

Republic of Fiji



Partial Submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 in the Region of the Lau-Colville and Tonga-Kermadec Complex

PART I Executive Summary
FJI-ES-DOC

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The Government of the Fiji acknowledges the assistance and support of the following organisations:

- The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division, Pacific Community (SPC)
- GeoLimits Consulting, Canada
- United Nations Environment Program/GRID-Arendal
- GeoScience Australia
- Australian Attorney General's Department

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1-1 This Executive Summary forms part of the partial submission by the Republic of Fiji ('Fiji') to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ('the Commission') made pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ('the Convention').
- 1-2 This partial submission contains information on the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf in the region of the Lau-Colville and Tonga-Kermadec Complex ('South East Region') beyond 200 nautical miles ('M') from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Fiji is measured.
- 1-3 Fiji is a coastal State located in the south-west Pacific Ocean and is a Contracting Party to the Convention. In this regard, Fiji signed and ratified the Convention on the day it was opened for signature on 10 December 1982.
- 1-4 Under Article 4 of Annex II to the Convention, as supplemented by the decisions of the Eleventh and Eighteen Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention respectively, regarding the ten-year period established by Article 4 of Annex II to the Convention (SPLOS/72) and (SPLOS/183), a coastal State for which the Convention entered into force before 13 May 1999 is required to submit particulars of the outer limits of the continental shelf to the Commission, together with supporting scientific and technical data by 13 May 2009.
- 1-5 On 20 April 2009, Fiji submitted information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured in an area referred to in that information as the Lau Ridge–Northern South Fiji Basin Region, constituting a portion of its continental shelf entitlement.
- 1-6 Fiji has for the purposes of preparing this submission, applied the relevant provisions of Article 76 of the Convention, together with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS/40/Rev.1), adopted by the Commission on 17 April 2008 ('Rules of Procedure'), and the recommendations contained in the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS/11) adopted by the Commission on 13 May 1999 ('the Guidelines').
- 1-7 Consistent with paragraph 3 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, this submission represents a partial submission in respect of only a portion of the continental shelf beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines claimed by Fiji. Submissions for such other portions of continental shelf beyond 200 M shall be made by Fiji at an appropriate time.
- 1-8 In accordance with section I of Annex III to the Rules of Procedure and paragraphs 9.1.3 to 9.1.6 of the Guidelines, the submission consists of the following three parts:
- this Executive Summary (FJI-ES-DOC);
 - a Main Body (FJI-MB-DOC); and
 - a part containing all required supporting scientific and technical data (FJI-SD).

- 1-9 A separate section of this Executive Summary outlines the region of continental shelf beyond 200 M covered by the submission, including a depiction of the outer limit of the continental shelf.

2 MAPS AND COORDINATES

- 2-1 Consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9.1.4 of the Guidelines, Figure 1 depicts the outer limit line, as well as the fixed points that define the outer limit line according to the relevant provisions of Article 76 invoked. An A0 map showing the same has also been provided with this Executive Summary.
- 2-2 Further, a list of coordinates of the fixed points that define the outer limit of Fiji's continental shelf beyond 200 M as set out in the Main Body of the submission is reproduced in the annex to this Executive Summary. The points are supplied in decimal degrees and in the WGS84 datum. The provision of Article 76 used to define each fixed point, as well as the distance between adjacent points, are also stated in the annex.

3 ADVISORY ASSISTANCE FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- 3-1 Fiji was assisted in the preparation of early versions of the submission by:
- Dr. Philip A. Symonds, a former member of the Commission (2002 - 2012).
 - Dr. Karl H.F. Hinz, a former member of the Commission (1997 - 2002).
- 3-2 No advice was provided by any other current or former member of the Commission.

4 PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 76 INVOKED

- 4-1 Paragraphs 4 to 6 of Article 76 set out the specific formula and constraint provisions by which a coastal State such as Fiji may establish the outer edge of its continental margin and its legal continental shelf in circumstances where the margin extends beyond 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
- 4-2 As set out in paragraph 7 of Article 76, the coastal State is to delineate the outer limits of those portions of its continental shelf that extend beyond 200 M from the baselines by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length, connecting fixed points ('Article 76 fixed points') defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude.
- 4-3 Fiji invokes paragraphs 3, 4(a) (ii), 5 and 7 of Article 76 of the Convention to delineate the outer limit of the continental shelf described in the submission. The outer limit is summarised in further detail in Section 6 of this Executive Summary.

5 OUTSTANDING MARITIME DELIMITATIONS

- 5-1 Fiji has delimited maritime boundaries by agreement with three neighbouring coastal States in the region:
- the Republic of France, in relation to Wallis and Futuna Islands in the north-east and in relation to New Caledonia (Matthew and Hunter islands) in the south-west
 - Tuvalu
 - Solomon Islands in the North and Northwest respectively.
- 5-2 Fiji continues to work towards finalising remaining overlapping maritime claims with neighbouring coastal States.

6 OVERVIEW OF THE SUBMISSION AREA

- 6-1 This partial submission encompasses the Lau-Colville and Tonga-Kermadec Complex ('Complex'). The Complex is part of the Southwest Pacific island arc system that includes the North Fiji Basin, formed by the subduction of the Pacific Plate under the Indo-Australian Plate. It is the result of successive re-orientations of the subduction system and consequent formation of associated arcs and back arc basins and is morphologically and geologically distinct from the deep ocean floor of the Pacific basin to the North and West.
- 6-2 The eastern-most and youngest part of the Complex consists of the fossil Southern Lau-Colville island arc and active Tonga-Kermadec Ridges. To the west the Colville Ridge is bounded by the South Fiji Basin and to the east the Tonga-Kermadec Ridge is bound by the Tonga-Kermadec Trough and the Pacific Basin.
- 6-3 The 'Summary of the Recommendations of the Commission of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) in regard to the Submission made by New Zealand 16 April 2006' ('New Zealand Recommendations') covers this South East Region and has direct relevance to this partial submission of Fiji. In particular, those parts of the New Zealand Recommendations that apply to the shared area of continental shelf characterised by New Zealand as the Northern Region (paragraphs 37-61 of the New Zealand Recommendations) have been used as the basis of the definition of the continental shelf in this South East Region by Fiji.
- 6-4 In this regard, the Commission states in the New Zealand Recommendations that it has accepted that *"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 slope, being the base of the subduction trough, is readily identified on a morphological basis."*

- 6-5 Furthermore, the Commission states in paragraph 58 of the New Zealand Recommendations that *“based on the literature and the evidence in the Submission, the Commission agrees that the Kermadec and Colville Ridge system....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....”*
- 6-6 It is Fiji’s position that the Fijian islands in general, and particularly the Lau Group of islands which lie upon of the Lau-Colville Ridge, were formed by the processes that gave rise to the Lau-Colville and Tonga-Kermadec Ridges. Accordingly, the Lau-Colville and Tonga-Kermadec ridges must also be classified as submarine elevations in the sense of Article 76, paragraph 6. It is on this basis that Fiji has constructed the depth constraint line originating from these elevations to delineate the outer limit of the continental shelf in the South East Region. Detailed analysis of this view is set out in the Main Body.
- 6-7 The outer limit of the continental shelf of Fiji in the South East Region encompasses an area of approximately 260,000 km² beyond the territorial sea baselines of Fiji, defined by 145 fixed points as follows:
- 110 are defined by arcs 60 M from the foot of the slope (Article 76, paragraph 4(a)(ii));
 - 31 are defined by the constraint line 100 M from the 2500 metre isobath (Article 76, paragraph 5);
 - 3 are points located on the 200 M line of an opposite or adjacent coastal State; and
 - 1 is a point on the 200 M of Fiji.
- 6-8 Each successive pair of fixed points is connected by a straight line not exceeding 60 M in length.

7 MAP AND TABLE NOTES

- 7-1 The depiction of 200 M lines pertaining to a State other than Fiji is made for the limited purposes of the present partial submission and demonstrating the location of those fixed points at which the outer limit line delineating the extended continental shelf commences and terminates respectively. The construction of such 200 M lines is based on information available at the time of production, and should not be taken to signify acceptance of the validity at international law of base-points, maritime zones or waters determined by another coastal State, with the exception of those cases where maritime boundary lines, coordinates or boundaries have been agreed in a maritime boundary treaty or agreement concluded between Fiji and a neighbouring coastal State.
- 7-2 The list of points delineating the outer limit of Fiji's extended continental shelf in the South East Region is contained in the attached Annex.
- 7-3 The tables included at Annex 1 to this Executive Summary list by number (identifiers) and coordinates (in latitude and longitude) the fixed points that define the outer limits of the continental shelf of Fiji. The distance in nautical miles ('M') from one point on the outer limit line to the next is given in the fourth column of the table.
- 7-4 All coordinates of fixed points defined according to the provisions of Article 76 of the Convention are expressed in this document in the WGS84 geodetic reference system.

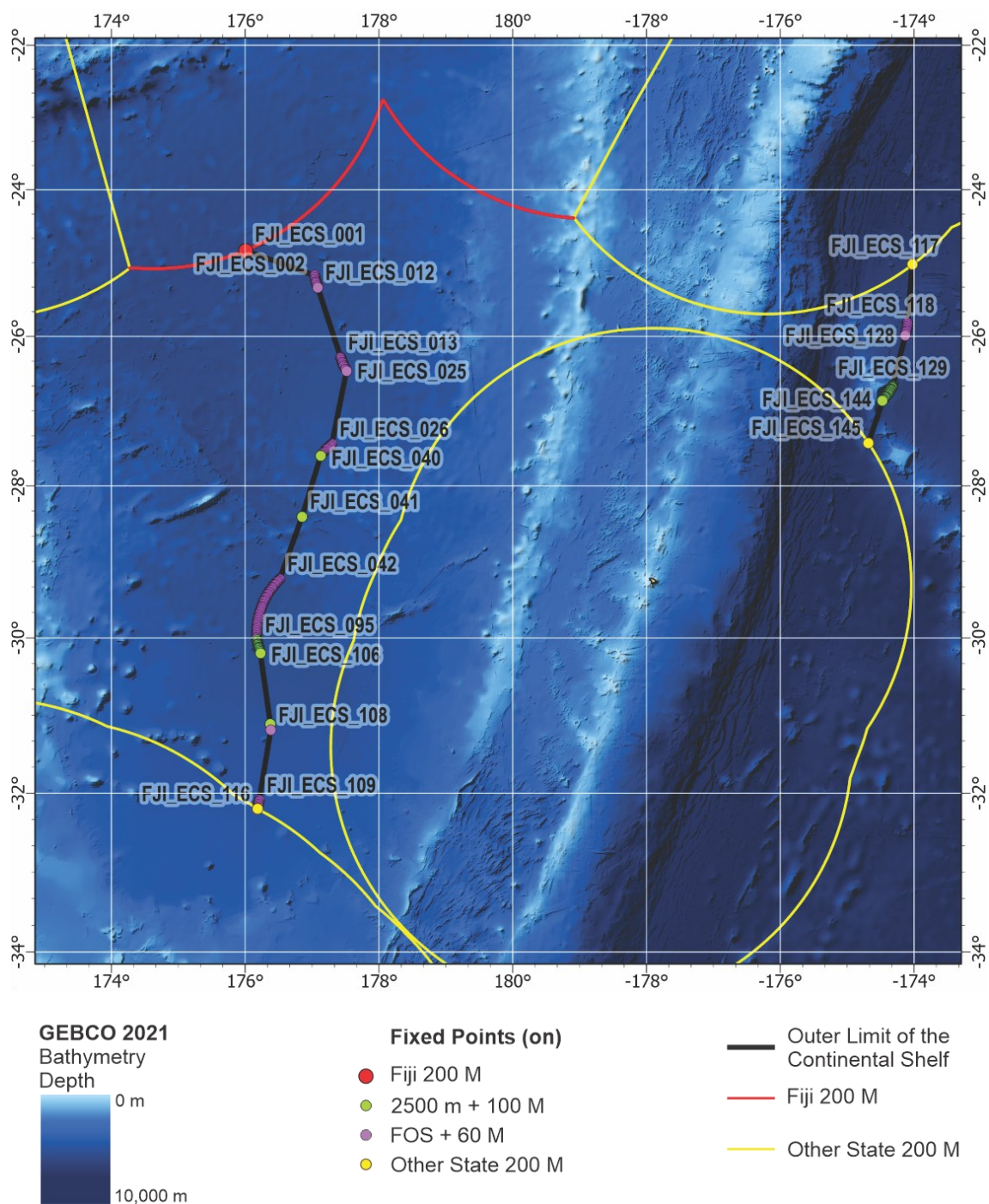


Figure 1: The outer limit of the continental shelf of the Republic of Fiji and provisions of Article 76 invoked.

ANNEX 1 – Table of Fixed Points

Fixed Point	Longitude	Latitude	Article 76 Provision	Point Distance (M)
Western Segment				
FJI_ECS_001	176.0088721	-24.8364511	Fiji 200M	0.00
FJI_ECS_002	177.0393408	-25.1735654	FOS + 60M	59.68
FJI_ECS_003	177.0425490	-25.1900270	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_004	177.0460591	-25.2064376	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_005	177.0498704	-25.2227926	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_006	177.0539818	-25.2390873	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_007	177.0583923	-25.2553173	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_008	177.0631008	-25.2714780	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_009	177.0681061	-25.2875650	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_010	177.0734069	-25.3035736	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_011	177.0790019	-25.3194995	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_012	177.0848896	-25.3353381	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_013	177.4273018	-26.2820538	FOS + 60M	59.59
FJI_ECS_014	177.4329749	-26.2979683	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_015	177.4389430	-26.3137951	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_016	177.4452046	-26.3295297	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_017	177.4517581	-26.3451678	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_018	177.4586016	-26.3607050	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_019	177.4657335	-26.3761369	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_020	177.4731518	-26.3914592	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_021	177.4808545	-26.4066676	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_022	177.4888397	-26.4217578	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_023	177.4971052	-26.4367256	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_024	177.5056487	-26.4515667	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_025	177.5144680	-26.4662771	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_026	177.2968858	-27.4443616	FOS + 60M	59.67
FJI_ECS_027	177.2826779	-27.4552551	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_028	177.2686726	-27.4663569	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_029	177.2548738	-27.4776640	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_030	177.2412854	-27.4891732	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_031	177.2279111	-27.5008815	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_032	177.2147547	-27.5127856	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_033	177.2018196	-27.5248823	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_034	177.1891097	-27.5371684	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_035	177.1766284	-27.5496403	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_036	177.1643792	-27.5622949	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_037	177.1523655	-27.5751285	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_038	177.1405906	-27.5881378	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_039	177.1290580	-27.6013190	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_040	177.1279108	-27.6026760	2500m + 100M	0.10

Fixed Point	Longitude	Latitude	Article 76 Provision	Point Distance (M)
FJI_ECS_041	176.8512477	-28.4088346	2500m + 100M	50.43
FJI_ECS_042	176.5167393	-29.2289516	FOS + 60M	52.15
FJI_ECS_043	176.5032818	-29.2407778	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_044	176.4900477	-29.2527976	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_045	176.4770407	-29.2650080	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_046	176.4642645	-29.2774054	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_047	176.4517227	-29.2899866	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_048	176.4394186	-29.3027481	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_049	176.4273559	-29.3156864	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_050	176.4155377	-29.3287980	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_051	176.4039676	-29.3420794	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_052	176.3926487	-29.3555269	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_053	176.3815841	-29.3691368	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_054	176.3707771	-29.3829054	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_055	176.3602307	-29.3968290	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_056	176.3499478	-29.4109037	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_057	176.3399315	-29.4251257	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_058	176.3301844	-29.4394911	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_059	176.3207095	-29.4539960	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_060	176.3115094	-29.4686364	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_061	176.3025868	-29.4834084	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_062	176.2939442	-29.4983077	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_063	176.2855841	-29.5133304	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_064	176.2775089	-29.5284724	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_065	176.2697210	-29.5437295	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_066	176.2622226	-29.5590975	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_067	176.2550160	-29.5745721	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_068	176.2481032	-29.5901492	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_069	176.2414863	-29.6058245	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_070	176.2351672	-29.6215936	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_071	176.2291478	-29.6374522	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_072	176.2234300	-29.6533959	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_073	176.2180153	-29.6694204	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_074	176.2129055	-29.6855212	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_075	176.2081021	-29.7016940	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_076	176.2036066	-29.7179342	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_077	176.1994203	-29.7342373	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_078	176.1955446	-29.7505990	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_079	176.1919807	-29.7670145	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_080	176.1887297	-29.7834795	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_081	176.1857927	-29.7999894	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_082	176.1831707	-29.8165395	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_083	176.1808644	-29.8331254	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_084	176.1788748	-29.8497424	FOS + 60M	1.00

Fixed Point	Longitude	Latitude	Article 76 Provision	Point Distance (M)
FJI_ECS_085	176.1772025	-29.8663860	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_086	176.1758482	-29.8830514	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_087	176.1748124	-29.8997342	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_088	176.1740954	-29.9164296	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_089	176.1736978	-29.9331331	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_090	176.1736197	-29.9498400	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_091	176.1738614	-29.9665457	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_092	176.1744228	-29.9832455	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_093	176.1753042	-29.9999348	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_094	176.1758615	-30.0076729	FOS + 60M	0.46
FJI_ECS_095	176.1800309	-30.0280309	2500m + 100M	1.24
FJI_ECS_096	176.1836258	-30.0444423	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_097	176.1874102	-30.0608214	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_098	176.1913840	-30.0771667	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_099	176.1945412	-30.0896067	2500m + 100M	0.76
FJI_ECS_100	176.1982412	-30.1036525	2500m + 100M	0.86
FJI_ECS_101	176.2027065	-30.1199018	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_102	176.2073599	-30.1361113	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_103	176.2122011	-30.1522793	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_104	176.2172297	-30.1684042	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_105	176.2224452	-30.1844843	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_106	176.2278471	-30.2005181	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_107	176.3782228	-31.1159999	2500m + 100M	55.35
FJI_ECS_108	176.3827260	-31.1912828	FOS + 60M	4.51
FJI_ECS_109	176.2092430	-32.0892196	FOS + 60M	54.49
FJI_ECS_110	176.2050776	-32.1055403	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_111	176.2012308	-32.1219177	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_112	176.1977039	-32.1383472	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_113	176.1944981	-32.1548243	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_114	176.1916145	-32.1713445	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_115	176.1890539	-32.1879032	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_116	176.1875910	-32.1987566	Other State 200M	0.65
Eastern Segment				
FJI_ECS_117	-174.0267575	-25.0201802	Other State 200M	0.00
FJI_ECS_118	-174.0980951	-25.8221927	FOS + 60M	48.13
FJI_ECS_119	-174.1001580	-25.8388051	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_120	-174.1025271	-25.8553840	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_121	-174.1052020	-25.8719248	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_122	-174.1081820	-25.8884230	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_123	-174.1114663	-25.9048737	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_124	-174.1150543	-25.9212726	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_125	-174.1189450	-25.9376150	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_126	-174.1231375	-25.9538963	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_127	-174.1276307	-25.9701121	FOS + 60M	1.00

Fixed Point	Longitude	Latitude	Article 76 Provision	Point Distance (M)
FJI_ECS_128	-174.1324234	-25.9862577	FOS + 60M	1.00
FJI_ECS_129	-174.3213955	-26.6689340	2500m + 100M	42.09
FJI_ECS_130	-174.3262948	-26.6764742	2500m + 100M	0.52
FJI_ECS_131	-174.3358364	-26.6908242	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_132	-174.3455397	-26.7050872	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_133	-174.3546311	-26.7181631	2500m + 100M	0.92
FJI_ECS_134	-174.3636626	-26.7309001	2500m + 100M	0.90
FJI_ECS_135	-174.3738113	-26.7449127	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_136	-174.3841181	-26.7588327	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_137	-174.3945819	-26.7726588	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_138	-174.4052017	-26.7863894	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_139	-174.4159765	-26.8000232	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_140	-174.4269052	-26.8135588	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_141	-174.4379868	-26.8269948	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_142	-174.4492202	-26.8403299	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_143	-174.4606042	-26.8535626	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_144	-174.4721378	-26.8666915	2500m + 100M	1.00
FJI_ECS_145	-174.6811607	-27.4323538	Other State 200M	35.64

