

## **France recommendations (ECS ID-800)**

### **New Caledonia Region**

#### **Region:**

New Caledonia Island is situated between the Fiji Basin and Tasmania Sea at the northern extension of the Norfolk Ridge. The area is a complex region of tectonic ridges. To the east is the Lord Howe Rise separated from New Caledonia by the New Caledonia Basin. At the northern end of the Lord Howe Rise lies the Chesterfield Islands and the Bellona Reefs which lie on the Bellona Plateau. Just east of this plateau is the Fairway Ridge. The southeast region considered is located between the Loyalty Ridge, South Fiji Basin, and Cook Fracture Zone. The Loyalty Ridge extends southeast from the smaller New Caledonia Islands separated by the Loyalty Basin. The Cook Fracture Zone lies at the end of the Loyalty Ridge just above the South Fiji Basin.

#### **Foot of Slope Points:**

FOS points were submitted southwest and southeast of the Main Island of New Caledonia. The original submission declared the whole area between New Caledonia and the Tasmanian Sea as a natural prolongation of the state. The subcommission determined the Lord Howe Rise was a separate feature not connected with the ridges to the east. The Lord Howe Rise was therefore a natural prolongation of the Bellona and Chesterfield Islands rather than the main island of New Caledonia. The original submission presented two FOS points, one in the Tasmanian Sea region on the westward facing slope of the Lord Howe Rise, and the other in the South Fiji Basin. The subcommission required a FOS be placed at the foot of the eastward facing slope of Lord Howe Rise. FOS East was submitted in place of the FOS point originally located in the South Fiji Basin. With this revision FOS West was relocated

slightly. Both FOS points were very close to the 200M line of New Caledonia and the treaty line with Australia. The subcommission agreed on the locations of FOS East and West.

The area southeast of New Caledonia was not considered in this recommendation.

#### Formulas and Constraints:

The FOS+60M formula line lies well beyond the treaty line with Australia. The subcommission was satisfied with this and did not require sediment thickness data.

A combination of the 350M distance and depth constraints were used to delineate the outer distance limit. Initially the distance boundary was based on all land territories of New Caledonia. The subcommission requested a new constraint line be formed based on base-points relevant to the Chesterfield and Bellona Islands. A new constraint line was submitted and accepted by the subcommission. The use of the depth constraint was dependent on the Lord Howe Rise being considered a natural component of the continental margin. After a review of the geology of the region the subcommission agreed that the Lord Howe Rise is a submarine elevation that is a natural component of the continental margin of the Chesterfield and Bellona Islands. The constraint line extended further than the treaty line with Australia in all locations.