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**The outer limits of the continental shelf beyond
200 nautical miles under the framework of
article 76 of the United Nations Convention on
the Law of the Sea (LOSC)**

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*Seminar on the Establishment of the Outer Limits of
the Continental Shelf beyond 200 Nautical Miles
under UNCLOS - Its Implications for International
Law (Tokyo, Japan, 27 February 2008)*



Schematic presentation of the continental margin





Position of margineers at Third Conference

- Convention on the Continental Shelf, recognized coastal State rights to the point of exploitability;
- 1969 decision of the ICJ in the *North Sea Continental Shelf* cases repeatedly referred to the continental shelf as the submerged prolongation of the land territory of the coastal State; and
- a long standing State practice on the continental margin by coastal States



Overview of article 76 LOSC

- (1): general definition: 200 M or outer edge continental margin
- (2): general limit on continental shelf: not beyond paragraphs 4-6
- (3): definition of the continental margin: shelf, slope, rise
- (4): fixed points outer limit: foot of slope + 60 M or 1% sediment
- (5): restraints: 350 M or 2500 m isobath + 100 M
- (6): restraint on submarine ridges: 350 M
- (7): outer limit of shelf: fixed points not more than 60 M apart
- (8): outer limit on basis of recommendations CLCS final and binding
- (9): coastal State to deposit outer limit with UN
- (10): article 76 not concerned with delimitation between States

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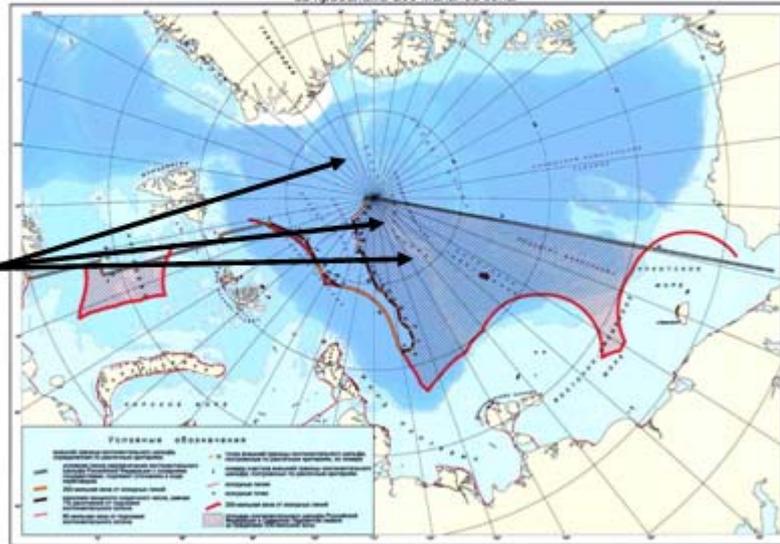


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Outer limits in Russian 2001 submission

Approximate location
Lomonosov and Alpha-
Mendeleyev Ridges

Площадь континентального шельфа Российской Федерации в Северном Ледовитом океане за пределами 200-мильной зоны



Map 2



Conclusions

- Article 76 is a formula to arrive at precise outer limits
- Article 76 is being implemented
- Problems of developing States
- Only some outer limits will probably be controversial
- No readily available alternatives to article 76
- Role of CLCS crucial for success of article 76