



Republic of Cuba

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF TO DEMONSTRATE THE NATURAL EXTENSION OF ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF BEYOND 200 MARINE MILES IN THE EASTERN SECTOR OF THE GULF OF MEXICO

**State Commission of the Outer Limit of the Continental Shelf
Republic of Cuba**

**Havana
2024**

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Republic of Cuba

CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION 3

2. ARGUMENTATION OF THE UPDATE OF THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA IN THE EASTERN POLYGON OF THE GULF OF MÉXICO 5

3. PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 76 OF THE CONVENTION ON WHICH IS BASED THE CURRENT PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION 6

4. OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA IN THE EASTERN POLYGON OF THE GULF OF MEXICO..... 6

5. ABSENCE OF DISPUTES 10

6. NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WHO PROVIDED ADVICE..... 10

7. CUBAN INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING THIS PRESENTATION. 10

Illustration

ILLUSTRATION CU PCE R. 1. GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND CONFIGURATION OF THE EASTERN POLYGON.....4

ILLUSTRATION CU PCE R. 2 OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA IN THE EASTERN POLYGON OF THE GULF OF MÉXICO.....7

ILLUSTRATION CU PCE R. 3 DELINEATION OF THE PROPOSED OUTER LIMIT OF THE CUBAN CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.....9

Tables

TABLE CU PCE R. 1 LIST OF COORDINATES OF THE FIXED POINTS OF THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA.....8

TABLE CU PCE R. 2 LIST OF COORDINATES OF THE POINTS OF THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA DERIVED FROM THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DELIMITATION TREATIES WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES9



Republic of Cuba

1. Introduction

1. The Republic of Cuba formalizes the presentation of information to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (hereinafter the Commission) in order to demonstrate the natural extension of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, counted from the system of baselines from which the width of the territorial sea is measured (hereinafter system of baselines), in the Gulf of Mexico, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (hereinafter the Convention).
2. The Republic of Cuba is a signatory to the Convention, ratified it on August 15, 1984 and it entered into force on November 16, 1994.
3. The Convention, in its Article 76, grants coastal States the right to establish the outer limits of their continental margin, wherever the margin extends beyond 200 nautical miles counted from the baselines from which the width territorial sea is measured, by combining the formulas lines and the restrictions lines established in paragraphs 4 to 6 and drawn in accordance with paragraph 7, from Article 76.
4. The Republic of Cuba submits information to the Commission pursuant to the provisions of Article 76 and in accordance with the procedures described in Annex II of the Convention, demonstrating the natural extension of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, only on the High Seas of the Gulf of Mexico eastern part (hereinafter the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of Mexico), delimited by the exclusive economic zones of the Republic of Cuba (hereinafter Cuba), the United Mexican States (hereinafter Mexico) and the United States of America (hereinafter the United States). Illustration CU PCE R 1 shows the geographic location and configuration of the eastern polygon.
5. The Republic of Cuba is an island State whose maritime zones, measured from the baseline system, are defined in the following legal provisions:
 - Decree-Law No. 1 of 1977: Establishes the territorial sea and sets its extension at 12 nautical miles.
 - Decree-Law No. 158 of 1995: Establishes the contiguous zone and provides for its extension up to 24 nautical miles.
 - Decree-Law No. 2 of 1977 and Decree Law 266 of 2009: Establish the exclusive economic zone and in the Gulf of Mexico set its extension at 200 nautical miles.



Republic of Cuba

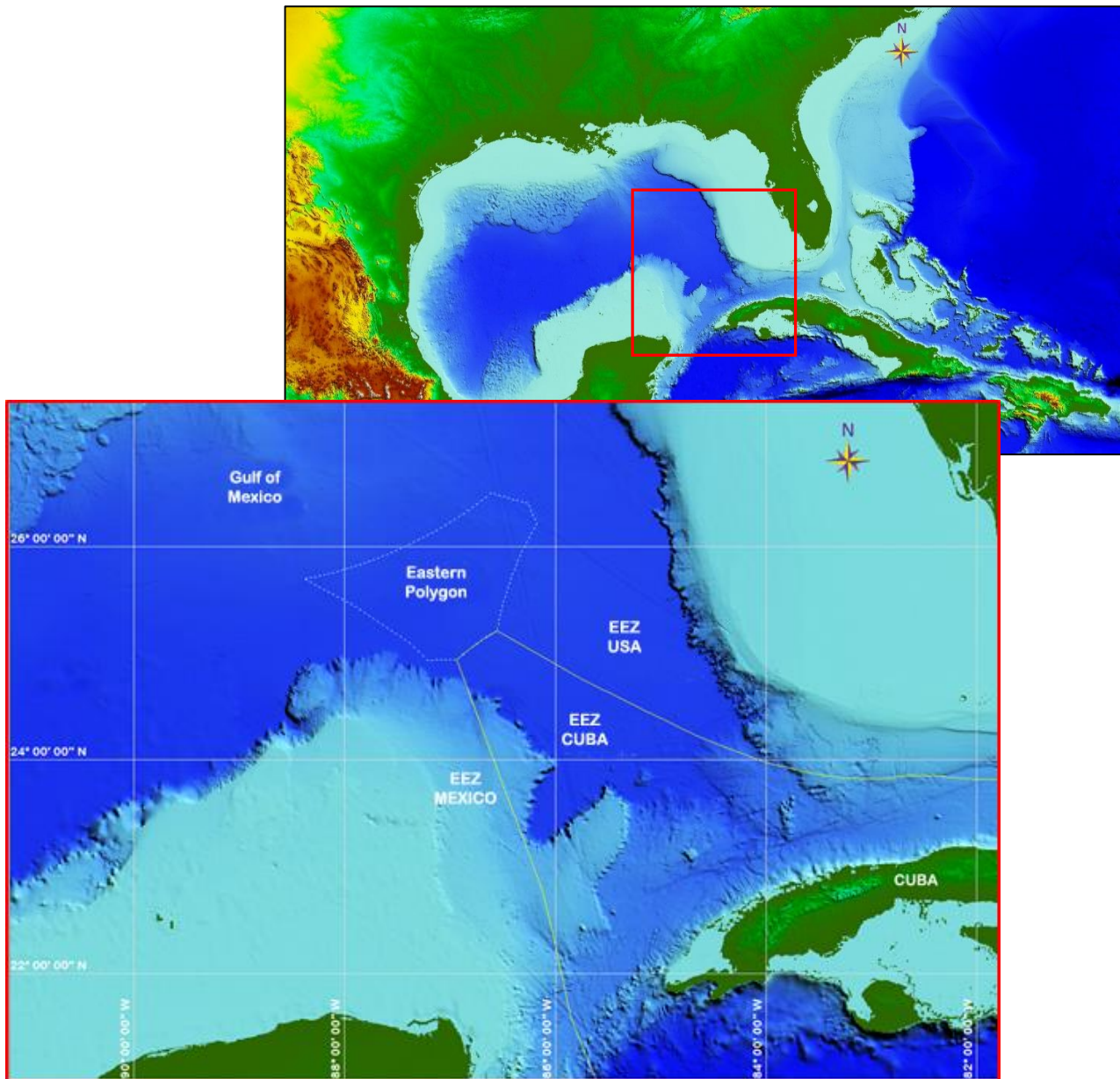


Illustration CU PCE R 1. Geographic location and configuration of the eastern polygon

6. Cuba has signed agreements with two States: Mexico and the United States, four maritime border agreements that define the limit of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the limit of the continental shelf in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of Mexico.
7. Cuba and Mexico agreed on July 26, 1976 to establish the maritime boundary between the exclusive economic zones of both countries and on January 17, 2017, the delimitation of the continental shelf in the Gulf of Mexico.



Republic of Cuba

8. Cuba and the United States agreed on December 16, 1977, the maritime boundary between the exclusive economic zones of both countries and on January 17, 2017, the delimitation of the continental shelf in the Gulf of Mexico. Both treaties are applied provisionally.
9. The treaties between Cuba, Mexico and the United States of 1976 (#23255/1985) and 1977 (#18222/1980) are registered at the United Nations Secretariat. The 2017 treaties were notified to the United Nations through verbal note No. 478 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba on July 19, 2023.
10. The Convention in paragraphs 1 and 4 of Article 83 establishes that:
 1. *The delimitation of the continental shelf between States with opposite or adjacent coasts shall be effected by agreement on the basis of international law, referred to in Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in order to achieve an equitable solution.*
 4. *Where there is an agreement in force between the States concerned, questions relating to the delimitation of the continental shelf shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of that agreement.*
11. In conformity with paragraph 4 of Article 83, the outer limit of the continental shelf of the Republic of Cuba cannot extend beyond the international borders established in the agreements signed with Mexico and the United States in the area of the Eastern Polygon.
12. The presentation of the Cuban State includes extensive data, metadata and information that demonstrate and determine the outer limit of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of Mexico, under the provisions of the Convention and Commission's Regulations and Scientific and Technical Guidelines.

2. Argumentation of the update of the outer limit of the continental shelf of the Republic of Cuba in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of México

13. On June 1, 2009, the Republic of Cuba delivered to the Commission through the United Nations General Secretary a presentation (hereinafter the previous presentation) complying with the decision regarding the start date of the 10-year period to make presentations to the Commission, established in Article 4 of Annex II of the Convention (SPLOS/72), adopted at its 11th meeting, held from May 14 to 18, 2001 and following the approval of the Commission's Scientific and Technical Guidelines on May 13 May 1999.
14. The previous presentation of the Republic of Cuba was explained to the Commission at its headquarters on April 7, 2010 by a Cuban delegation invited for this purpose by the General Secretary of the United Nations. The Commission decided that, as provided for in Article 5 of annex II of the Convention, and Article 42 of the Regulation, the document would be considered by a Subcommission to be established in accordance with Article 51, paragraph 4 of the Regulation, within a period of future sessions. The Commission decided to re-examine the document when it was its turn (order number 51) based on the time at which it had been received (Item 20. CLCS/66).
15. More than 10 years after the delivery of the previous presentation, as the legal scenario of the delimitation of the extended continental shelf changes and the volume of available information changes in its favor, the Republic of Cuba reworks its presentation taking into account the Article 9 of Annex II of the Convention and the conclusions of the Commission document CLCS/46.



Republic of Cuba

3. Provisions of Article 76 of the Convention on which is based the current presentation of information

16. Article 76, paragraph 1, establishes the right of coastal States to determine the outer limit of the continental shelf by two possible formulas based on two criteria: natural prolongation or distance:

"The continental shelf of a coastal State comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural extension of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance."

17. Article 76, paragraph 3, establishes that:

"The continental margin comprises the submerged prolongation of the continental mass of the coastal State and consists up of the seabed and subsoil of the shelf, the slope and the rise. It does not include the deep ocean floor with its oceanic crests and subsoil thereof".

18. Sections i) and ii) of subparagraph a) of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 76 establish the position of the outer limit of the continental margin through a rule based on four rules or lines, two of them are lines of the formulas and two, lines of constraints. The two lines of the formulas and two lines of the constraints are connected to each other by a disjunctive expression:

4.a i) A line drawn in accordance with paragraph 7, by reference to the outermost fixed points, at each of which the thickness of the sedimentary rocks is at least 1% of the shortest distance from such point and the foot of the continental slope; or

4.a ii) A line drawn in accordance with paragraph 7, by reference to fixed points not more than 60 nautical miles from the foot of the continental slope.

5. The fixed points comprising the line of the outer limit of the continental shelf on the seabed, drawn in accordance with the paragraphs 4 (a) i) and ii) either shall not exceed 350 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured or shall not exceed 100 nautical miles from the 2,500 meters isobath, which is a line connecting the depths of 2,500 meters.

19. The disjunctive linking of the lines of the formulas and the lines of restrictions set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article 76 establishes that the fixed points of the limit of the extended shelf of a coastal State will comply with at least one of its components to each type of line.

4. Outer limit of the continental shelf of the Republic of Cuba in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of Mexico

20. The presentation of the Republic of Cuba to extend the limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles is based, under Article 76 of the Convention, on the calculation of a line of the formulas and a line of the restrictions, established in the paragraphs 4 and 5 of these Article, respectively (Illustration CU PCE R. 2).



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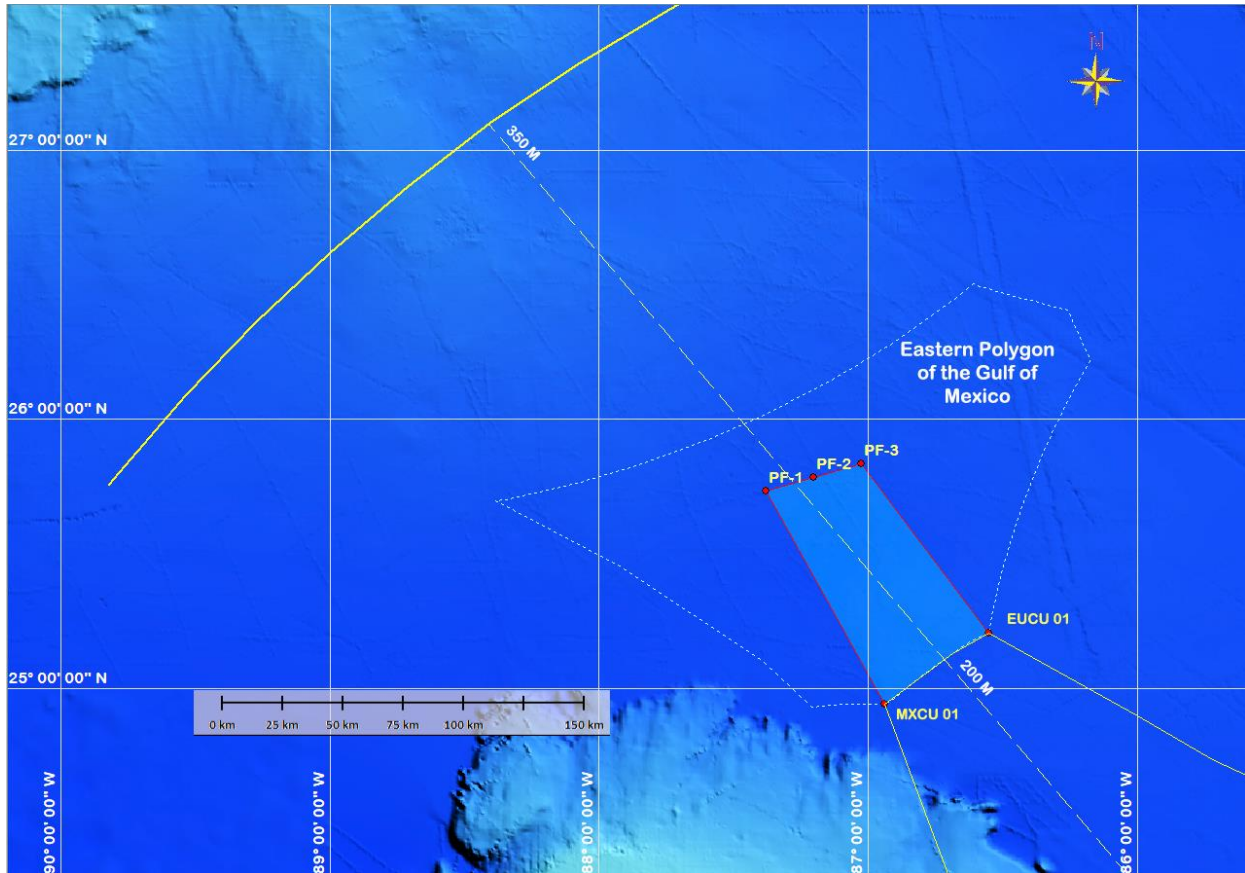


Illustration CU PCE R. 2 Outer limit of the continental shelf of the Republic of Cuba in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of México

21. The Republic of Cuba considered a single point of the foot of the slope for determining the extension of the limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. The limits of the Cuban continental margin in the southeast of the Gulf of Mexico are based on geological, geophysical and geomorphological arguments, which support that the foot of the selected slope is located north of the Catoche Ledge.
22. The formula line used was the one related to the thickness of sediments (Gardiner or Irish Line). The fixed points selected for drawing the line related to the thickness of sediments, in which the thickness of the sedimentary rocks fulfills what is established in Article 76, paragraph 4, section i) of the Convention are the furthest and were documented with 2D seismic information available, interpreted and complemented with geological and potential field information.
23. To comply with the formula related to the thickness of sediments, in correspondence with the distances between the selected foot of the slope and the respective fixed points, thicknesses that do not exceed 3000 meters are required. As a result of the seismic interpretation and considering previous researches made in the region, it was possible to verify that there are sediment thicknesses in the area that exceed 5000 meters, which guarantees compliance with the line of the formulas in a wide range.



Republic of Cuba

24. The line of restrictions used was 350 nautical miles from the system of baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. The determination of the restriction line at a distance of 350 nautical miles was carried out by drawing geodetic lines on the surface of the WGS84 geodetic ellipsoid using the Vincenty 1975 mathematical model applying concentric scanning.
25. For the final arc of the layout of the 350 nautical mile restriction line, the location at the point of the CU-010 Quebrado de Buena Vista baseline system was used as a concentric point, which was selected based on the method “ Wagon Wheel Filter (WWF) and a sweep was carried out in the direction of the area of interest.
26. The outer limit of the continental shelf of the Republic of Cuba in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of Mexico is defined by arcs of geodetic lines that join points with coordinates in the World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS 84), whose distances from each other do not exceed the 60 nautical miles.
27. The coordinates of the fixed points where compliance with the formula line (Gardiner line) can be defined with geophysical data, without exceeding the restriction line (350 nautical mile distance line) to extend the continental shelf of Cuba in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of Mexico beyond 200 nautical miles (Illustration CU PCE R. 2) are listed in Table CU PCE R. 1.

Table CU PCE R. 1 List of coordinates of the fixed points of the outer limit of the continental shelf of the Republic of Cuba.

Fixed point	North latitude	West longitude	Distance to the previous one in nautical miles
	Decimal degrees		
CU PF 1	25.732300	-87.378700	-
CU PF 2	25.783000	-87.203000	10
CU PF 3	25.834200	-87.027300	10

28. Taking into account that since 2017 Cuba signed both treaties of Delimitation of the Continental Shelf with Mexico and the United States, that comply with the principle of equity and the equidistance method, and in which the limit between States is defined in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of Mexico, in accordance with Article 83 of the Convention, the points of the outer limit of Cuba's continental shelf do not extend beyond what is established in the agreements with the neighboring coastal States, Mexico and the United States (Illustration CU PCE R. 3).



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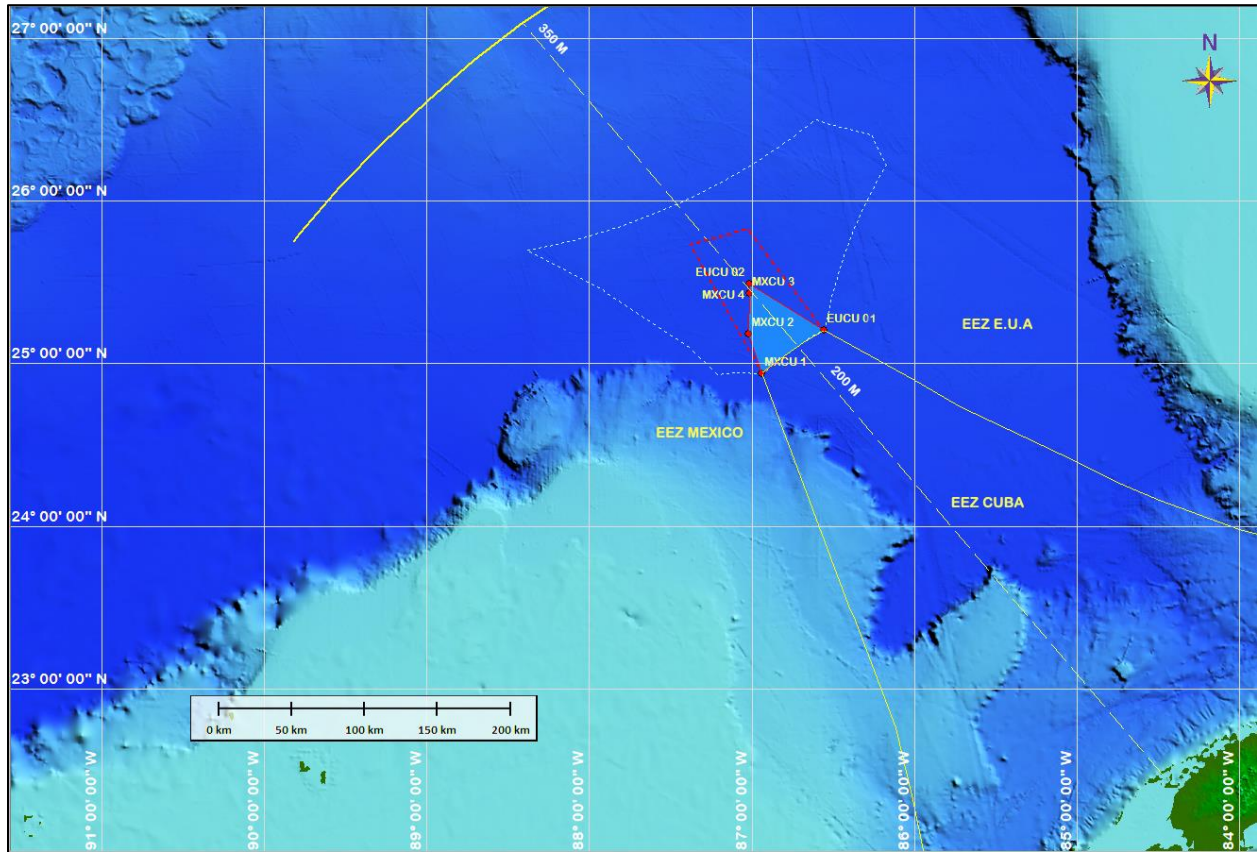


Illustration CU PCE R. 3 Delineation of the proposed outer limit of the Cuban continental shelf in the Gulf of Mexico

29. Table CU PCE R. 2 lists the points of the outer limit of Cuba in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of Mexico, considering the agreements between neighboring States.

Table CU PCE R. 2 List of coordinates of the points of the outer limit of the continental shelf of the Republic of Cuba derived from the Continental Shelf Delimitation Treaties with the United States of America and the United Mexican States

Limit point	North latitude			West longitude		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
MXCU 01	24	56	30.25	-86	56	16.60
MXCU 02	25	10	58.30	-87	01	12.37
MXCU 03	25	25	46.92	-87	00	54.45
MXCU 04 EUCU 02	25	29	16.44	-87	00	49.44
EUCU 01	25	12	26.28	-86	33	11.91



Republic of Cuba

30. The fixed points and the points of the outer limit of the continental shelf of Cuba in the Eastern Polygon of the Gulf of Mexico are located at a distance of less than 60 nautical miles between them in correspondence with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article 76.

5. Absence of disputes

31. The maritime borders of neighboring States in the eastern area of the Gulf of Mexico have been delimited by agreements. In the Eastern Polygon there are no disputes regarding border delimitation.

6. Names of members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf who provided advice

32. For the preparation of the presentation, the Republic of Cuba did not receive advice from any member of the Commission.

7. Cuban institutions responsible for preparing this presentation.

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Ministry of Energy and Mines.
- Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.
- Ministry of Justice.
- Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.
- CubaPetróleo Union.
- Petroleum Research Center.
- Marine Research Center of the University of Havana.
- National Hydrography and Geodesy Office.
- National Mineral Resources Office.