

(Translation)

# **Preliminary Information Indicative of the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf Beyond 200 Nautical Miles of the People's Republic of China**



1. The People's Republic of China ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") on 15 May 1996. In accordance with article 76 of the Convention, China has continental shelf that extends beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 8 of article 76 of the Convention, article 4 of annex II to the Convention and article 3 of annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") and the decisions contained in SPLOS/72 and SPLOS/183, China hereby submits to the Secretary-General of the United Nations preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf that extends beyond 200 nautical miles in part of the sea areas of China. By submitting this preliminary information, the Chinese Government has satisfied the time period referred to in article 4 of annex II to the Convention and the decision contained in SPLOS/72 paragraph (a).

3. Paragraph 4(a) of article 76 of the Convention provides for the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margin extending beyond 200 nautical miles by either:

*(i) a line delineated in accordance with paragraph 7 by reference to the outermost fixed points at each of which the thickness of*

*sea is measured or shall not exceed 100 nautical miles from the 2,500 metre isobath, which is a line connecting the depth of 2,500 metres.*

And paragraph 2.2.8 of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission stipulates that:

*If either the line delineated at a distance of 60 nautical miles from the foot of the continental slope, or the line delineated at a distance where the thickness of sedimentary rocks is at least 1 per cent of the shortest distance from such point to the foot of the slope, or both, extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, then a coastal State is entitled to delineate the outer limits of the continental shelf as prescribed by the provisions contained in article 76, paragraphs 4 to 10.*

4. With the use of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) and the measured water depth data of China, the submarine topographic maps of the East China Sea continental shelf and its surrounding waters have been drawn and profiles selected with the base points of territorial sea announced by the Chinese Government, namely, Liangxiongdiyu (China's base point No.14), the Yushanliedao (China's base point No.15) and the Taizhouliedao(2) (China's base point No.17) as the starting points (please refer to the attached figures and their notes).

According to paragraph 4 (b) of article 76 of the Convention which reads:

*In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the foot of the continental slope shall be determined as the point of maximum change in the gradient at its base.*

The foot of the continental slope (Point C in each attached profile) can be

5. The above results prove that the natural prolongation of the continental shelf in the East China Sea extends beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, and that the outer limits delineated by reference to a distance of 60 nautical miles from the foot of the continental slope do not exceed 350 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

In view of the actual geographical conditions and in light of the changes on the profiles of the submarine topography, the point determining the maximum water depth (Point D in each attached profile) is identified as the fixed point comprising the line of the outer limits of the East China Sea continental shelf, and the point is at a distance of not more than 60 nautical miles from the foot of the continental slope (Point C in each attached profile).

6. By reference to all the fixed points obtained through the same method, it can be established that the outer limits of China's continental shelf that extends beyond 200 nautical miles in the East China Sea locate on the axis of the Okinawa Trough.

7. China is making preparations for the submission of the information on the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. China has conducted data gathering and processing in the sea areas concerned, and is formulating the submission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention, the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission, and is undertaking relevant work of assessment and review.

8. China is intended to make a submission on the outer limits of all or part of its continental shelf that extends beyond 200 nautical miles at an appropriate date upon completion of the above work.

9. As set forth in subparagraph 1(c) of SPLOS/183, the preliminary information submitted by China is without prejudice to its future submission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention, the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission.

10. China reserves its right to make submissions on the outer limits of the continental shelf that extends beyond 200 nautical miles in the East China Sea and in other sea areas.

11. Following its consistent position, China will, through peaceful negotiation, delimit the continental shelf with States with opposite or adjacent coasts by agreement on the basis of the international law and the equitable principle.

12. The Chinese Government kindly requests that the Secretary-General of the United Nations inform the Commission and notify member States of the receipt of this preliminary information and make such information publicly available, including on the website of the Commission, as required by subparagraph 1(d) of SPLOS/183.

Figure 1-1 Location of Profile 1 on Map





Table 1-1 Notes on the Points in Profile 1

Serial Number	Location (Latitude & Longitude )	Interpretation on & determining methods of point	Distance to the Baseline (nm)
A	30-10-06.0017N 122-56-44.8767E	Base point (Liangxiongdiyu) contained in the Statement on the Baseline of the Territorial Sea of the People's Republic of China announced by the Chinese Government in 1996	0
B	28-52-06.4807N 126-27-56.6954E	Intersection point of profile line and	



Figure 2-1 Location of Profile 2 on Map

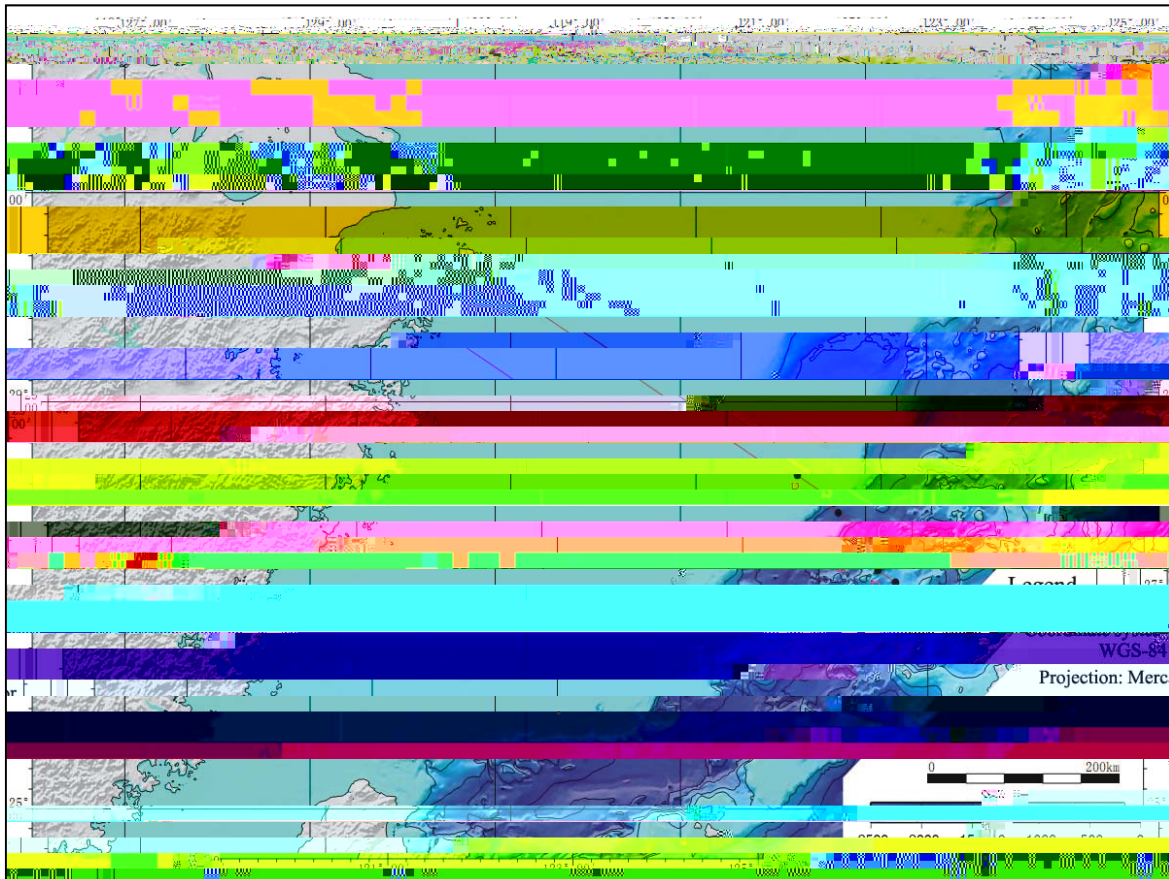


Figure 2-2 Profile Map of Profile 2

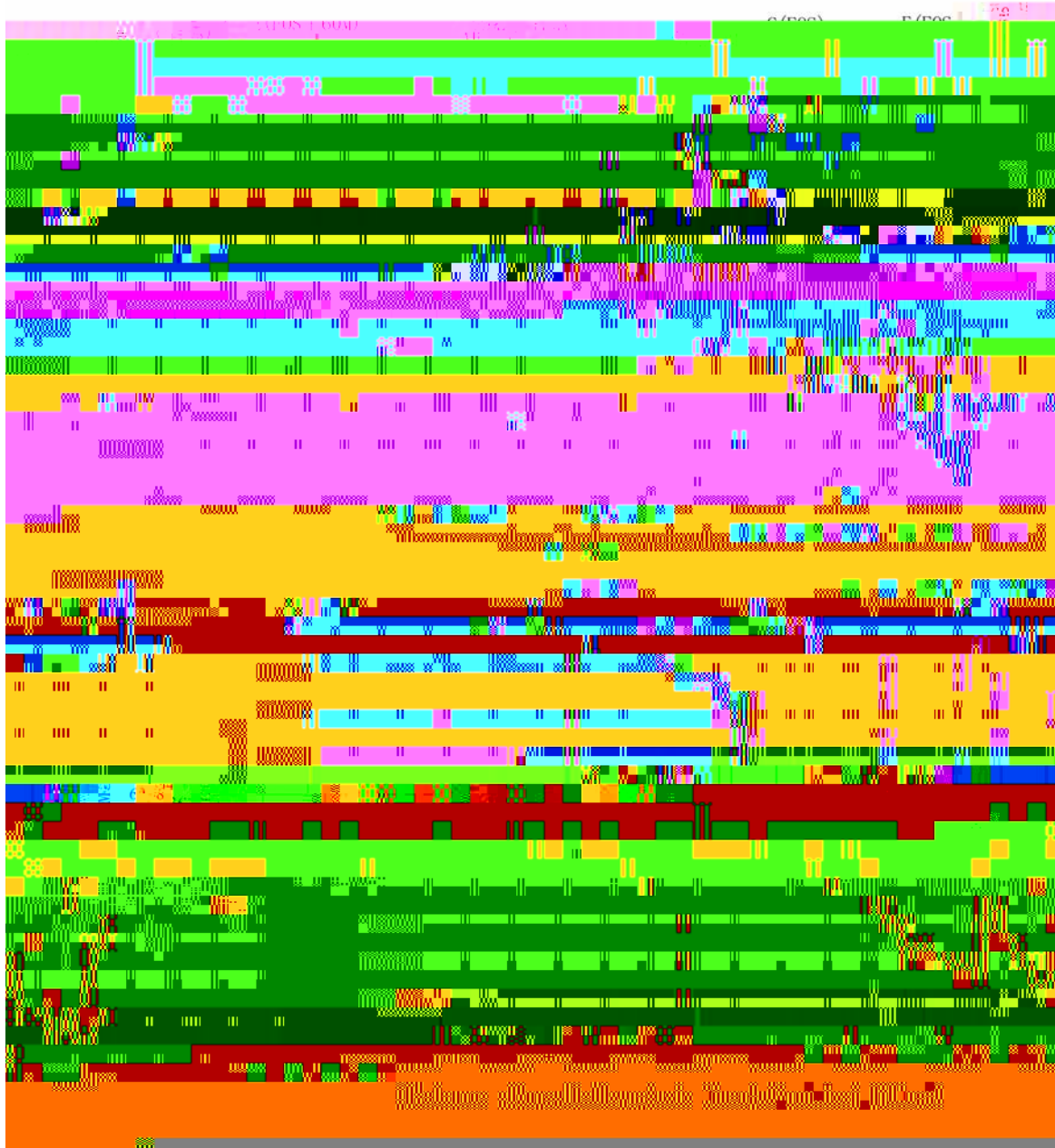


Table 2-1 Notes on the Points in Profile 2

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Location (Latitude &amp; Longitude )</b>	<b>Interpretation on &amp; determining methods of point</b>	<b>Distance to the Baseline (nm)</b>
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Figure 3-1 Location of Profile 3 on Map



Figure 3-2 Profile Map of Profile 3

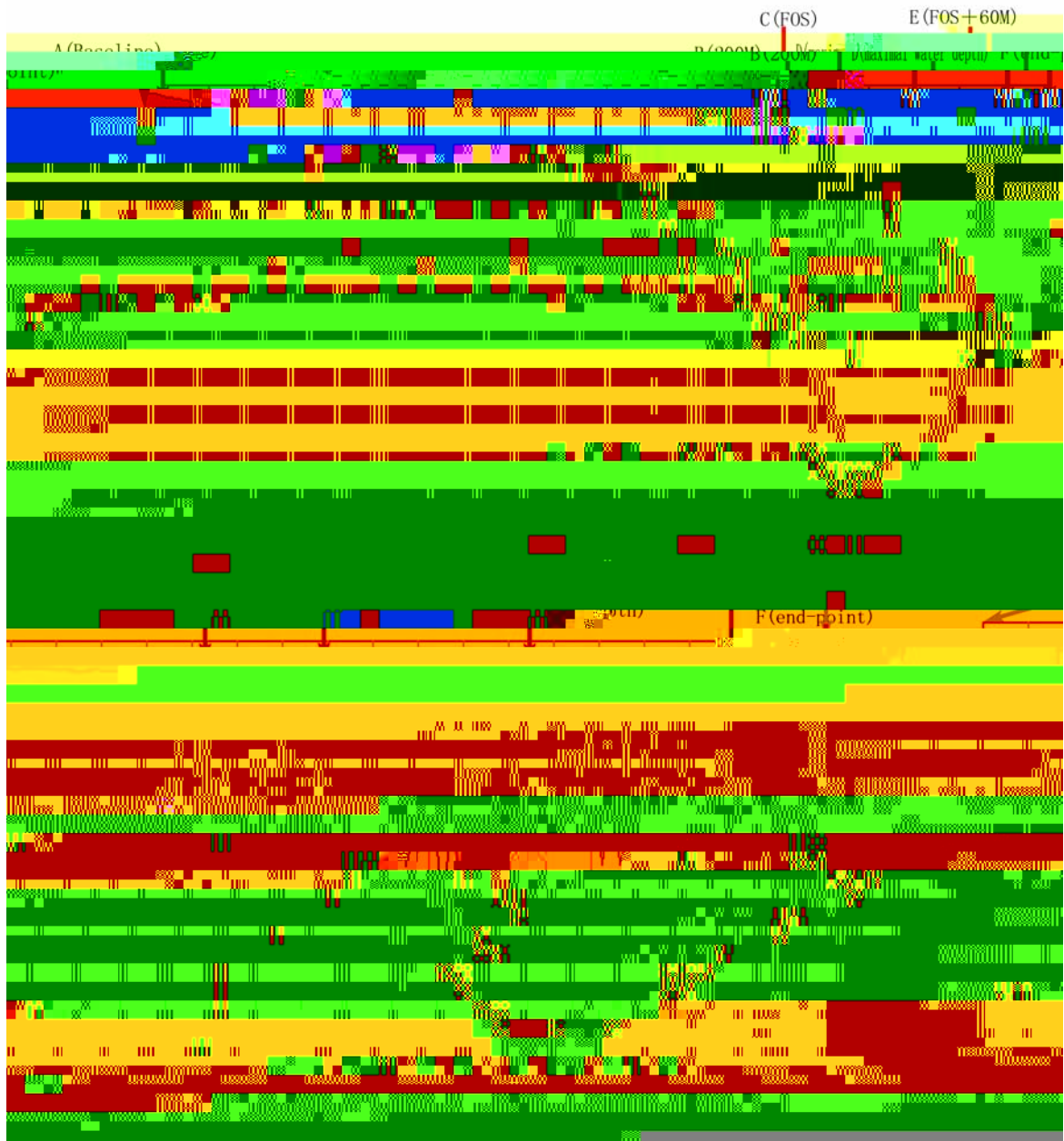


Table 3-1 Notes on the Points in Profile 3:

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Location (Latitude &amp; Longitude )</b>	<b>Interpretation on &amp; determining methods of point</b>	<b>Distance to the Baseline (nm)</b>
A	28-53-17.8902N 122-16-32.7735E	Base point (Yushanliedao) contained in the Statement on the Baseline of the Territorial Sea of the People's Republic of China announced by the Chinese Government in 1996	0
B	26-48-48.6466N 125-13-27.9631E	Intersection point of profile line and the 200 nm limit line	200
C	26-38-09.3151N 125-28-27.2396E	Point of maximum change in the gradient at continental slope	217
D	26-19-25.2000N 125-54-44.9700E	Point of maximum water depth in the Okinawa Trough Water depth: 2134.42m	247
E	26-00-48.1527N 126-20-48.5466E	60 nm extended from the foot of slope along the profile line	277
F	25-52-30.8691N 126-32-23.2606E	End of the profile line	290

Figure 4-1 Location of Profile 4 on Map



Figure 4-2 Profile Map of Profile 4

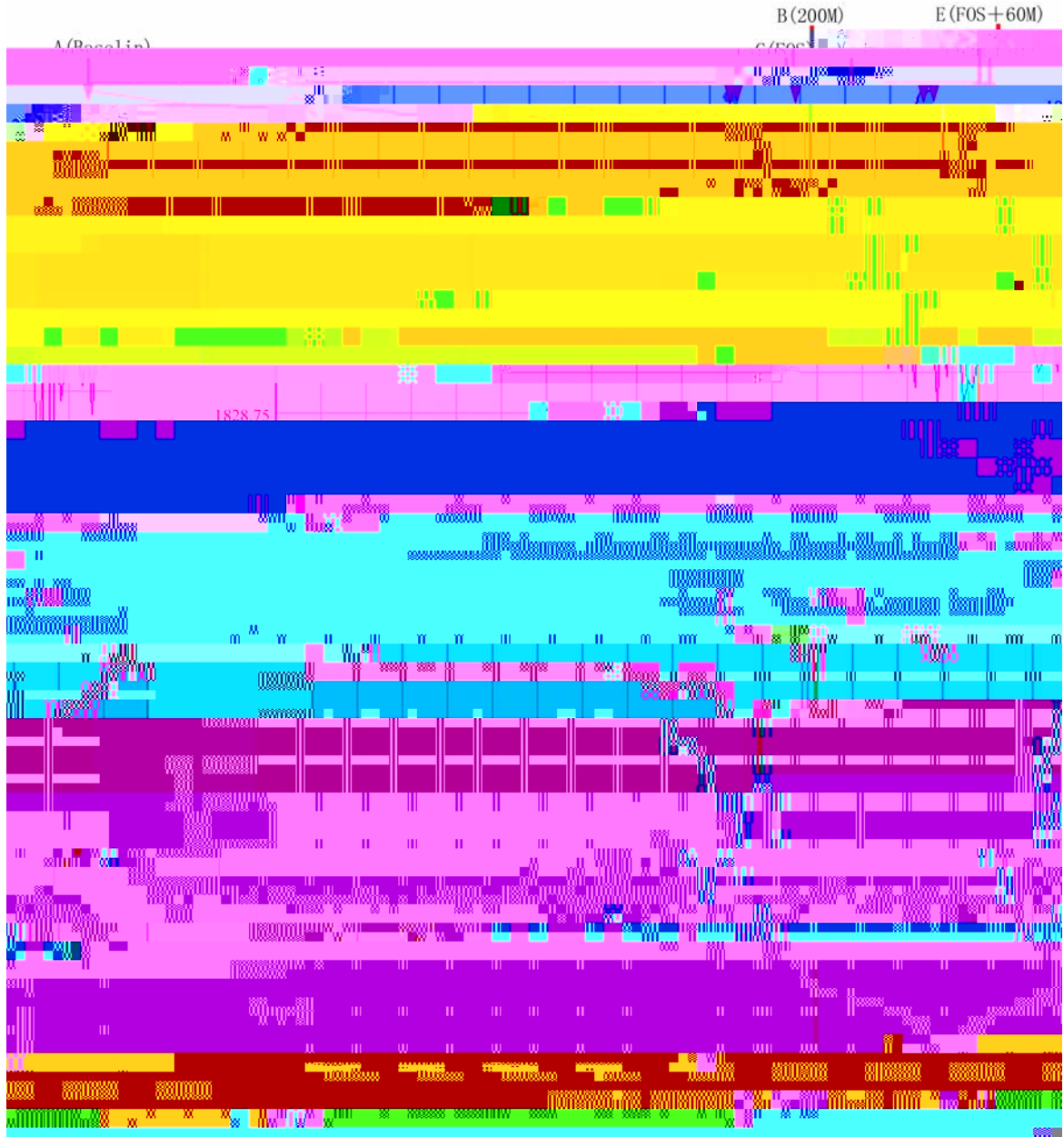




Table 4-1 Notes on the Points in Profile 4:

Serial Number	Location (Latitude & Longitude )	Interpretation on & determining methods of point	Distance to the Baseline (nm)
A	28-23-29.84974N 121-54-44.72766E	Base point (Taizhouliedao(2)) contained in the Statement on the Baseline of the Territorial Sea of the People's Republic of China announced by the Chinese Government in 1996	0
B	25-31-03.91774N 124-09-03.75033E	Intersection point of profile line and the 200 nm limit line	210