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SUBMARINE ELEVATIONS AND RIDGES: WILD CARDS IN THE POKER GAME OF ARTICLE 76

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DISCLAIMERS

- The opinions and findings expressed in this presentation are those of the author alone. They do not represent any organizational viewpoints.
- Public domain data sets were used in this investigation. No warranty is implied concerning the accuracy or completeness of this information.
- The investigation considered scientific and technical factors only. No conclusions are implied concerning bilateral boundaries and/or the extent of the outer continental shelves of individual States.

DEFINITIONS OF A WILD CARD:

In the game of poker: a card that is designated by the dealer at the beginning of a round, and which takes on whatever suit and rank its current holder desires.

In the game of Article 76: a seabed feature whose nature is articulated by a coastal state during the preparation of its continental shelf submission, only to be disallowed by the CLCS.

A WINNING POKER HAND



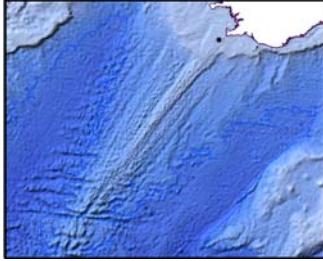
UNKNOWN WILD CARD - BEWARE!



WILD CARDS: SOME EXAMPLES

- Reykjanes Ridge
- Lomonosov and Alpha-Mendeleev Ridges
- Ninetyeast and 85 East Ridges
- Colon, Carnegie, and Cocos Ridges
- Vittoria-Trinidad Seamount Chain
- Azores and Madeira Islands
- Small ridge off Angolan margin
- Orphan Knoll and Newfoundland Ridge
- South Greenland Ridge
- Mariana Ridges


ICELAND'S REYKJANES RIDGE



An ocean ridge, at the same time the natural prolongation of a coastal state's landmass.

What combination of formula and constraint lines will prove acceptable to the CLCS?

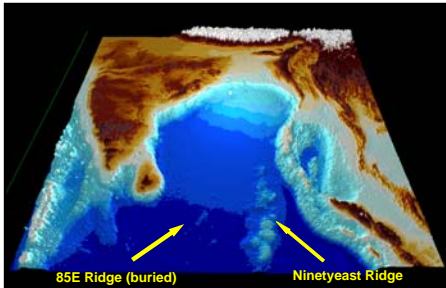
RIDGES IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN



The Arctic's tectonic framework is not well known.

Do geomorphological discontinuities (red arrows) preclude geological connections?

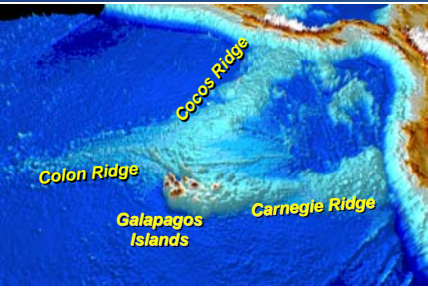
RIDGES IN THE BAY OF BENGAL



How might these ridges limit the extent of the continental margin?

How will the Statement of Understanding apply?

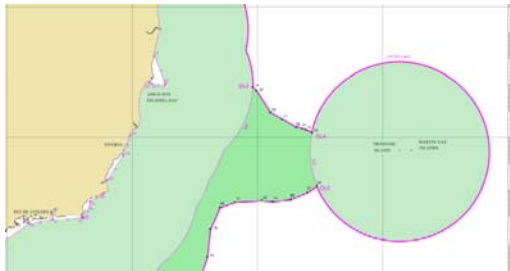
GALAPAGOS RIDGES



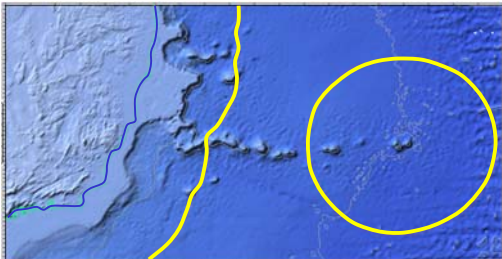
Carnegie Ridge may not be a natural prolongation of the mainland.

Can Colon, Cocos, and Carnegie Ridges be considered natural prolongations of the Galapagos Islands?

BRAZIL: PROPOSED OCS LIMIT

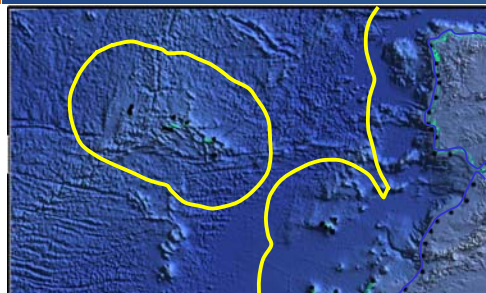


TRINIDADE & MARTIN VAZ ISLANDS




Can this chain of seamounts comprise a natural prolongation?

AZORES AND MADEIRA ISLANDS



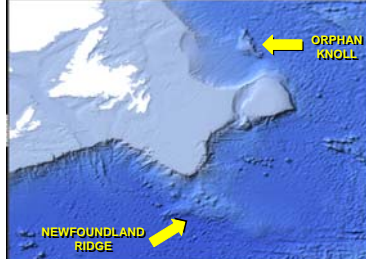
Are these features 'oceanic' or 'continental'?
What mix of formula and constraint lines would be most appropriate?

A VERY SMALL RIDGE OFF ANGOLA



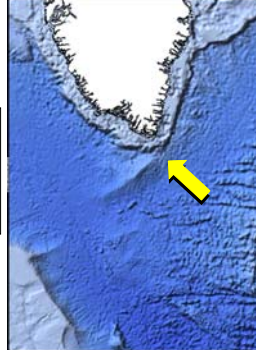
Is it real, or is it a sounding artifact?
A minuscule feature, but it could position the FOS (and formula lines) farther seaward into a zone of high hydrocarbon potential.

CANADA'S ATLANTIC MARGIN



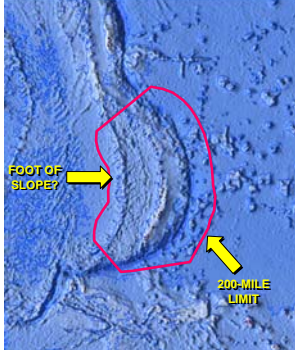
Orphan Knoll is a continental fragment that has separated from the margin: does this make it a natural prolongation?
Newfoundland Ridge formed in place during the opening of the North Atlantic: is it therefore a natural prolongation?

SOUTH GREENLAND RIDGE



Formed initially during separation of Greenland from North America.
Does geomorphological discontinuity at its nearshore end (arrow) disqualify it as a natural prolongation?

MARIANA ISLANDS



Can these Islands have an outer continental shelf?
Mariana Trench to the east blocks any natural prolongation.
Can seafloor to the west comprise a natural prolongation?

THE CLCS AND RIDGES

- The Commission deals with ridges on a case-by-case basis.
- Conclusions are not publicized.
- Interested parties cannot therefore:
 - Assess the consistency of CLCS decisions;
 - Verify for themselves whether other coastal states are making reasonable ridge claims;
 - Benefit from the experience of other states in preparing their own ridge claims.

HOW TO DEAL WITH A WILD CARD

- Be sure your case has merit.
- Marshall your facts, prepare your arguments.
- Consult with other states in comparable situations.
- Where appropriate, establish regional coalitions with like-minded neighbours.
- Be sure your submission contains thorough documentation of data and interpretations.
- Present your case clearly to the CLCS, and be prepared to defend your position.

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR WILD CARD!



THANK YOU!