

**REVISION OF THE
PARTIAL SUBMISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF RELATED TO THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE SEA OF OKHOTSK**

PART 1.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

English Translation of the Russian Original

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The extended continental shelf in the area beyond 200 nautical miles in the area of the enclave is bounded by a red line. Yellow dots show the location of the foot of the continental slope.

1. Introduction

The Russian Federation signed the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (referred to as the Convention) on 10 December 1982 and ratified it on 26 February 1997. The Convention came into force for the Russian Federation on 11 April 1997.

This submission is made pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 8 of the Convention. It is a partial submission only related to the area of the Sea of Okhotsk.

This area was a part of the first submission made by the Russian Federation on 10 December 2001 in respect to all Russian extended continental shelf, which was considered by the Commission at its eleventh session held from 24 to 28 June 2002.

The recommendations of the Commission adopted at that session stated in respect to the Sea of Okhotsk, that:

«89. The Commission considers that in the Sea of Okhotsk, the submission needs to be supported by additional data and information. A submission in this region may require the application of the two formulae and the two constraints contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of article 76».

«163. The Commission recommends to the Russian Federation to make a well-documented partial submission in the northern part of the Sea of Okhotsk. This partial submission shall not prejudice questions relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States in the south for which a submission may be made later, notwithstanding the provisions regarding the ten year time-limit established by article 4 of Annex II to the Convention».

The present partial submission was prepared with due regard to the above recommendations of the Commission.

2. Extended Continental Shelf

This submission is presented with the aim to include in the extended continental shelf under Article 76 of the Convention the seabed and subsoil of a sea enclave bounded by the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation in the area of the Sea of Okhotsk located between 50°42'N – 55°42'N and 148°30'E – 150°44'E.

It is stated in Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Federal Law «On the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation» (№191, dated 17 December 1998) that:

«The outer limit of the exclusive economic zone is established at a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, if otherwise is not provided for by international agreements of the Russian Federation».

Thus, the outer limit line of the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation in the Sea of Okhotsk is the line at a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured in the context of Article 76 of the Convention.

The outer limit line of the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation in the northern Sea of Okhotsk is shown on the official charts of a scale 1:2 000 000, published by Department of Navigation and Oceanography, Russian Ministry of Defence (sheets №60101 and №60102) in accordance with Article 75, Paragraph 1 of the Convention, which states that:

«Subject to this Part, the outer limit lines of the exclusive economic zone and the lines of delimitation drawn in accordance with article 74 shall be shown on charts of a scale or scales adequate for ascertaining their position. Where appropriate, lists of geographical coordinates of points, specifying the geodetic datum, may be submitted for such outer limit lines or lines of delimitation».

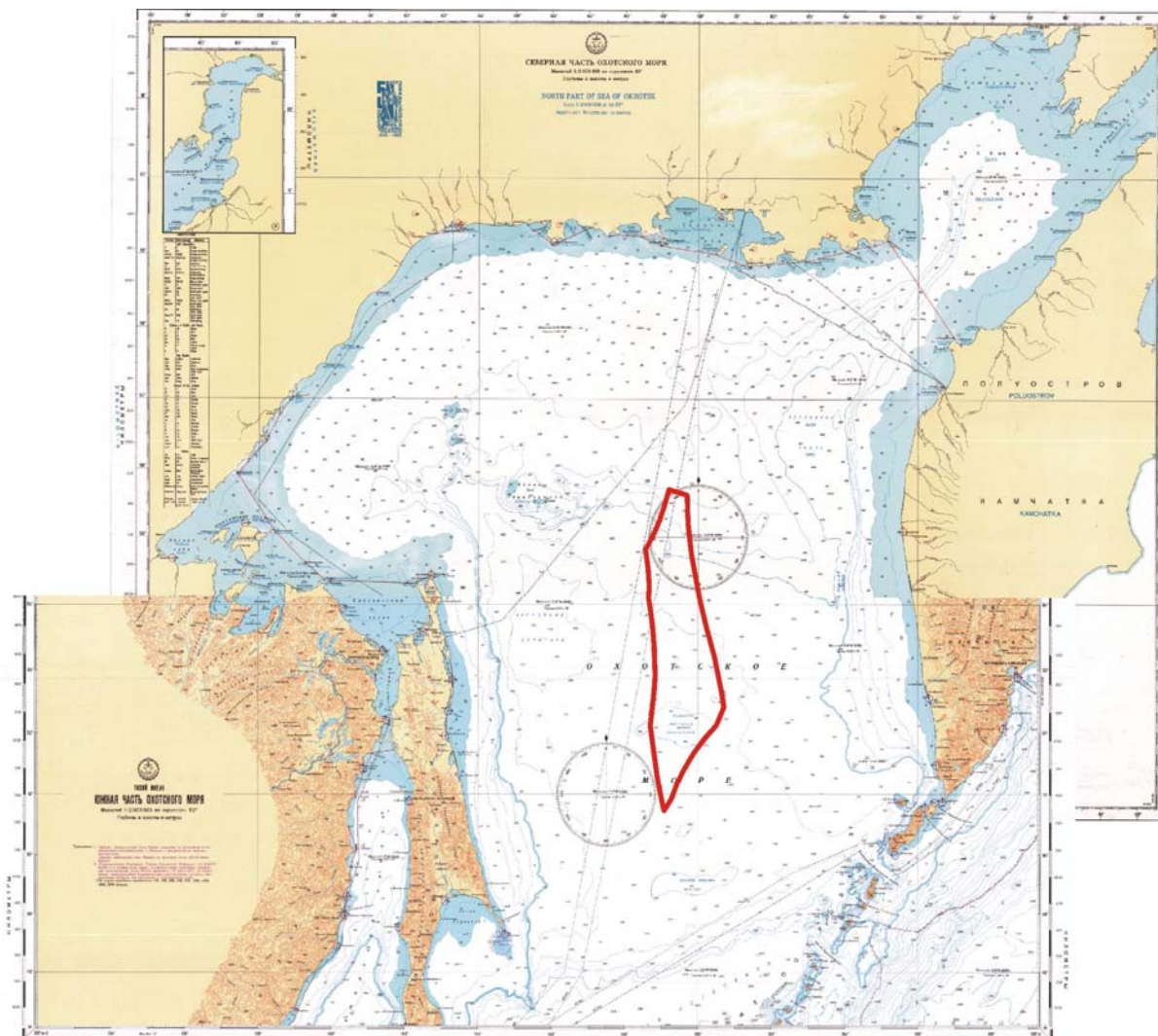


Fig. 1. Extended continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in the area of the enclave (red) in the Sea of Okhotsk (Russian Nautical Charts, sheets 60101 and 60102)

Therefore, the line of outer limit of the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation shown on the above mentioned official charts is an official legitimate line at a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. The seabed and subsoil of the enclave beyond this line is a part of the natural prolongation of the Russian land territory and it is an extended continental shelf of the Russian Federation in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 76.

This enclave is located within the geomorphological and geological continental shelf with irregular seabed topography, which has been reworked and eroded as a result of tectonic processes. It is entirely situated landward of the foot of the continental slope, which can be clearly determined on the basis of morphological and bathymetric evidence.

The foot of the slope is located to the south of the enclave in the southern Sea of Okhotsk and it can be continuously traced at water depths of 2500-3000 m from the northern part of Hokkaido Island through the southern part of Sakhalin Island and eastward along the northern edge of the Kuril (South Okhotsk) Basin towards Kamchatka Peninsula.

Geological and geophysical data provide additional evidence for the location of the parts of the continental margin under paragraph 3 of Article 76 and support locating the base of the foot of the slope in that area.

The enclave under consideration is entirely situated landward of the 2 500 m isobath and it is located within 350 NM limit from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

Thus, the entire area of the seabed and subsoil of the said enclave beyond 200 NM zone is a part of the extended continental shelf in accordance with Article 76. Since the enclave is entirely situated landward of the base of the foot of the continental slope, no outer limits of the extended continental shelf are proposed and, in accordance with Article 76, no list of relevant coordinates is required.

3. Provisions of Article 76 invoked in support of the submission

In support of the submission the following provisions of Article 76 were invoked:

- ✓ Paragraph 1 – with regard to concept of the continental shelf being a natural prolongation of land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin beyond 200 NM zone;
- ✓ Paragraph 3 – in relation to the components of the continental margin;
- ✓ Paragraph 4 – partially, only in respect to the criteria to define the foot of the continental slope according to paragraph 4(b) of Article 76 on the basis of morphologic and bathymetric evidence.

4. Commission members who provided advice during the preparation of the submission

During preparation of the submission the assistance was provided by the member of the Commission Dr. Ivan F. Glumov. No advice was provided by any other member of the Commission.

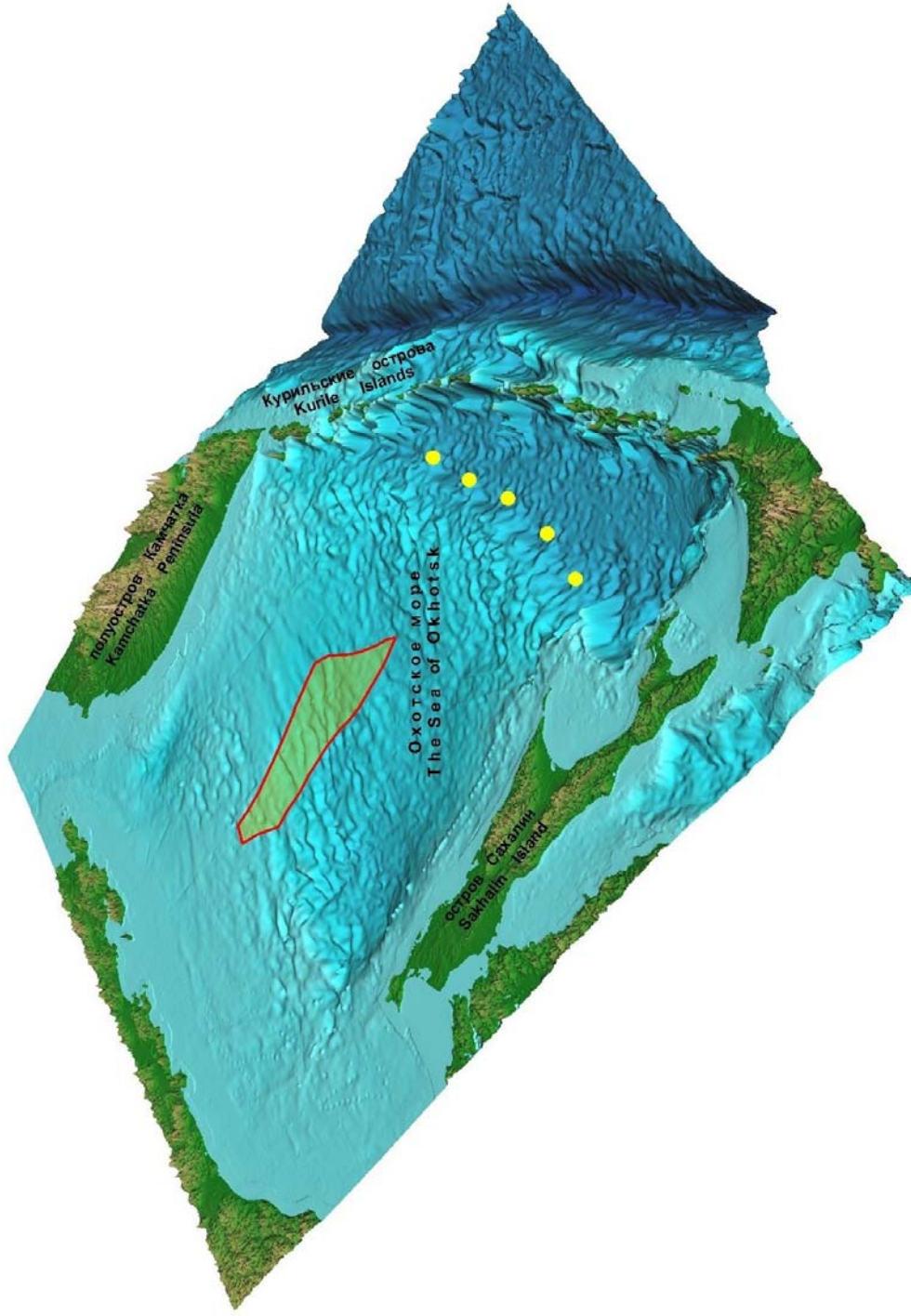


Fig. 2. 3D image of the seabed of the Sea of Okhotsk
The extended continental shelf in the area beyond 200 nautical miles in the area of the enclave (chlorine area) is shown.
Yellow dots show the location of the foot of the continental slope.

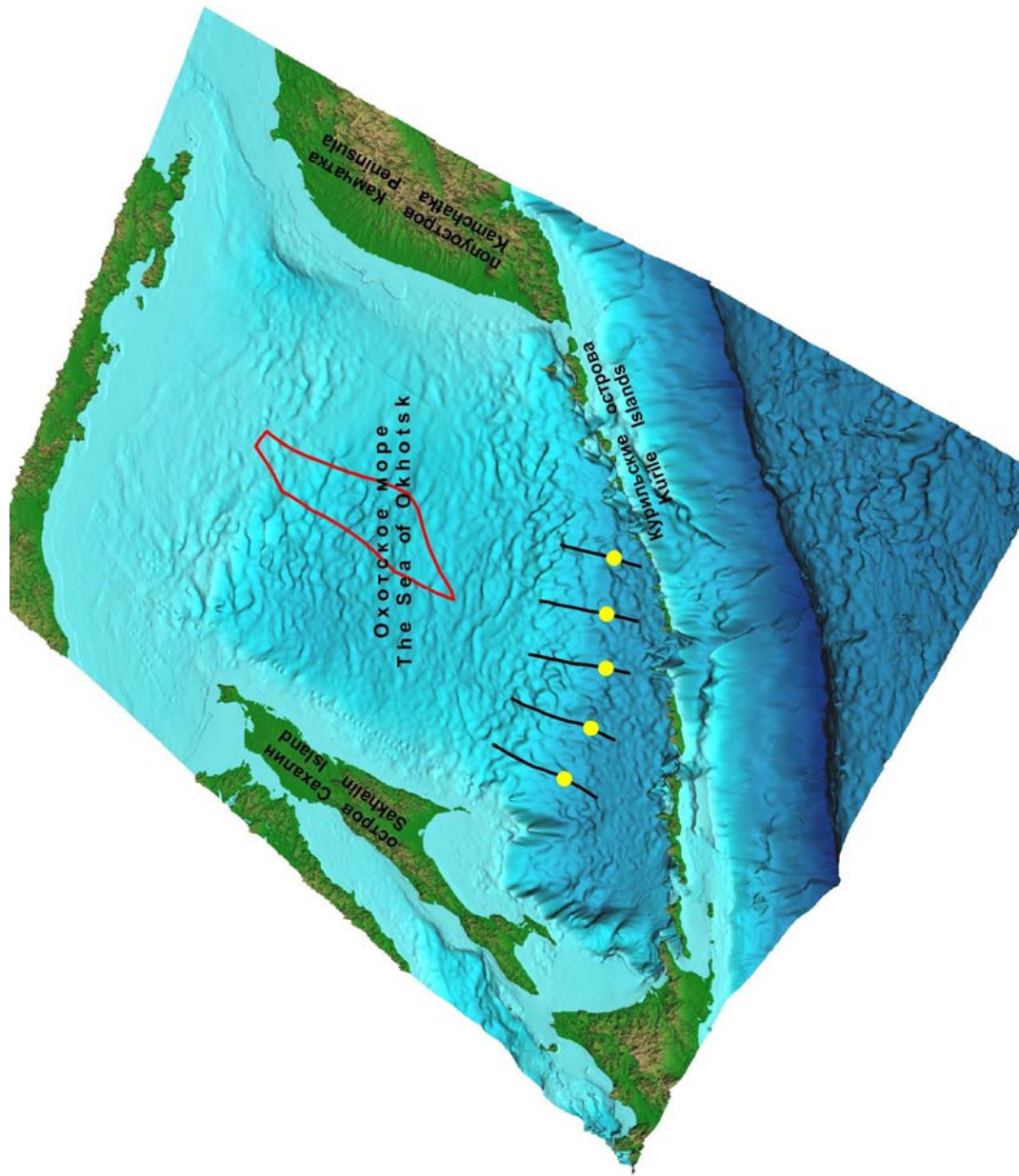


Fig. 3. 3D image of the seabed of the Sea of Okhotsk

The extended continental shelf in the area beyond 200 nautical miles in the area of the enclave is bounded by a red line. Yellow dots show the location of the foot of the continental slope.

5. Provisions related to position of Japan in regard of Submission presented by the Russian Federation to Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in 2001

In accordance with Item 2 of Annex I (CLCS/40/Rev.1) the Russian Federation informs the Commission concerning the unresolved question of delimitation of maritime boundaries between Russia and Japan in the southern Sea of Okhotsk.

The present Submission does not contain any maps on which the baselines are determined from points situated in the southern part of the Sea of Okhotsk. The enclave that constitutes the subject of the present Submission lies in the northern part of the Sea of Okhotsk and does not encumber on the part of the Sea of Okhotsk in which the territorial delimitation between the Russian Federation and Japan is not settled. The nearest points of baselines used in the present Submission are 480 km away from the area awaiting delimitation of maritime boundaries between Russian Federation and Japan.

Based on the aforesaid, the Russian Federation maintains that the present Submission makes no prejudice to the issues related to delimitation of marine boundaries between Japan and the Russian Federation in the southern Sea of Okhotsk.

6. State bodies responsible for the preparation of the submission

The Federal Subsoil Resources Management Agency («Rosnedra») of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology, and the Department of Navigation and Oceanography of the Russian Ministry of Defence are the state bodies responsible for the preparation of the submission.

The text of the submission as well as all maps, figures, appendixes and databases of the submission were prepared by the All-Russian Research Institute on Geology and Mineral Resources of the World Ocean (VNIIOkeangeologia) of the Federal Subsoil Resources Management Agency.