



The U.S. Extended Continental Shelf Project and the Arctic

**Arctic Icebreaker
Coordinating
Committee
Briefing**

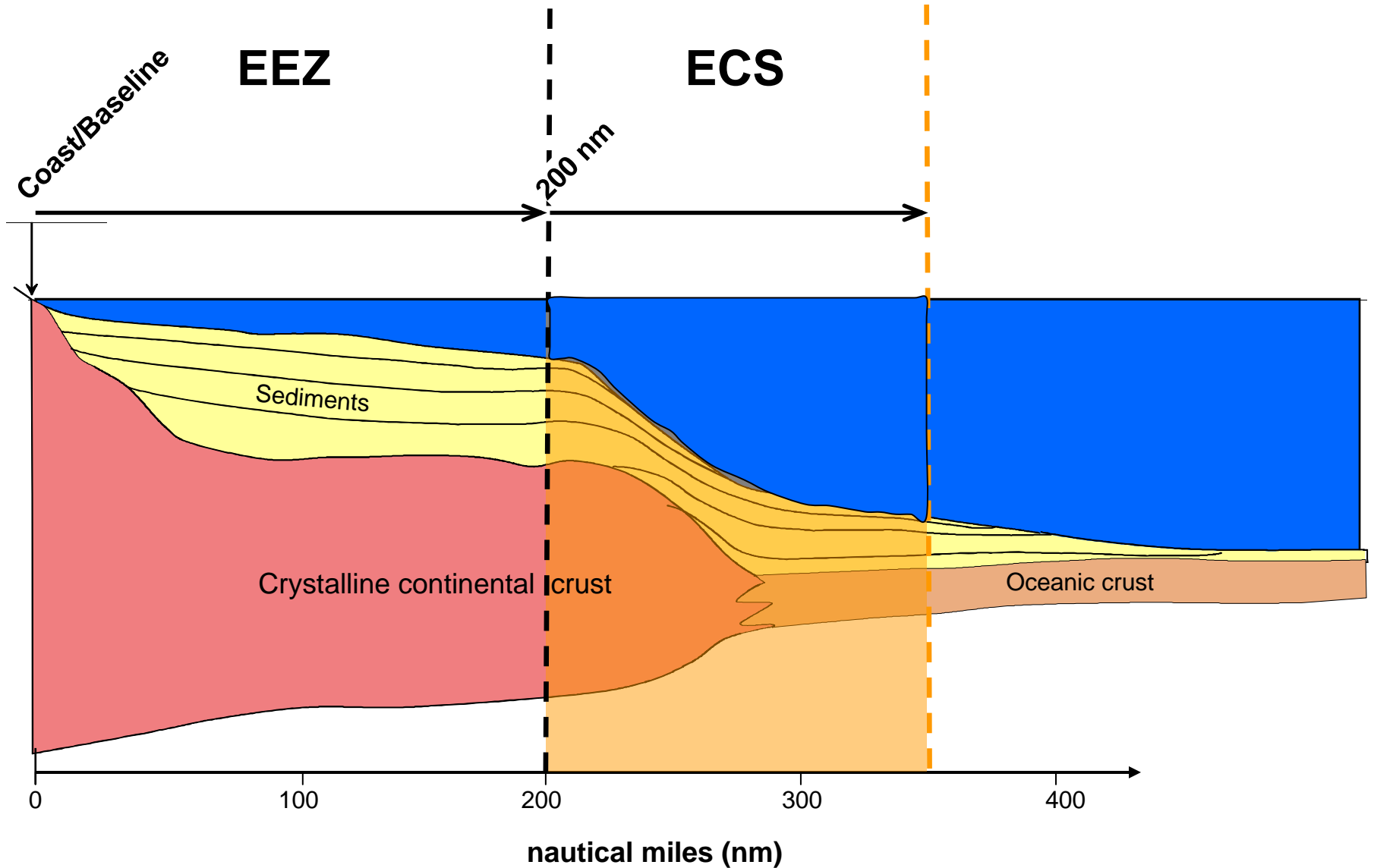
November 28 , 2007

What is the Extended Continental Shelf?

Under international law, every coastal State gets a 200-mile shelf automatically.

Some coastal States can claim an extended continental shelf beyond 200 miles IF the shelf meets the criteria under Article 76 of the Law of the Sea Convention

The Extended Continental Shelf (ECS)



Why is this important?

Coastal State has exclusive sovereign rights over the natural resources of the shelf.

- Oil, gas, and other mineral resources
- Sedentary species
(clams, crabs, scallops, sponges, and mollusks)

Coastal State has control over marine scientific research on and below the continental shelf.

How does a State establish its ECS?

- **Conduct desktop study with existing data**
- **Collect additional data, especially bathymetry and seismic, if needed**
- **Analyze data and identify ECS limits**

Other Countries

About 60 countries have a potential ECS.

Most have begun work to support a claim.

9 of those countries have made a submission in whole or in part.

- Russia
- Brazil
- Australia
- Ireland
- New Zealand
- Joint Submission (France, Ireland, Spain, and U.K.)
- Norway
- France (New Caledonia and French Guiana)

The U.S. Effort

- Led by the ECS Task Force since 2006
- Interagency effort – more than 13 agencies/organizations included
- Chaired by Department of State
- Co-Vice Chairs – Department of Interior &
- NOAA
- Funding requested in FY 2008 PB and expected in FY 2009 PB

Extended Continental Shelf Task Force



Department of State (DOS)



Executive Office
of the President



Department of the Interior (DOI)



National Science
Foundation (NSF)

MMS

Minerals Management Service (MMS)



U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)



Department of Commerce (DOC)



National Oceanographic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)



Department of Energy (DOE)



United States Coast Guard
Department of Homeland Security



U.S. Navy (USN)



Arctic Research
Commission (ARC)

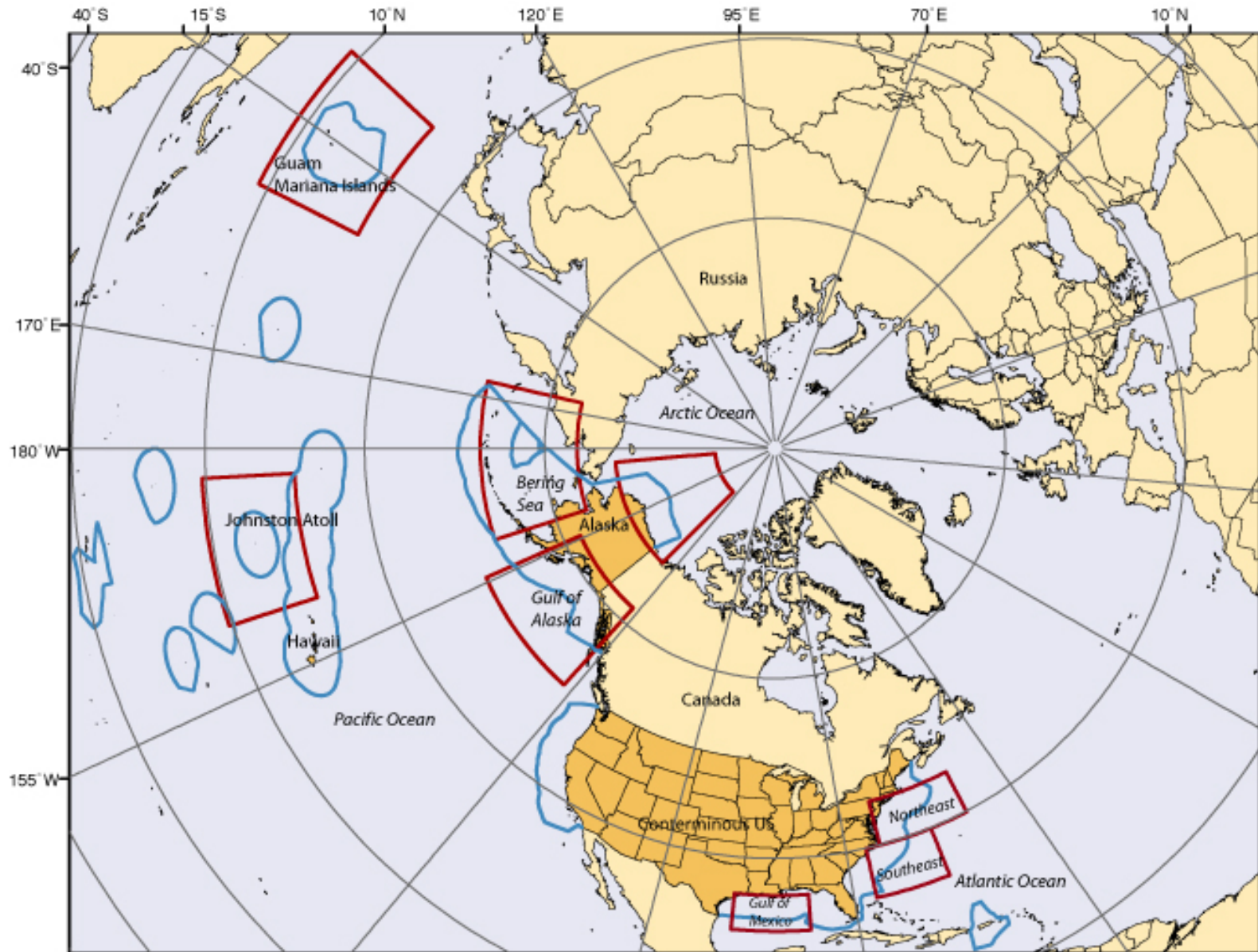


Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS)

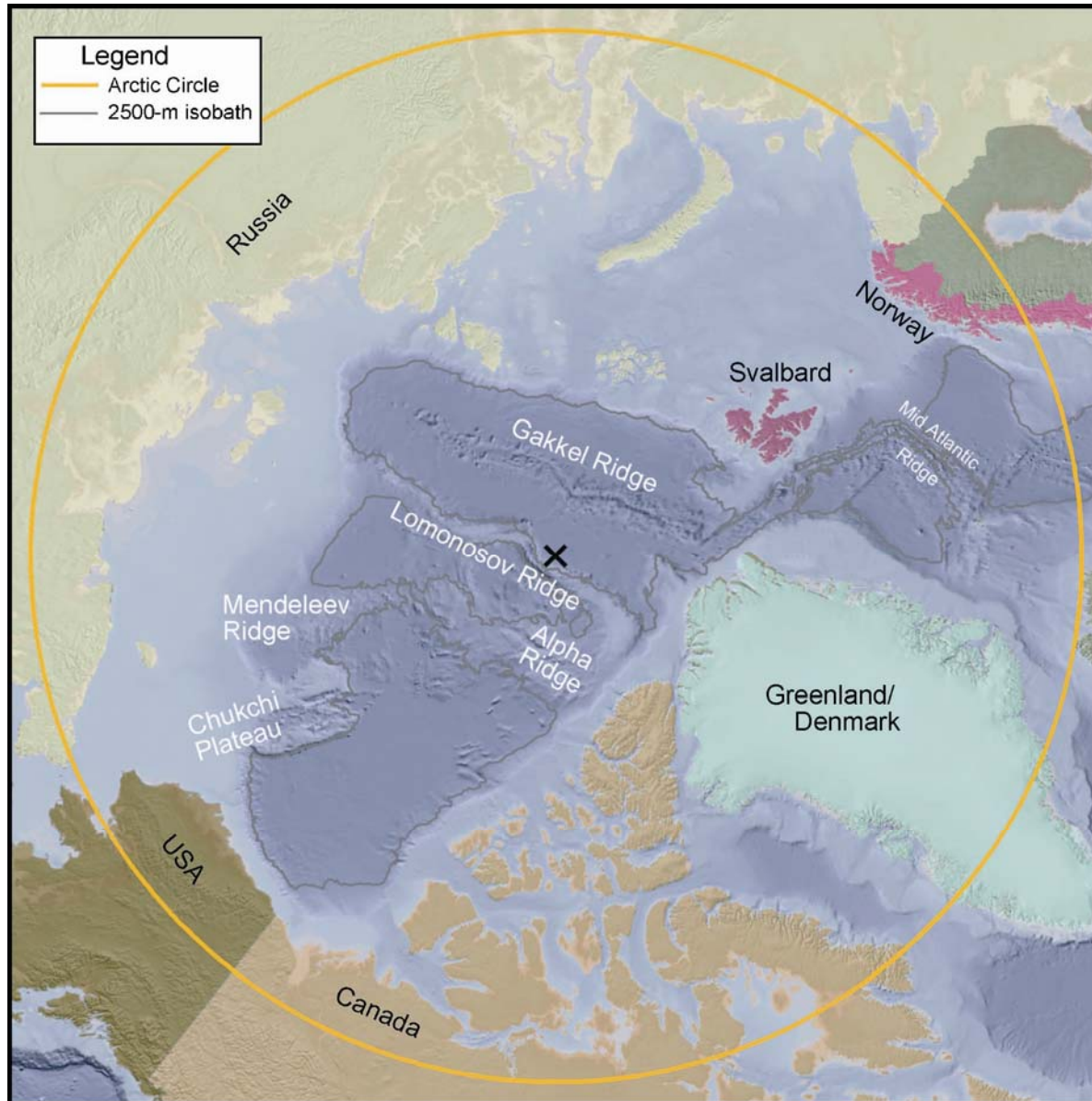


Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA)

Where Is Our ECS?



The Arctic



Russian Effort

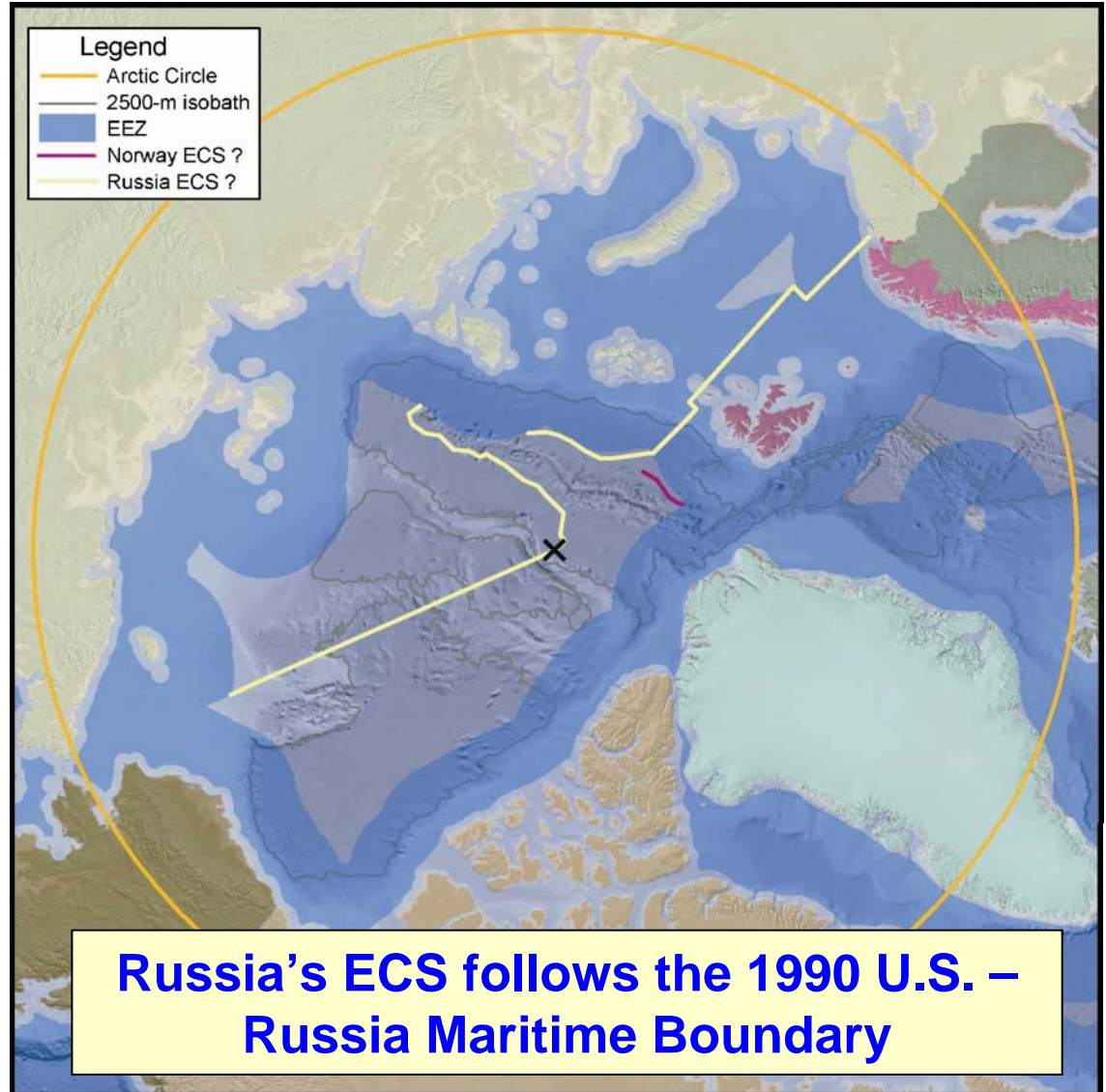
Russian submission in 2001

U.S. questioned extent of Russian shelf claim regarding two ridges

Commission required additional data

1990 maritime boundary, though in force provisionally, incorporated in submission

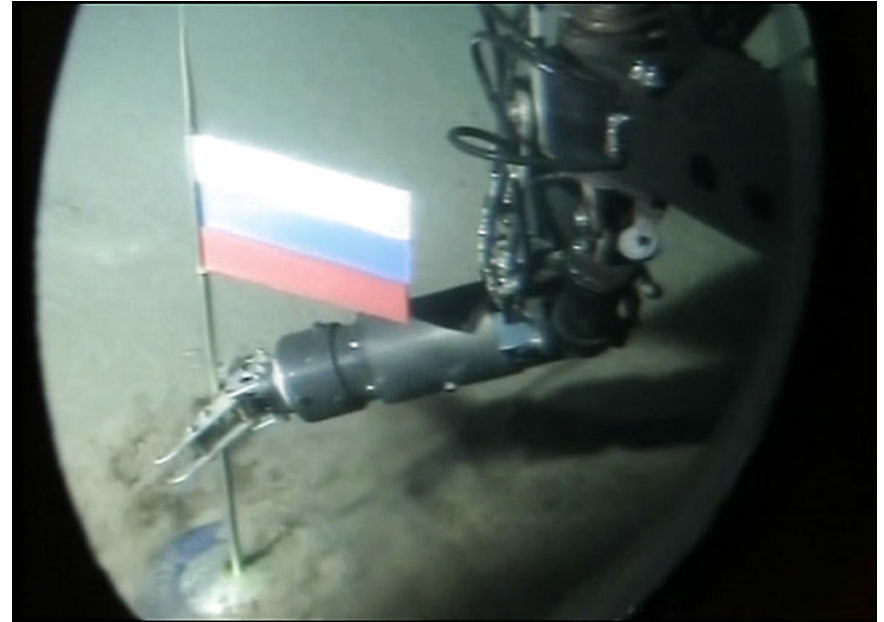
Russia not claiming anything U.S. could



Russian Effort

**Russian mini sub planted
flag on seabed of North Pole
August 2**

**While a technological
achievement, only symbolic
value in regard to Russia's
continental shelf – no legal
effect**

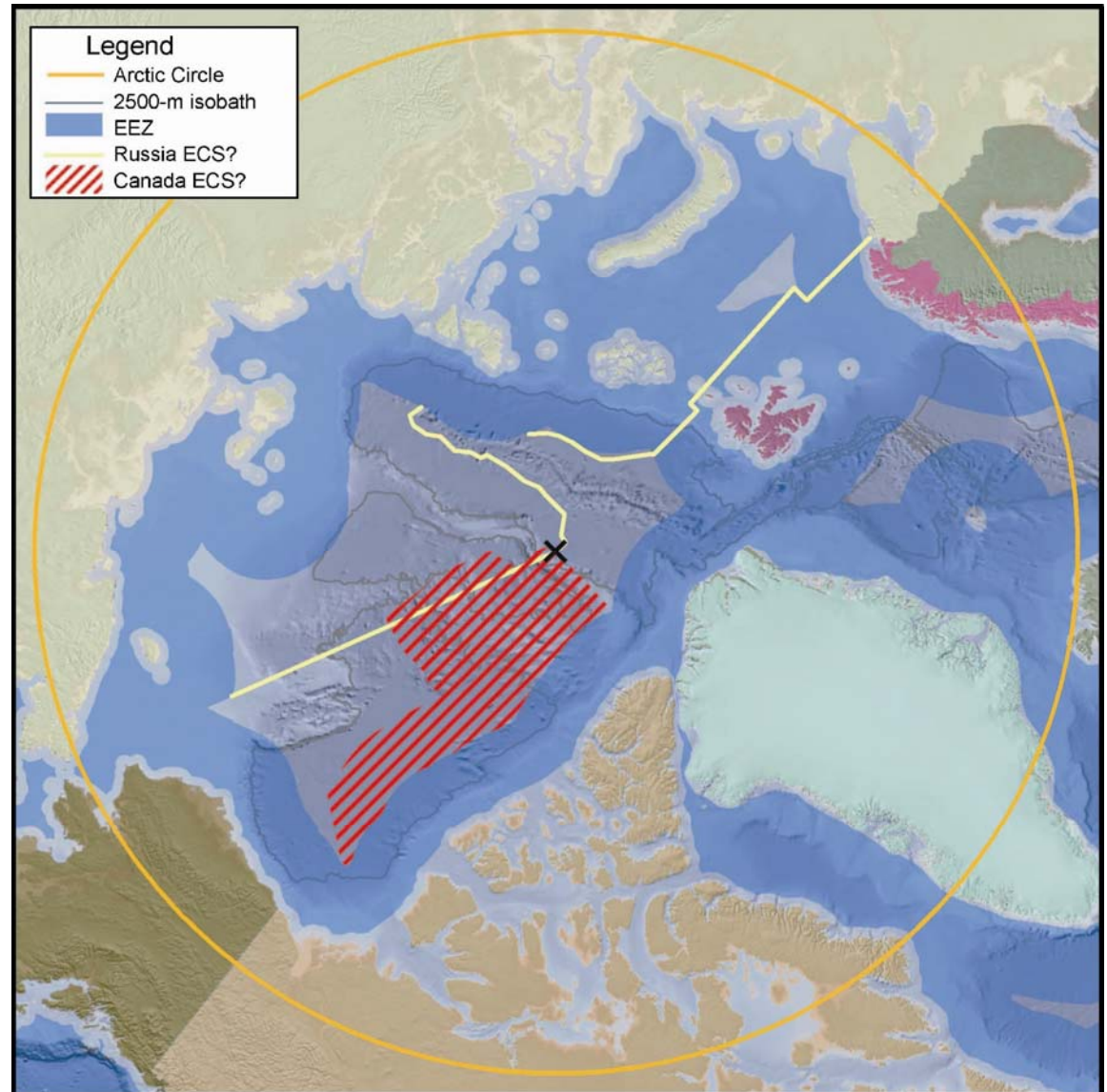


Canadian Effort

**Submission due in
2013**

**Cooperative seismic
effort with Denmark
and U.S.**

**Initial discussions
with U.S. underway**

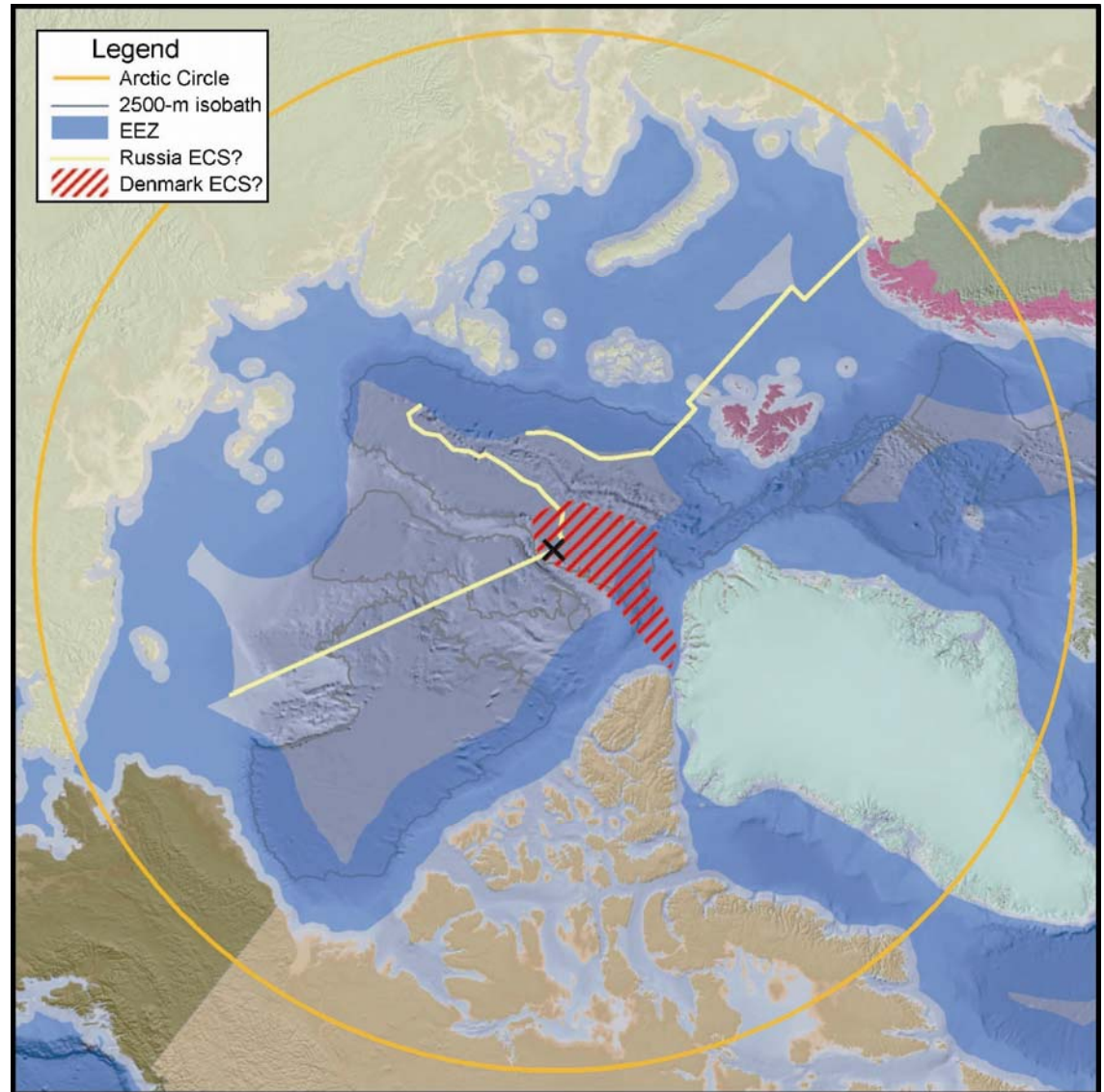


Danish Effort

Claims North Pole

**ECS areas off
Greenland and
Faroe Islands**

**Submission due in
2014**



U.S. Efforts Thus Far

NOAA

- Funded UNH to conduct a study in 2002 for \$750,000
- Provided \$11 million to collect bathymetric data off the East Coast, Gulf of Mexico, Mariana Islands, the Gulf of Alaska, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Arctic Ocean

Navy

- Provided ships for the collection of bathymetric data off the East Coast and in the Marianna Islands

Coast Guard and NSF

- Provided use of the USCG Healy over three summers

USGS

- 2002 – 2007: \$250,000 – \$300,000 annually

U.S. Department of State

- Coordinating ECS interagency working group, providing legal and diplomatic guidance, and examining submissions by other nations

U.S. Efforts in the Arctic

U.S. efforts in the Arctic focused on bathymetry collection from USCG Healy; new seismic data yet to be collected

**Third cruise (Aug 17 – Sept 15)
2007**

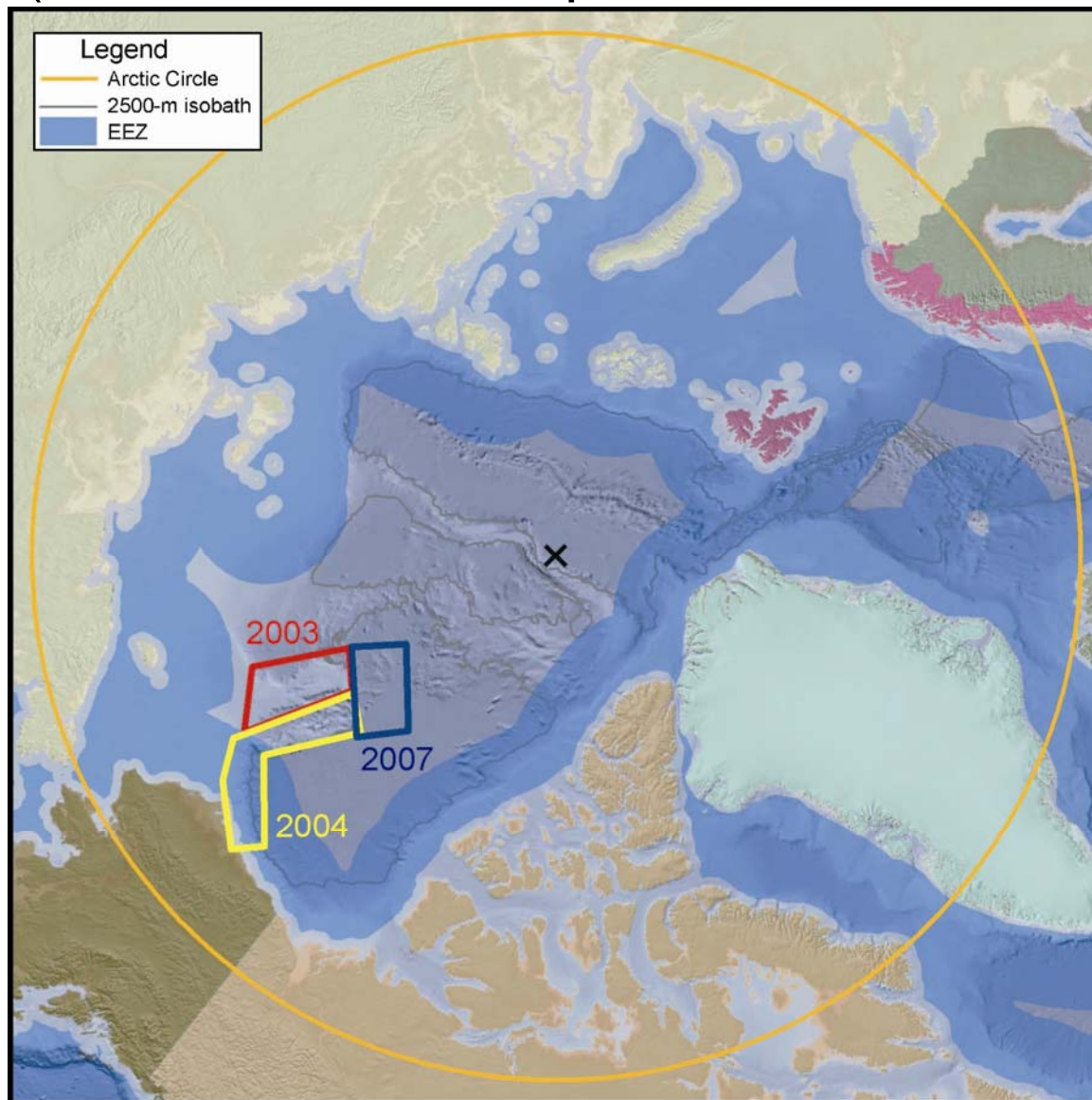
**Approximately 60-65% of
bathymetry needed in the Arctic
will have been collected after
this field season**



USCG Healy

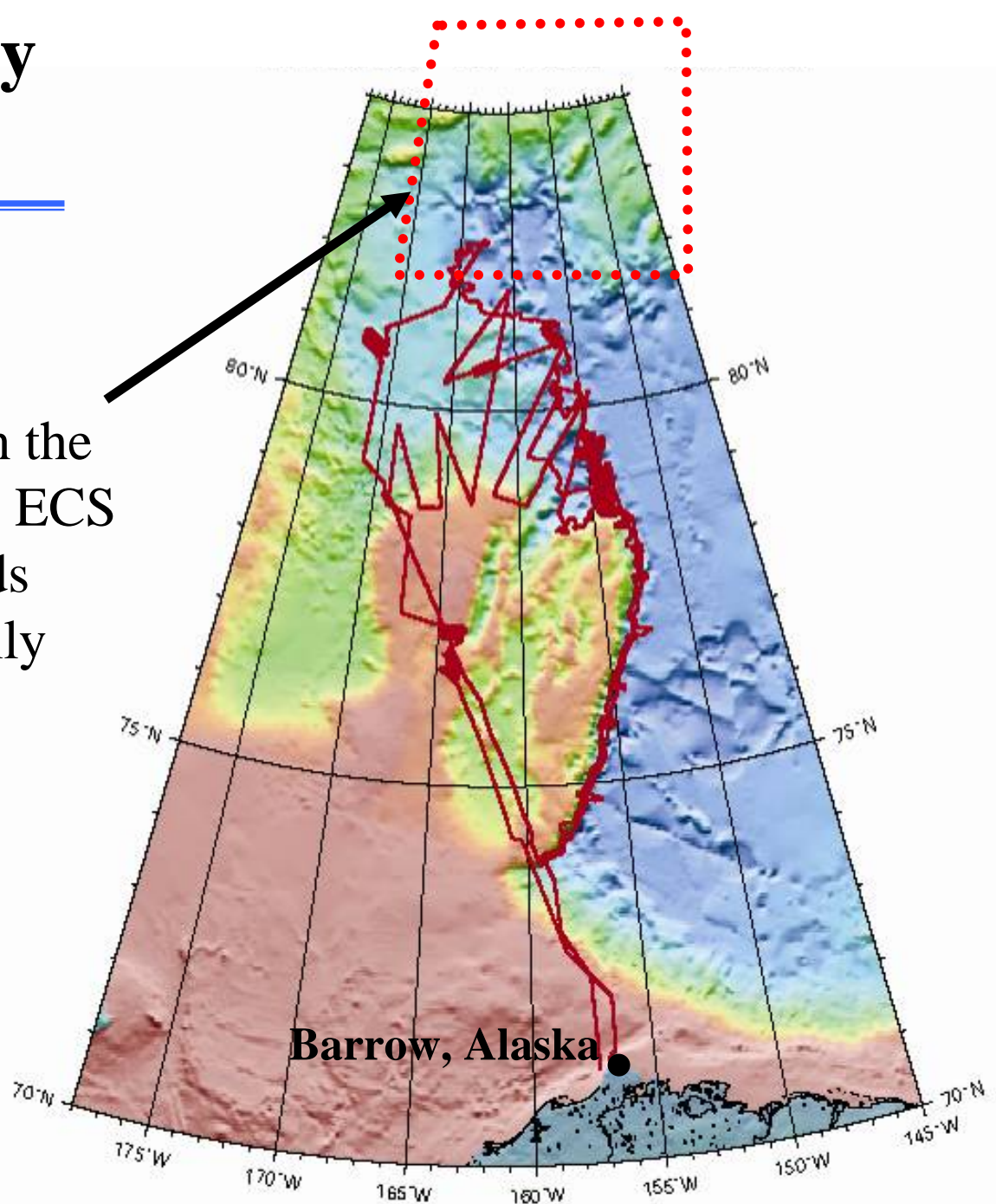
Bathymetry Collection in the Arctic

(General Areas of Operation of the Healy)



U.S. ECS potentially expanded

Based on data collected in the summer of 2007, the U.S. ECS in the Arctic likely extends farther north than originally expected (red box).



ECS Next Steps in the Arctic

- Arctic Workshop, January 2008
develop scenarios for potential submission
- Data Collection during summer 2008
 - Healy bathymetric cruise
 - Healy as part of two boat seismic operation with Canadians
- Additional data collection in future years-TBD