

IMPROVING YOUR UNCLOS SUBMISSION – SOME THOUGHTS ON TEXT AND FIGURES

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Abstract

The purpose of an UNCLOS submission is to describe the outer limits of the continental shelf convincingly and efficiently. From New Zealand's experience, attention to the organisation and presentation of the submission can make it easier for Commissioners to use and understand, and facilitate a smooth and rapid consideration by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. This is particularly important if a digital version of the submission is likely to be the primary source for the Commissioners.

Techniques for writing good scientific papers and legal documents are not necessarily appropriate for writing a submission. In the submission, clarity and simplicity are the goals of both text and figures. The text should be organized to make it easy for Commissioners to extract information and understand the technical issues behind the interpretation of the outer limits of the continental shelf. Figures should be simplified and carefully drafted to support the points made in the text.

We will show examples of how text and figures can be improved, and how the linking of data in a geographic information system (GIS) can influence how it is viewed and how it should be presented.