

## Japan recommendations (ECS ID-1300)

Japan made submissions for seven regions located to the south and the south-east of the main islands of Japan. They are:

1. The Southern Kyushu-Palau Ridge Region (KPR)
2. The Minami-Io To Island Region (MIT)
3. The Minami-Tori Shima Island Region (MTS)
4. The Mogi Seamount Region (MGS)
5. The Ogasawara Plateau Region (OGP)
6. The Southern Oki-Daito Ridge Region (ODR)
7. The Shikoku Basin Region (SKB)

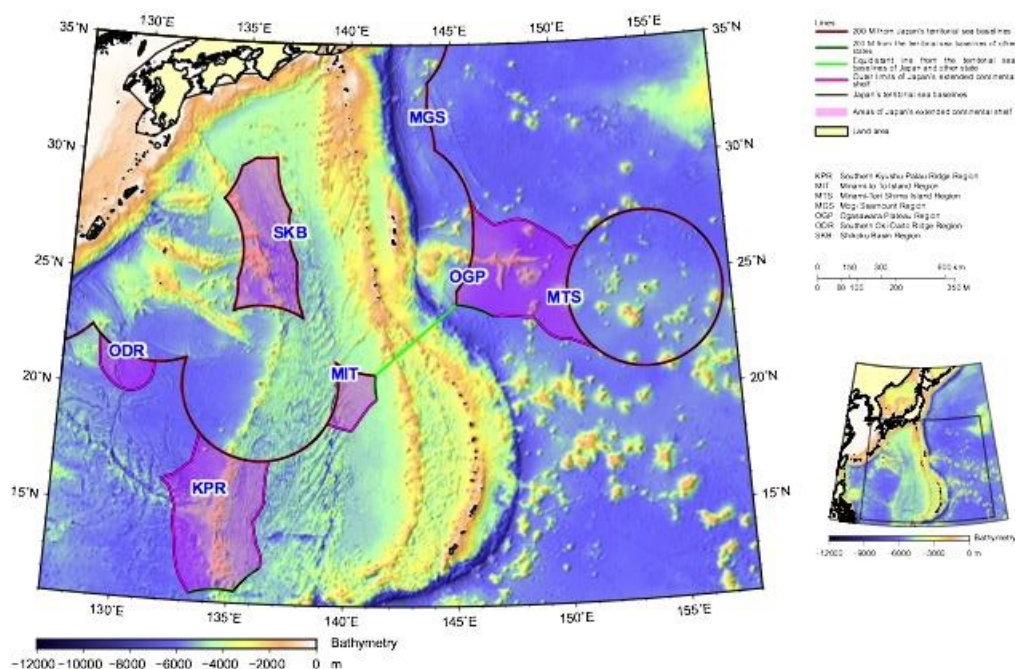


Figure 1. The seven areas of ECS defined by Japan.

### 1. Southern Kyushu-Palau Ridge Region (KPR)

The KPR region lies on the north-south trending Kyushu-Palau Ridge which extends from the Japanese Oki-no-Tori Shima Island to the island of Palau in the south. Oki-no-Tori Shima Island is an uninhabited atoll. The Commission received communications from Korea and China disputing the legal status of the atoll. Both states consider it to be a rock under the Convention and therefore not able to generate an EEZ or continental shelf. The Commission decided that until the issue of the status of the atoll was resolved it could not examine the ECS in this area.

Japan has not attempted to expand the atoll but has put in place engineering works to protect the small exposed sections of coral reef from erosion. It has also built an observatory to monitor ships in the area and relay data.

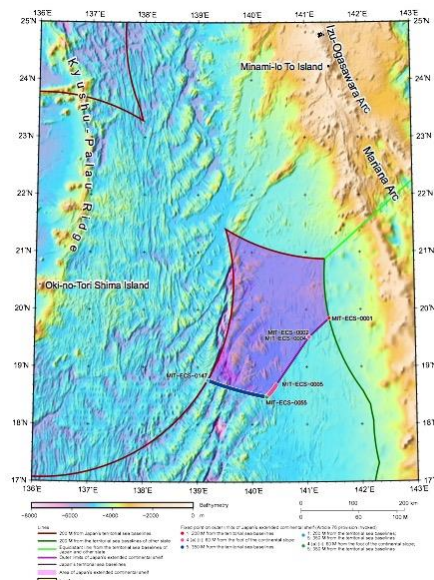
### Issues

No ECS was recommendation was made in this area because the status of the Oki-no-Tori Shima Island, an uninhabited atoll, was disputed by China and Korea. Both of these states believe the feature to be a rock.

## 2. Minami-Io To Island Region (MIT)

The Minami-Io To Island region is located near the junction of the Izu-Ogasawara and Mariana Arcs. In the inner-arc area between the outer arcs to the east (i.e. the Shichito-Io To Ridge and the Mariana Ridge) and the Parece Vela Basin to the west there are several NE-SW trending, en-echelon ridges associated with submarine spurs and seamount chains, including the Daikan Seamount Chain and the Minami-Io To Spur. The submission refers to submerged prolongation of land territories, such as the Minami-Io To Island, on the Shichito-Io To Ridge.

Japan submitted three critical FOS points, two of which were associated with the Minami-Io To Spur, and the other the inner arc slope of the West Mariana Ridge. The Commission disagreed with the points associated with the Minami-Io To Spur. The sub-commission considered that the Minami-Io To Spur was the largest of the en-echelon ridges developed on the back-arc side of the West Mariana Ridge. It has two parts separated by a saddle that is only elevated about 200 m above the surrounding sea floor. The Commission considered that there was no prolongation between the two parts of the spur (the outer part of the spur was considered part of the deep ocean floor) and that the BOS was within the saddle area at the seaward end of the Taisho seamount. Japan submitted new FOS points, which were accepted by the Sub-commission.

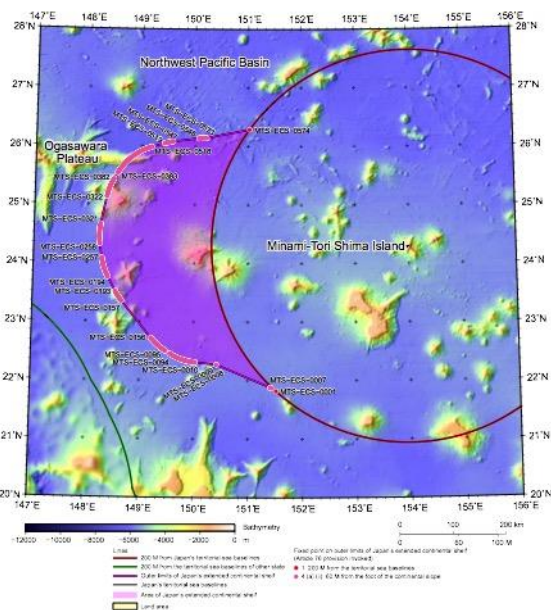


Outer limits submitted by the state (from Japan's executive summary Figure 6.2).

## 3. Minami-Tori Shima Island Region (MTS)

The Minami-Tori Shima Island region lies in the western Pacific Ocean in an area dominated by the Northwest Pacific Basin, an abyssal plain with a water depth of 5700–6200 m. Within the Basin, there are numerous seamounts and knolls with a distribution that defines two broad WNW-ESE trending bands: the Marcus-Wake Seamounts in the north and the Magellan Seamounts in the south. Minami-Tori Shima Island, which is located in the mid-eastern part of the region, is the only land territory in the region. Takuyo-Daigo Seamount lies to the southwest of the Island and represents one of the largest guyots in the region. Other guyots such as Takuyo-Daiyon, Kanrin, and Higashi-Kanrin Seamounts are located to the WNW of the seamount. These are all guyots with flat-topped summits at a water depth of 1000–1300 m that rise more than 4000 m above the surrounding abyssal plain.

The Sub-commission disagreed that a continuous FOS envelope circumscribes the Minami-Tori Shima Seamount Group, instead describing the seamounts as a normal part of the deep ocean floor. The Commission agreed that the submission did not pass the test of appurtenance and therefore made no recommendations.



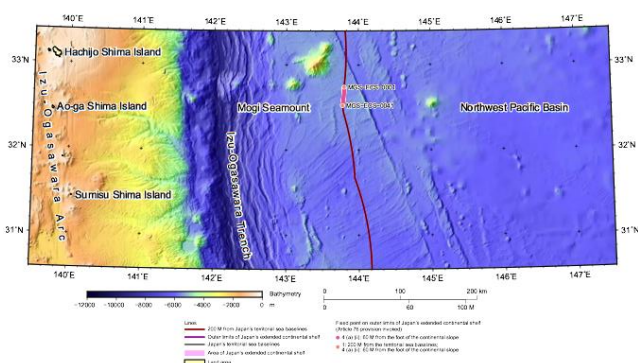
Outer limits as originally submitted by the state (from Japan's executive summary Figure 6.3).

## Issues

No ECS was recommendation was made in this area because the seamounts were considered to be a normal part of the deep ocean floor.

## 4. The Mogi Seamount Region (MGS)

The MGS region is located at the boundary between the Philippine Sea and the Northwest Pacific Ocean. The region is divided into two parts: the Izu- Ogasawara Arc in the west and the Northwest Pacific Basin in the east. The eastern side of the region is occupied by the Northwest Pacific Basin with a water depth of 5000–6200 m. The State considered that there is natural prolongation from islands associated with the Shichito-Io To Ridge. The sub-commission considered that the saddle area (800 m above the surrounding sea floor) that was used to define the extended continental shelf was not substantial enough to constitute a submerged prolongation of the land mass. The sub-commission did not regard the Mogi seamount as part of the continental margin of Japan and as a consequence the submission did not pass the test of appurtenance.



Outer limits as originally submitted by the state (from Japan's executive summary Figure 6.4).

## Issues

No ECS recommendation was made in this area, because the Mogi seamount on the Shichito-Io To Ridge was not considered to be part of the margin. It is separated by a saddle that is 800 m above the sea floor that was not considered substantial enough.

### 5. The Ogasawara Plateau Region (OGP)

The region is defined by the state to include the N-S trending eastern flank of the Izu-Ogasawara Arc and its associated E-W trending features of the Ogasawara composite high and the Uyeda Ridge.

The Ogasawara composite high is a complex feature composed of several seamounts, and divided into western, eastern and south eastern parts – referred to as the plateau region, ridge region and the Hotokenoza Seamount Group respectively. The plateau extends from the Ogasawara Ridge, which lies just north of the intersection of the Izu-Ogasawara Arc and Mariana Arcs. This ridge is separated from the Izu-Ogasawara Arc by a shallow water basin. The western part displays features of a plateau with depths from 3000 m to less than 2000 m and includes two seamounts. The eastern part is clearly a ridge with subordinate spurs and seamounts. It has similar depths to the plateau. The western part (the plateau) and the eastern part (the ridge) are morphologically continuous at a common depth of 2500–3500 meters. Southeast of the eastern end of the ridge is group of seamounts, the largest of which, the Hotokenoza Seamount is separated from the ridge by a spur.

There is an additional ridge, the Uyeda Ridge, which lies north of the Ogasawara plateau separated from the Ogasawara Ridge by a deep saddle, which the state claimed was morphologically continuous with the continental slope.

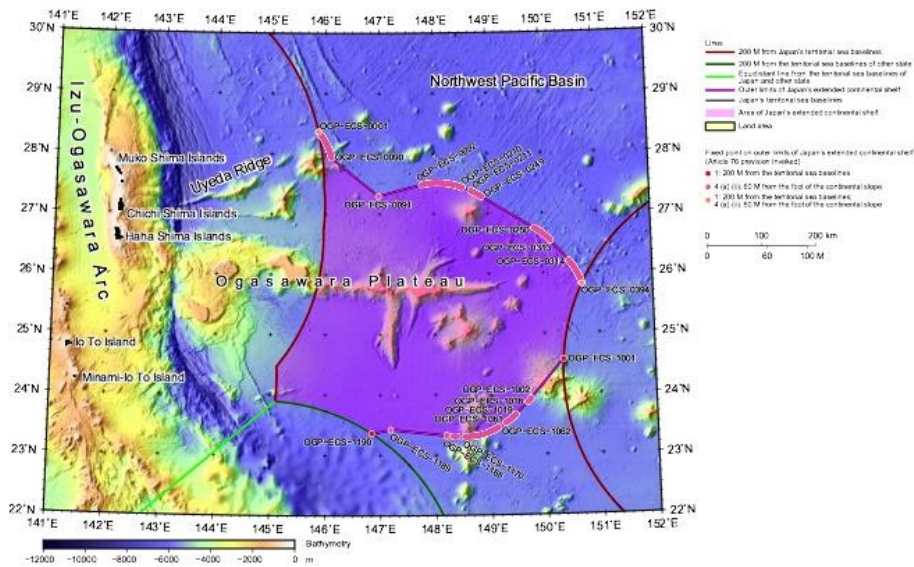
Both the Ogasawara composite high, which Japan interprets as a submarine elevation, and the Uyeda Ridge are connected to the slope of the Izu-Ogasawara Arc by saddle areas in the Izu- Ogasawara Trench. It is these saddle areas were extensively examined by the sub-commission.

The sub-commission were of the opinion that the plateau has merged with the Izu-Ogasawara Arc in the west and forms a massive bridge across the subduction trench. The shallowest part of the plateau is 6000 meters above the deepest parts of the adjacent trenches and more than 2500 meters above the abyssal plain to the east. The commission agreed to the existence of a continuous BOS around the plateau and ridge regions, with natural prolongation to the islands on the Izu-Ogasawara Arc. They agreed with all except for two FOS points in the Ogasawara Plateau. These two rejected points were not considered to be part of the margin.

In contrast, the commission found that the Uyeda Ridge is not morphologically continuous with the Izu-Ogasawara Arc. They determined that the FOS point submitted in this area was not within the BOS as it was located in the saddle area in the trench and more than 2000 m deeper than the BOS region around the ridge.



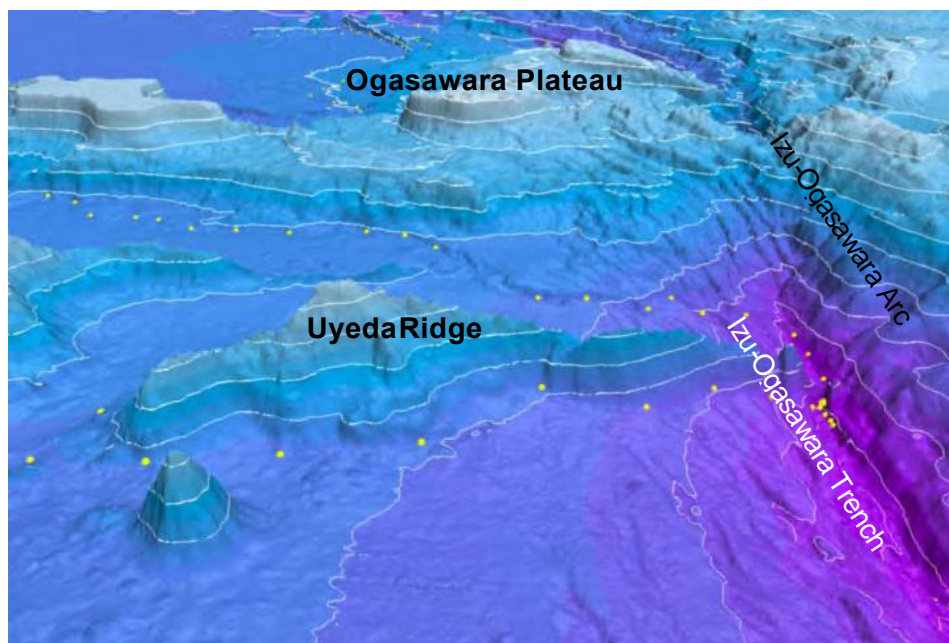
In the area of the Hotokenoza Seamount the sub-commission also disagreed with the FOS envelope proposed for similar reasons cited for the Uyeda Ridge.



Outer limits as originally submitted by the state (from Japan's executive summary Figure 6.5).

## Issues

The Uyeda Ridge was not considered to be morphologically continuous with the Izu-Ogasawara Arc because a saddle area located in the trench was 2000 m deeper than the BOS around the ridge.



Shaded bathymetric 3D image depicting the saddle areas of the Uyeda Ridge and the Ogasawara Plateau with respect to the Izu-Ogasawara Arc and the Izu-Ogasawara Trench. White arrows show examples of probable thrust traces related to the accretion of the Ogasawara Plateau. The figure was produced by the Subcommission based on data provided by Japan.

## 6. The Southern Oki-Daito Ridge Region (ODR)

The Southern Oki-Daito Ridge region is located in north western part of the Philippine Sea. The Southern Oki-Daito Ridge region is divided into two parts: the Oki-Daito Ridge and the Oki-Daito Rise in the north and the Philippine Basin (also known as the West Philippine Basin) in the south. The submerged prolongation in the region extends from Oki-Daito Shima Island and includes the Oki-Daito Ridge and the Oki-Daito Rise. The state submitted a BOS that extends around the Oki-Daito Rise and follows the 5600-5700 m isobath. There is a saddle area between the landward end of the Oki-Daito Rise and the “main body” of the Oki-Daito Rise.

The sub-commission considered this saddle area (200 m elevation) part of the deep ocean floor, which separates the southern tip of the Oki-Daito Rise from the main body of the rise. The view was supported by a change in gradient and a change in the fabric of the feature between the main body and southern tip. The supporting geological and geophysical data provided did not indicate continuity across the saddle.

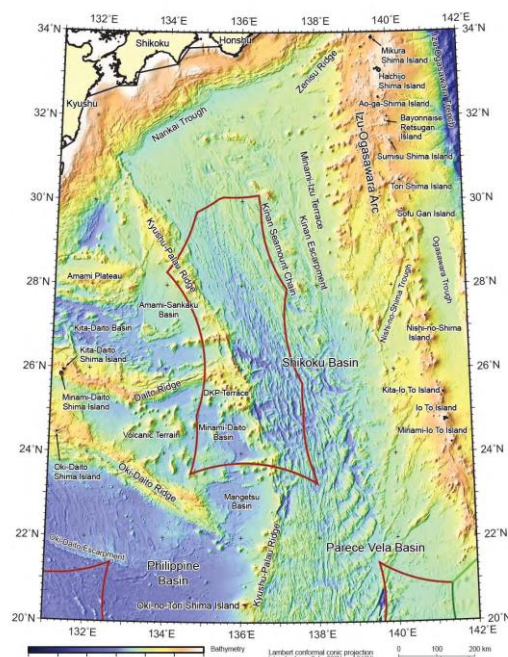
Japan resubmitted the FOS points excluding the southern tip if the Oki-Daito Rise and these were accepted by the sub-commission.

### Issues

The saddle area that joins two parts of the Oki-Daito Rise is only 200 m above the BOS zone defined by the state. The sub-commission considered that this elevation was within the within the average general roughness of the surrounding seafloor.

## 7. The Shikoku Basin Region (SKB)

The Shikoku Basin region is located within the northern Philippine Sea and is bounded to the west by the northern part of the Kyushu-Palau Ridge, to the north by the Nankai Trough, to the east by the Izu- Ogasawara and Mariana Arcs, and to the south by the Parece Vela Basin. The state considered that the continental margin consisted of 2 parts – in the east the Izu-Ogasawara Arc as the natural prolongation of Tori Shima Island and in the west, the Kyushu-Palau, Daito and Oki-Daito Ridges, which are the natural prolongation of Kita-Daito Shima Island, Oki-Daito Shima Island and Oki-no-Tori Shima Island.



The Shikoku Basin region as originally submitted by the state

The commission generally agreed with the BOS position on the Kyushu-Palau Ridge side – following the provision of geochemical data to support the continuity of a spur. On the eastern side the Commission found that the Kinan Seamount Chain as not morphologically connected to the Kinan Escarpment.

## **Issues**

Evidence to the contrary was required to establish natural prolongation on the western margin of the basin. Seamounts on the eastern margin were found to disconnected from the Izu-Ogasawara Arc.