the Celtic Sea and of the Bay of Biscay are shown in Figure 1B. The Bay of Biscay is a triangular-shaped oceanic domain bounded by the North Biscay Margin and the North Iberian Margin.

B. Submerged prolongation of the landmass and entitlement to the continental shelf beyond 200 M

10. Following the provision of additional data by the Four Delegations, the Subcommittee concluded that all four coastal States had entitlement to continental shelf beyond 200 M from their respective territorial sea baselines.
11. Accordingly, the outer edge of the continental margin, as established from the foot of the continental slope in the Celtic Sea and the Bay of Biscay Region (“the Region”) by applying the provisions of article 76, paragraph 4, extends beyond the 200 M limits of Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, and Spain, clockwise around the margin. On this basis, the Commission recognises the legal entitlement of each of the four coastal States to delineate the outer limits of their continental shelf beyond their respective 200 M limits in this region as illustrated in Figure 2.

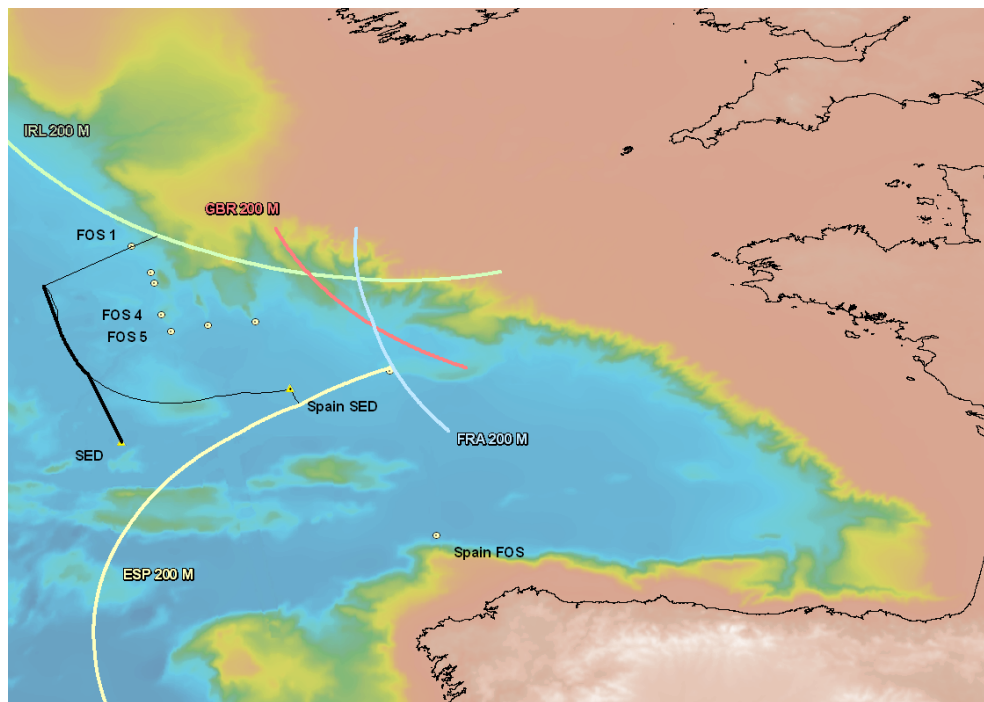


Figure 2. Map indicating the basis of the entitlement to the continental shelf beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of Ireland (IRL200M, pale green), the United Kingdom (GBR200M, pink), and France (FRA200M, pale blue) as illustrated by the 60 M formula line (thin black arcs) and the sediment thickness point labelled ‘SED’ (triangle), and beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of Spain (ESP200M, white) by the sediment thickness point labelled ‘Spain SED’ (triangle). Also shown are the outer edge of the continental margin (thick black line) and FOS points (small circles with critical FOS points).

C. The determination of the FOS

12. The FOS should be established in accordance with article 76, paragraph 4(b).

C.1 Considerations

13. In the Joint Submission, a total of 8 FOS points (FOS 1 to FOS 8) were determined west of the Goban Spur margin and south of the Celtic Shelf margin (Table 1 and Figure 3). Only three of these (FOS1, FOS 4 and FOS 5) are critical to establishing the outer edge of the continental margin and delineating the outer limits of the continental shelf.

Table 1. FOS points and coordinates (after Table 4.1. of the Main Body).

Point	Name	Latitude	Longitude
FOS 1	Pendragon Terrace	48° 33' 58.29775" N	13° 18' 12.28159" W
FOS 2	North Menez Braz 1	48° 12' 05.42026" N	13° 02' 22.11106" W
FOS 3	North Menez Braz 2	48° 03' 26.71567" N	12° 59' 13.24117" W
FOS 4	South Menez Braz 1	47° 36' 06.61258" N	12° 53' 10.44217" W
FOS 5	South Menez Braz 2	47° 21' 58.51061" N	12° 45' 23.38919" W
FOS 6	Menez Bihan	47° 27' 30.98612" N	12° 13' 34.93094" W
FOS 7	Granite Cliff	47° 30' 28.49164" N	11° 33' 46.31420" W
FOS 8	Trevelyan Escarpment	46° 48' 50.63555" N	9° 40' 06.26054" W

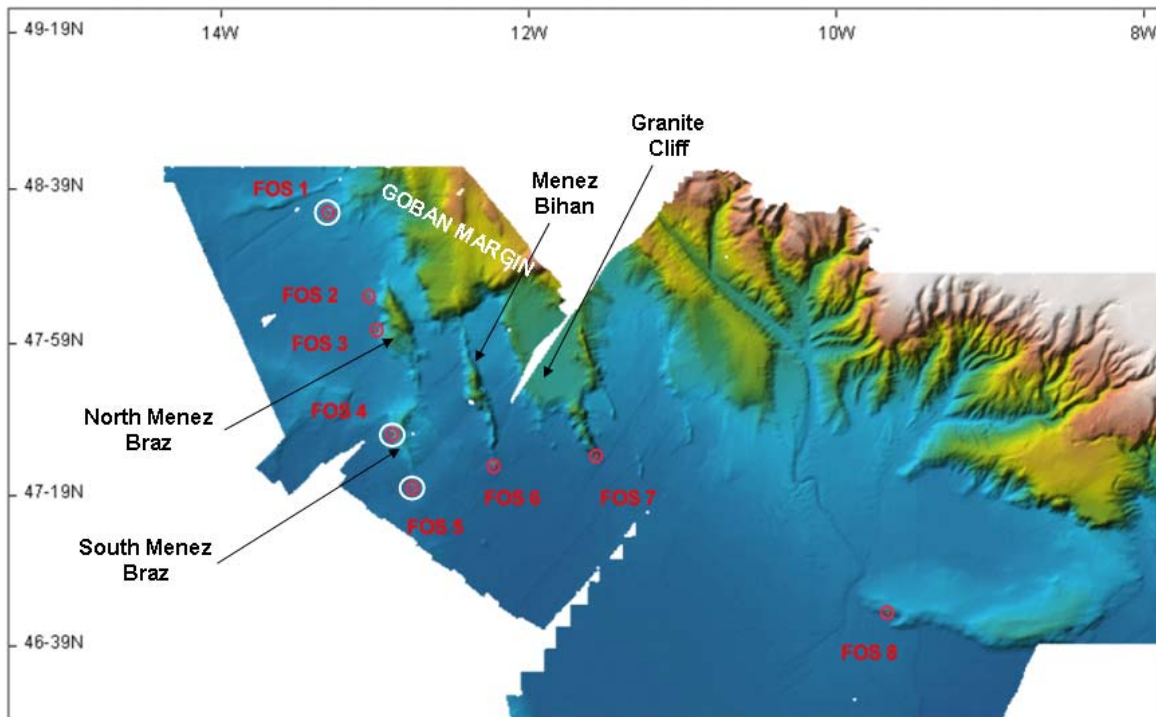


Figure 3. Locations of the FOS points: FOS 1 to FOS 8 (as per the Submission). Critical FOS points are highlighted by white circles.

14. In terms of the location of the critical FOS points (FOS 1, FOS 4, and FOS 5), the relevant part of the continental margin in the Region is the Goban Margin (Figure 1B). In this area, the continental slope has a complex morphology and its outer part consists of a series of southeast-trending, narrow, elongate spurs and tilt blocks (Figure 3). The location of the base of the continental slope throughout this area is generally well defined and lies adjacent to the elongated rift-related highs. FOS 1 of the Joint Submission corresponds to FOS 60 of the Partial Submission of Ireland. The Commission agreed with the location of this FOS point in the “Recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in regard to the partial submission made by Ireland on 25 May 2005 on the proposed outer limit of its continental shelf beyond 200 Nautical Miles in the area abutting the Porcupine Abyssal Plain [summary of the Recommendations available online at www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_irl.htm].

15. FOS 4 and FOS 5 lie on the western flank of the southern most part of a complex spur (Menez Braz) associated with a feature called South Menez Braz (Figure 3). The Commission takes note that paragraph 1.7.4 of the Main Body of the Joint Submission states that FOS 4 (along with FOS 1 to 3 inclusive and FOS 6 to 8 inclusive) has *“been determined on the basis of the maximum change in gradient at the base of the slope”* However, in the case of FOS 5, paragraph 1.7.5 of the Main Body states that it *“has been determined on the basis of the evidence to the contrary criterion because for this FOS point, the foot of continental slope is located at a change in gradient that is not the maximum for that region. In accordance with paragraph 6.1.10 of the Guidelines, the four coastal States concerned have furnished geological and geophysical data in this joint submission to substantiate this foot of slope selection.”*
16. An important consideration for the Subcommittee was to develop a consistent view on the general location of the base of the continental slope, and the approach used for the determination of FOS points, along the same feature. Given the approach referred to in paragraph 14 above, and the orientation of the relevant bathymetric profiles contained within the Joint Submission (i.e. across the strike of the elongate features seemingly disconnecting them from the inner part of the margin), the Subcommittee was of the view that both FOS 4 and FOS 5 should be determined according to paragraph 5.4.12 of the Guidelines requiring the use of geological and geophysical evidence as outlined in paragraph 6.1.10 of the Guidelines.
17. Notwithstanding paragraph 16 above, the Subcommittee recognised that FOS 4 and FOS 5 could be justified using an alternative orientation for the bathymetric profiles (i.e. running along the strike of the elongate features and then down the slope of the outermost part of the margin) using the same supporting geological and geophysical evidence mentioned above, but according to paragraph 5.4.6 of the Guidelines.
18. The Subcommittee agrees with the locations of FOS 4 and FOS 5 through the use of the same supporting geological and geophysical evidence and consistent approaches according to either paragraphs 5.4.12 (i.e. at local, non-maximum changes in gradient) or 5.4.6 (changes in gradient supported by geological and geophysical data).

C.2 Recommendations

19. Based on its consideration of the scientific and technical documentation contained in the Submission of 19 May 2006 and additional information subsequently provided, the Commission concludes that the FOS points listed in Table 1 fulfil the requirements of article 76 and Chapter 5 of the Guidelines. The Commission recommends that FOS 1, FOS 4 and FOS 5 should form the basis for the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin of the four coastal States in the Region.

D. The establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin

20. The outer edge of the continental margin of the four coastal States in the Region should, for the purposes of the Convention, be established in accordance with article 76, paragraphs 4 and 7.

D.1. The application of the 60 M formula

21. In the Region, the formula line that establishes the outer edge of the continental margin is based on fixed points on arcs constructed at a distance of 60 M from FOS 1, 4 and 5 (Table 2) and in accordance with the provision contained in article 76, paragraph 4(a)(ii). The arcs are connected by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length, in accordance with the provision contained in article 76, paragraph 7. The

Commission agrees with the way these fixed points and lines have been established in the Joint Submission.

D.2. The application of the sediment thickness formula

22. In the Region, the four coastal States submitted one fixed point based on the sediment thickness provision of article 76, paragraph 4(a)(i) (Table 2) derived from FOS 5. The four coastal States established this sediment thickness point (FP30) based on the seismic line BRUB-13 of the 2005 Breogham survey.
23. Following clarifications provided by the Four Delegations on the seismic imaging, interpretation of the top of basement and other aspects of the approach the Commission agreed with the procedure applied by the four coastal States to establish the sediment thickness point based on FOS 5 contained in Table 1, including the data provided, the seismic interpretation, the methods of depth conversion, and the distance calculations.

Table 2. Formula points establishing the outer edge of the continental margin (based on the Appendix 1 of the Executive Summary)

Formula point	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)	Method	Distance (m)	Distance (M)
1	48.0170407	14.5545155	Formula point from FOS1+60M arc terminated at southern limit of Ireland's partial submission to the CLCS		
2	47.3821081	14.3248005	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	72669.59	39.24
3	47.3659249	14.3189907	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	1851.96	1.00
4	47.3498099	14.3127878	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	1851.90	1.00
5	47.3337678	14.3061964	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	1851.77	1.00
6	47.3178003	14.2992165	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	1851.97	1.00
7	47.3019149	14.2918503	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	1851.84	1.00
8	47.2861149	14.2841001	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	1851.82	1.00
9	47.2704034	14.2759681	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	1851.93	1.00
10	47.2547851	14.2674588	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	1851.97	1.00
11	47.2392662	14.2585722	Formula point at 60M from FOS 4	1851.85	1.00
12	47.0037342	14.1227919	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	28139.07	15.19
13	46.9883165	14.1135774	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.76	1.00
14	46.9730036	14.1039924	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.97	1.00
15	46.9578015	14.0940435	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.88	1.00
16	46.9427151	14.0837309	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.80	1.00
17	46.9277459	14.0730589	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.94	1.00
18	46.9129002	14.0620298	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.89	1.00
19	46.8981813	14.0506482	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.86	1.00
20	46.8835937	14.0389139	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.91	1.00
21	46.8691393	14.0268361	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.97	1.00
22	46.8548258	14.0144146	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.77	1.00
23	46.8406533	14.0016541	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.90	1.00
24	46.8266281	13.9885566	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.87	1.00
25	46.8127518	13.9751291	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.90	1.00
26	46.7990308	13.9613714	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.86	1.00
27	46.7854652	13.9472903	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1852.03	1.00
28	46.7720627	13.9328903	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	1851.81	1.00
29	46.7656604	13.9257734	Formula point at 60M from FOS 5	895.58	0.48
30	45.8277417	13.4627682	Formula point from sediment thickness 1% distance to FOS 5	110190.16	59.50

D.3. Recommendations

24. In the Region, the outer edge of the continental margin beyond 200 M is based on points on the 60 M arcs and the sediment thickness point FP30 as described in sections 4.1 and 4.2 above in accordance with article 76, paragraphs 4(a) and 7 (Table 2 and Figure 4). The Commission recommends that these arcs and points are used as a basis for delineating the outer limits of the continental shelf in this region.

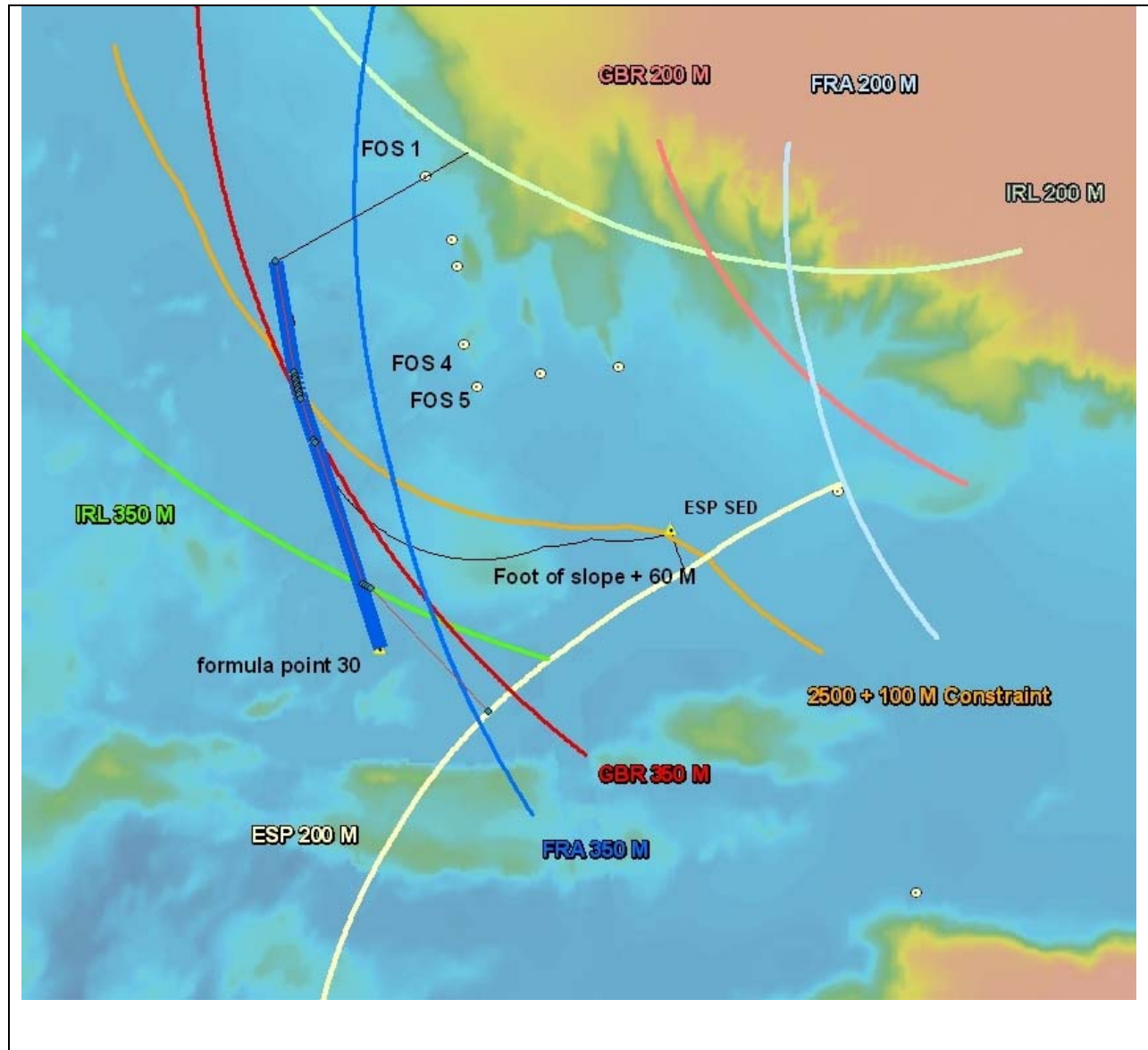


Figure 4. Map showing the outer edge of the continental margin (thick blue line) of Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and France. It also shows the locations of critical FOS points (critical FOS points FOS 1, FOS 4, and FOS 5 labeled); sediment thickness point (FP 30); relevant 200 M limits from the territorial sea baselines of these coastal States; the applicable 350 M constraint lines. For ease of reference, the final outer limits of the continental shelf as reflected in Table 3 depicted in Figure 5 below is indicated by a thin brown line.

E. The delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf

25. The outer limits of the continental shelf should be based on the established outer edge of the continental margin and in accordance with article 76, paragraphs 5 and 6.

E.1. The application of constraint criteria

26. In the Region, the relevant constraints are represented by the outer envelope of the four lines which lie at a distance of 350 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of the four coastal States is measured. Although the proposed fixed point FP 30 lies within the Spanish 350 M constraint, the Commission notes that it lies beyond all other 350 M constraint lines.
27. The Commission is of the view that the relevant constraint with respect to FP 30 is the 350 M line constructed from the baselines from which the territorial sea of Ireland is measured. The Four Delegations followed this approach in their revised outer limits provided on 17 June 2008.

E.2. The Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf

28. The outer limits of the continental shelf in the Region, as submitted by the four coastal States in their Joint Submission of 19 May 2006 as per Appendix 1 of the Executive Summary, and revised on 17 June 2008 consist of fixed points connected by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length as listed in Table 3. FP 1 coincides with fixed point 39 contained in the “Recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in regard to the partial Submission made by Ireland on 25 May 2005 on the proposed outer limit of its continental shelf beyond 200 M in the area abutting the Porcupine Abyssal Plain”. FP 18 lies on the 200 M line of Spain and has been constructed bearing in mind the views of the Commission on bridging to 200 M lines.

Table 3. Fixed Points delineating the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Region as per the original Submission (FPs 1 to 13) and as revised in the letter of 17 June 2008 (FPs 14 to 18).

FP	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)	Method	From FP	To FP	Distance (M)
1	48.0170407	14.5545155	FP from FOS1+60 M arc, terminated at southern limit of Ireland's partial Submission to the CLCS			
2	47.3821081	14.3248005	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	1	2	39.24
3	47.3659249	14.3189907	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	2	3	1.00
4	47.3498099	14.3127878	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	3	4	1.00
5	47.3337678	14.3061964	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	4	5	1.00
6	47.3178003	14.2992165	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	5	6	1.00
7	47.3019149	14.2918503	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	6	7	1.00
8	47.2861149	14.2841001	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	7	8	1.00
9	47.2704034	14.2759681	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	8	9	1.00
10	47.2547851	14.2674588	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	9	10	1.00
11	47.2392662	14.2585722	FP at 60 M from FOS point 4	10	11	1.00
12	47.0037342	14.1227919	FP at 60 M from FOS point 5	11	12	15.19
13	46.9883165	14.1135774	FP at 60 M from FOS point 5	12	13	1.00
14	46.1856195	13.6384944	FP on 350 M constraint	13	14	52.04
15	46.1794251	13.6162588	FP on 350 M constraint	14	15	1.00
16	46.1732143	13.5939739	FP on 350 M constraint	15	16	1.00
17	46.1682886	13.5763287	FP on 350 M constraint	16	17	0.79
18	45.4888746	12.5434346	FP on the Spanish 200 M limit	17	18	59.50

E.3. Recommendations

29. The Commission agrees with the determination of the FPs 1 to 30 (Table 2), as per the original Submission, establishing the outer edge of the continental margin in the Region, and that the straight lines connecting these fixed points do not exceed 60 M in length (thick blue line in Figure 4).
30. The Commission recommends that the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf in the Region 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, as listed in Table 3 (Figure 5).

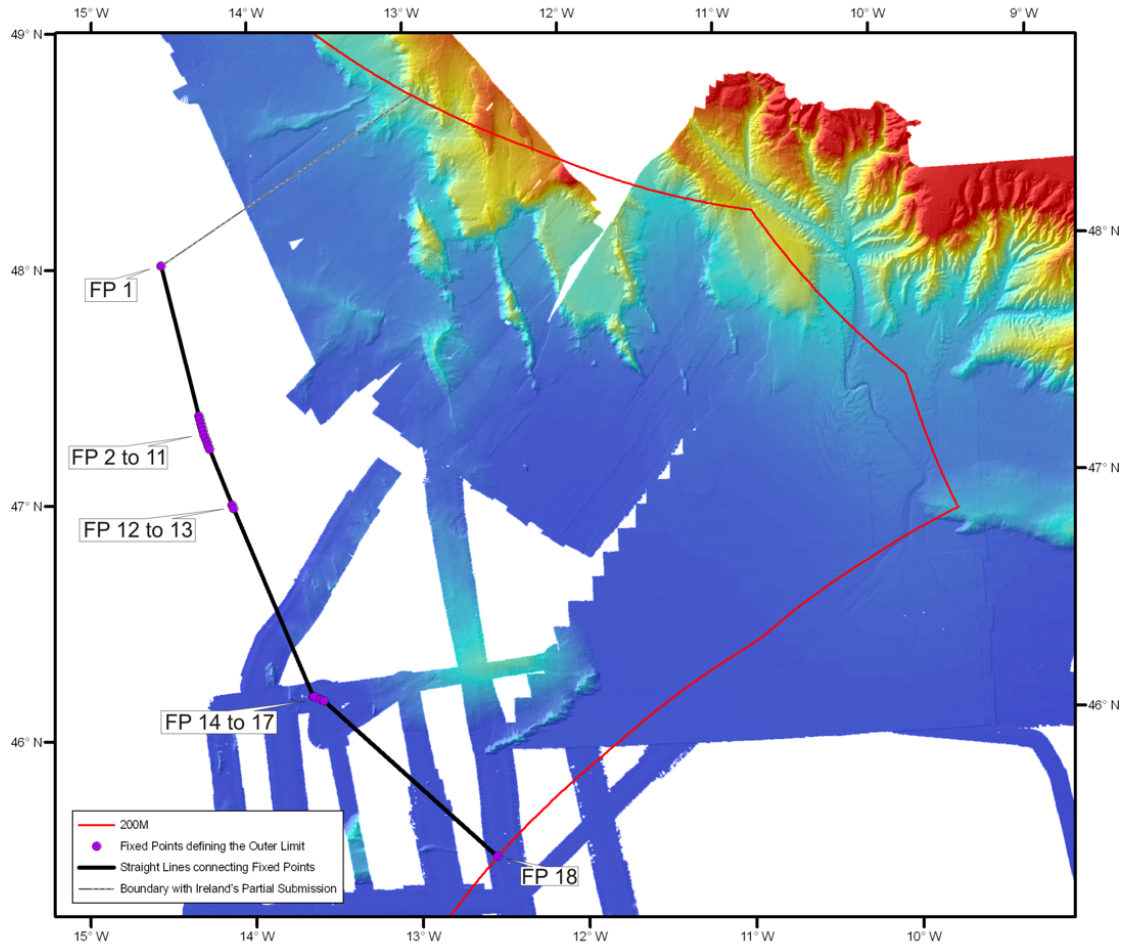


Figure 5. Map showing the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of France, Ireland, Spain, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of the area of the Celtic Sea and the Bay of Biscay, as provided by the Four Delegations on 17 June 2008 (Table 3 above). For ease of reference, *see* Figure 4 above for the various points and lines that contribute to the delineation of the outer limits.