France recommendations (ECS ID-1700)

The French Antilles Region

The French Antilles is an island group located on the north-south trending Lesser Antilles volcanic arc at the triple junction of the North American, South American, and Caribbean Plates. The northern section of the arc splits into eastern outer and western inner arcs. The front island arc forms the Barbados Accretionary Prism. East of these arcs are the prominent WNW-ESE Barracuda and Tiburon fracture zones and subsequent ridges. These ridges act as barriers against sediment fluxes coming from the Orinono and Amazon Rivers to the south. The area considered in this submission lies east of the islands of the French Antilles in the region of the Barracuda Ridge.

The Barracuda Ridge is 450 km long and 30 to 50 km broad, culminating at an elevation of 2500 m above the abyssal plain. It is bordered to the north by the Barracuda Abyssal Plain and to the south by the Demerara Abyssal Plain. The Tiburon Ridge is smaller than the Barracuda Ridge, being 150 km long, 30 to 40 km broad and rising only 1850 m at most above the Demerara Abyssal Plain.

The volcanic islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique on the island arc of the Lesser Antilles constitute the French land mass in the region. The different components of the Lesser Antilles, i.e. the island arc, the Barbados Accretionary Prism and the accreted Tiburon Ridge, form a continuous, composite morphological feature that constitutes the submarine prolongation.

From the shelf to the deep-sea floor, the French Antilles Region is dominated by a succession of three morphological features: a very marked escarpment; an intermediate margin formed by the accretionary prism; and the frontal escarpment of the accretionary prism; the base of which the state placed the BOS (i.e. within the subduction trench).

The sub-commission agreed with the BOS and FOS locations

Issues

No issues