



Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Content of presentation

- › **Continental shelf definition (art. 76)**
- › **“Normal” vs. “Extended” Continental shelf**
- › **Mandate/Features of the Commission**
- › **Submissions received**
- › **Work of the Commission**
- › **Support by the Secretariat**

Article 76 (para. 1)

**The continental shelf of a coastal State
comprises the seabed and subsoil of the
submarine areas that extend beyond its**

Continental Shelf (art. 76)

Possible scenarios:

A. Continental shelves up to 200 nautical miles:

Rights on the continental shelf are
'automatic':

“The rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf do not depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclamation” (article 77, paragraph 3).

Continental Shelf (art. 76)

B. Continental shelves extending beyond 200 nautical miles (extended continental shelf)

A procedure for the preparation and presentation of a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf has to be initiated

Only this scenario is the focus of this presentation!

Complexity of art. 76

One of the most complex articles in the Convention - geology, hydrography, geomorphology, geodesy to establish:

- › Foot of the continental slope;
- › Delineation of formulae lines;
- › Delineation of constraint lines;
- › Delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf by means of the formulae and constraint lines.

These scientific/technical information/data
-> submission to the Commission

Basic features of the CLCS

- › 21 members experts in the fields of
 - geology;
 - geophysics; or
 - hydrography;
- › Elected by States Parties to this Convention from among their nationals, having due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical representation: there must be at least three members from each geographical region;
- › Serve in their personal capacities (Annex II, paragraph 2(1))
- › Have their own rules of procedure

10 year period

If State intends to establish outer limits beyond 200M -> Submission to CLCS

WHEN? -> Article 4 – Annex II:

- › As soon as possible, but in any event:
- › Within 10 years from entry into force of Convention

(2009 for early ratifiers – SPLOS/72)

Submissions received so far

1. Russian Federation (2001)
2. Brazil (2004)
3. Australia (2004)
4. Ireland (partial - 2005)
5. New Zealand (2006)
6. France, Ireland, Spain, United Kingdom (joint and partial - 2006)
7. Norway (2006)
8. France (partial - 2007)

Work of the Commission

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