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1. Introduction

Ireland first formally claimed a limited area of continental shelf in 1968 by means of designation by statutory order made pursuant to the Continental Shelf Act 1968. This was followed by a series of westward-progressing continental shelf designations during the 1970s, culminating in the 1976 designation (yellow on map) which reached 25°W. This was subsequently modified by the 1989 designation (Statutory Instrument No. 141 of 1989 – grey on map) which gave effect to the Agreement of 7 November 1988 between Ireland and the UK on delimitation of areas of the continental shelf between the two countries.

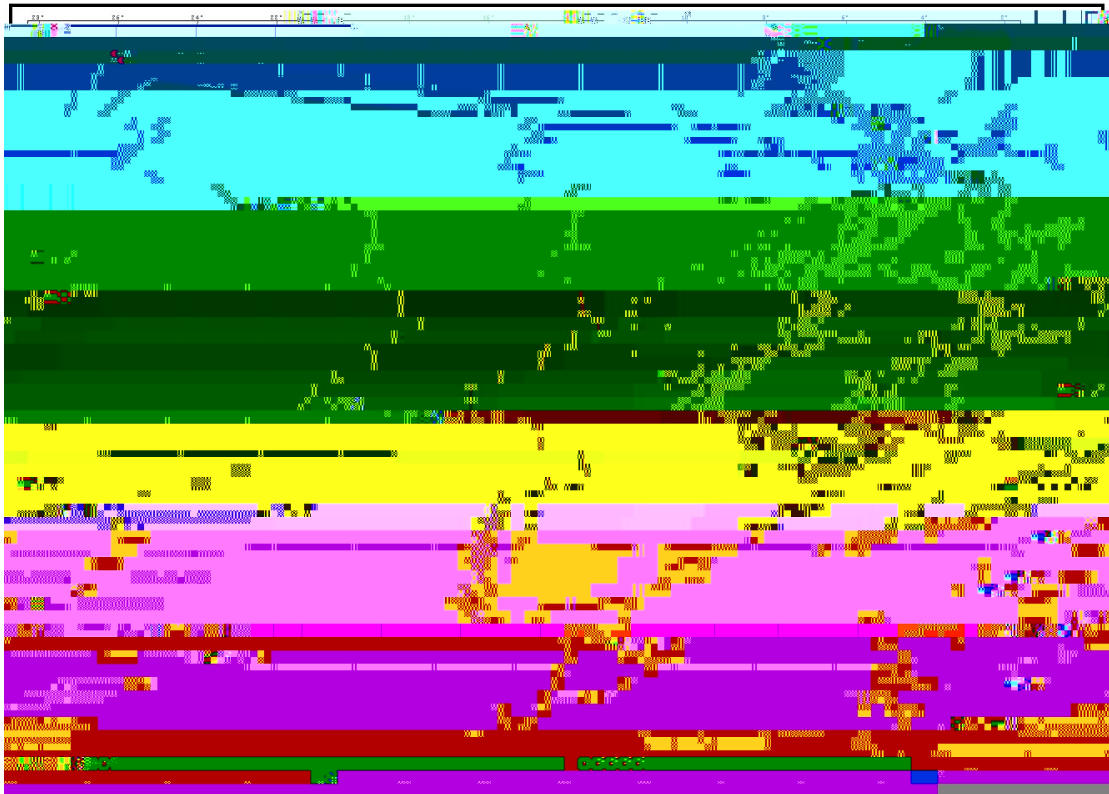


Figure 1.1: History of Continental Shelf Designations by Ireland 1968-1989

Work on preparing Ireland's submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) began in 1994 with budget sanction given for a Continental Margin seismic survey in 1995 and a Continental Margin bathymetric survey in 1996.

Ireland ratified the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on 21 June 1996 and it entered into force with respect to Ireland on 21 July 1996.

Data processing, analysis, interpretation and compilation have continued until 2005, in parallel with two sets of quadrilateral discussions with neighbouring States to the NW (Faroe Islands/Denmark, Iceland, Ireland and the UK) and to the SW (France, Ireland, Spain and the UK).

2. Outer limits of Ireland's extended continental shelf in the area abutting the Porcupine Abyssal Plain

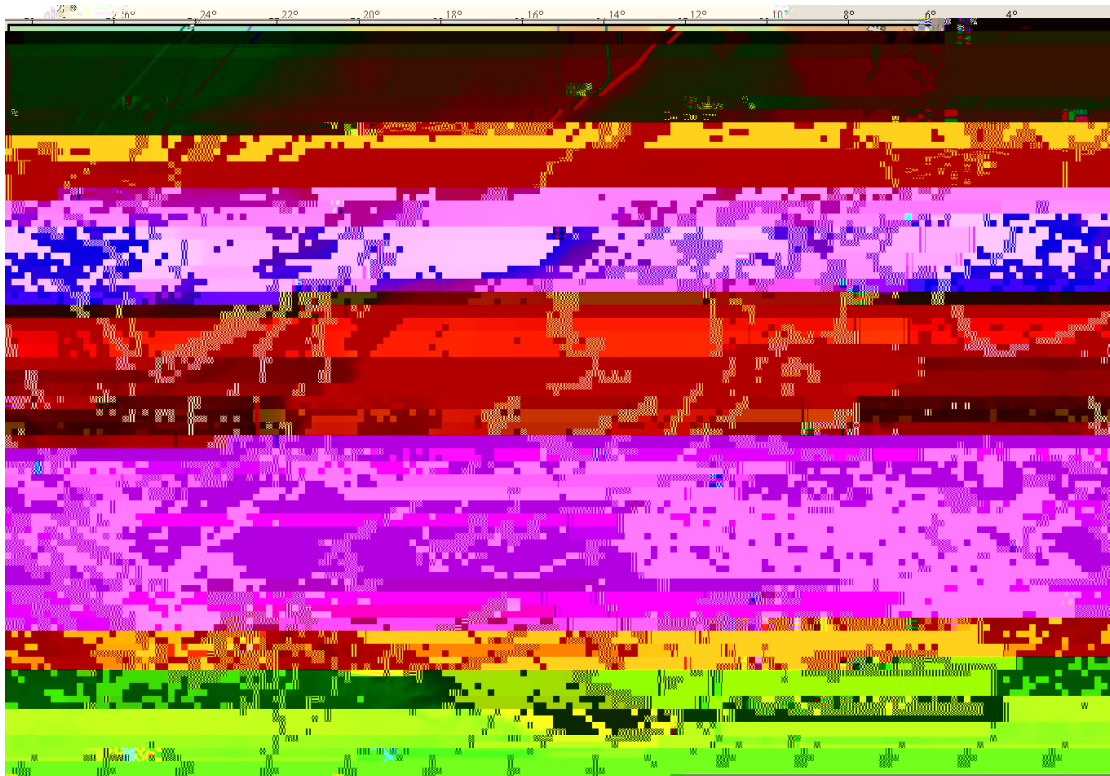


Figure 1.2: The outer limits of Ireland's extended continental shelf in the area abutting the Porcupine Abyssal Plain (bathymetry from GEBCO 2003)

The present submission deals only with the outer limits of the continental shelf in the area abutting the Porcupine Abyssal Plain, from foot of slope (FOS) profile 46 to FOS profile 60.

3. Specific provisions of Article 76 invoked to support the submission

5. Endpoints of the outer limit, overlapping claims and unresolved maritime boundaries

consideration of this partial submission by the CLCS will not prejudice the question of delimitation of boundaries in either Zones A or C.

6. Detailed description of the outer limits of Ireland's extended continental shelf in the area abutting the Porcupine Abyssal Plain



Figure 1.4: Details of the formula lines used to define the outer limit of Ireland's extended continental shelf in the area abutting the Porcupine Abyssal Plain (bathymetry from PAD 1996 and INSS 2000-2003 bathymetric surveys)

A total of 15 foot of slope points (FOS 46 to FOS 60) have been picked along the Porcupine Ridge-Goban Spur margin. From these FOS points an outer limit based on the FOS+60 nautical miles (M) formula (Hedberg formula) has been generated. On seismic lines PAD95-12 and PAD95-13 (corresponding to FOS profiles 46 and 50 respectively), sufficient sediment thickness has been demonstrated to allow the application of the 1% sediment thickness formula (Gardiner or Irish formula). The final outer limits consist of a series of straight lines, as provided for in the Convention being not more than 60M long, which join points along the Gardiner or Hedberg lines. The coordinates of these points and the lengths of the connecting straight lines are listed in Appendix 1.1.

7. State Bodies Responsible for the Preparation of the Continental Shelf Submission of Ireland

This submission, together with all maps, figures, enclosures, appendices and databases were prepared by the Petroleum Affairs Division of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources of Ireland, which has

