

**BRAZILIAN SOUTHERN MARGIN: AN EXAMPLE OF THE
IDENTIFICATION OF THE BASE OF THE SLOPE ON A PASSIVE
CONTINENTAL MARGIN**

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Abstract

The establishment of the outer limit of the continental shelf beyond 200 Nautical Miles requires firstly the determination of the regions mentioned as base of the slope for then to determine the foot of slope (FOS) in order to apply the criteria in accordance to United Nations Convention on The Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The foot of slope (FOS) is defined on UNCLOS, Article 76th “... in absence of the evidence to the contrary, the foot of the slope shall be determined as the point of maximum change in the gradient in its base.” Based on the last part of the statement it is reasonable to interpret that first it is necessary to identify the base of slope to find out later the point of the maximum change in the gradient in this region (base of slope). Considering the first sentence of the statement it is comprehensible that there is another way to determine the FOS which is not based on gradient changing.

The current study presents some discussions regarding the identification of the base of slope in passive margins using the Southern Brazilian Continental Margin as an example. In order to attend this approach the data carried out by the Brazilian Continental Shelf Project were employed. Furthermore this study considers an overview exercise of the determination of the FOS by means of “evidence to the contrary” with the use of public domain data basically. The results of this study imply that is more advantage to the Coastal State in using of gradient in this region instead of invoke prove to the contrary to the determination of the FOS.