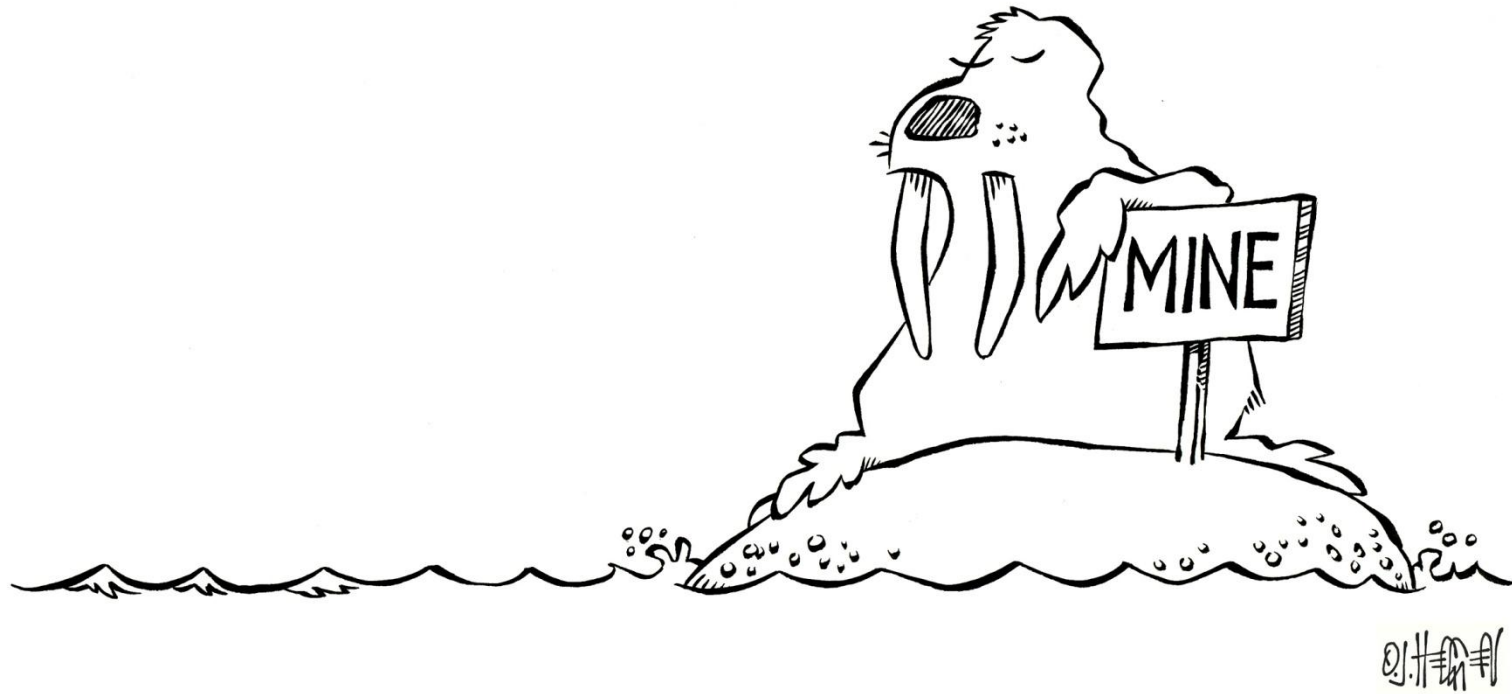


Increasing Disharmony in the South China Sea?

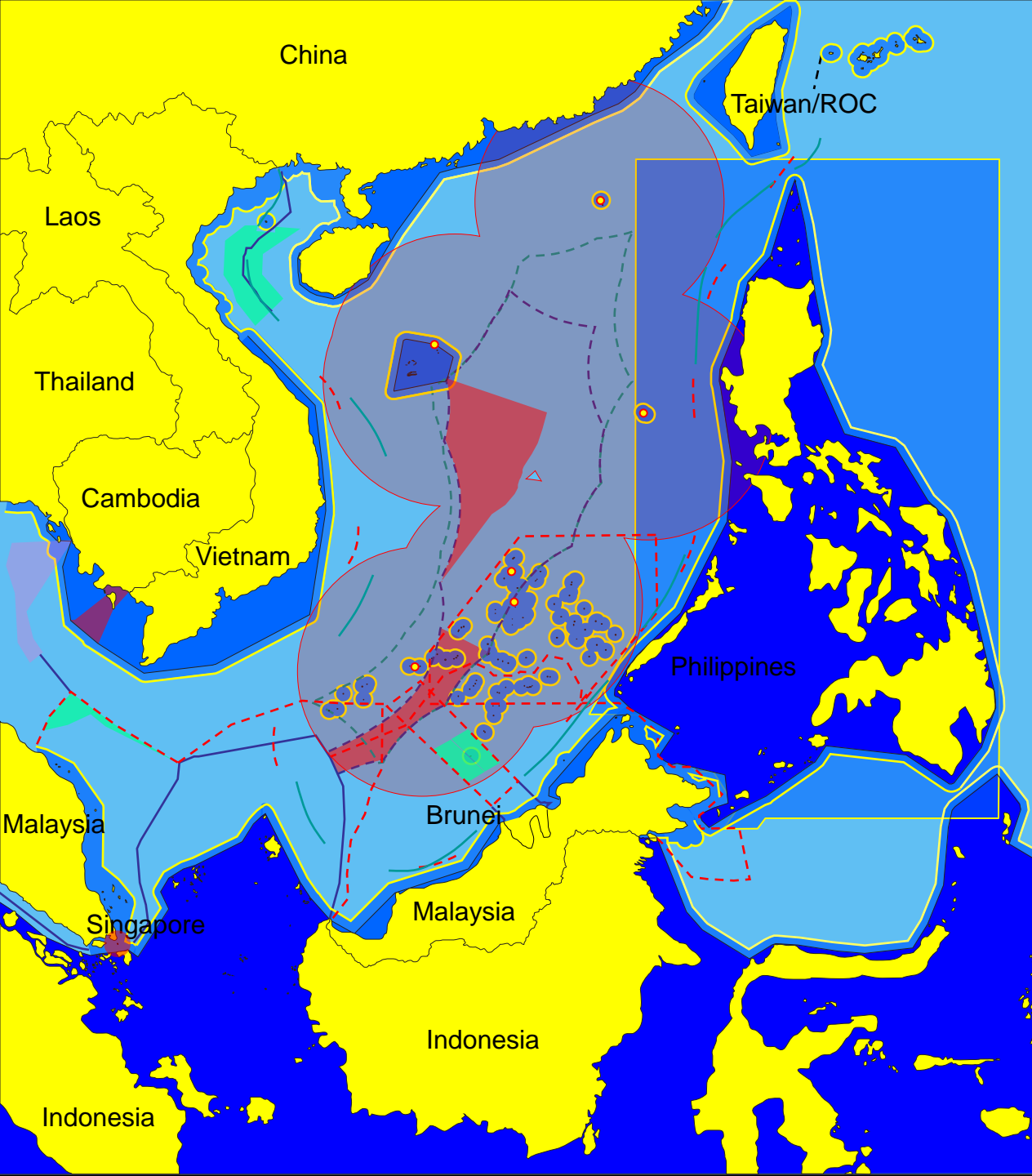


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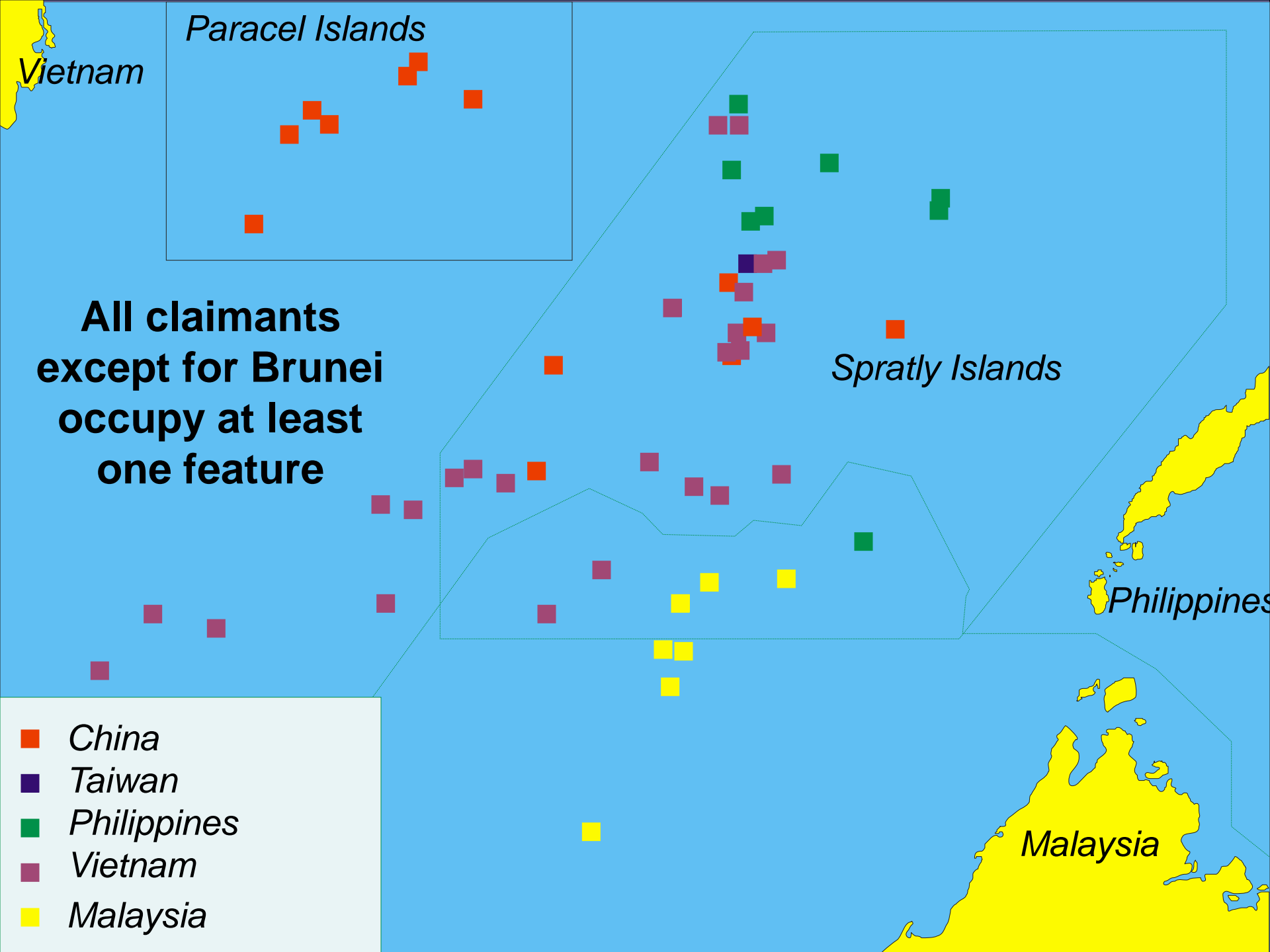
The Spratly Islands: What and Where?

- **What?** Profusion of submerged banks and shoals, reefs, cays and low-tide elevations, rocks and islets
- **Where?** Scattered over c.240,000km² of the southern South China Sea
- **How many?** Estimates vary.
 - Only 36 above water at high tide
- **How big?**
 - Largest (Itu Aba): 1.4km long, area of c.50 hectares
 - Spratly Island: c.13 hectares in area
 - Total surface area estimated at 8km²



The South China Sea

- Mainland and main island coasts
- Disputed Islands in the South China Sea
- Baselines (archipelagic, straight)
- Archipelagic waters
- Internal waters
- 12nm from baselines and islands
- 200nm from mainland coasts
- 200nm from mainland baselines
- 200nm from Spratly, Thitu Island, Itu Aba Island, Woody Island, Pratas Island, and Scarborough Reef
- Agreed boundaries
- Cambodia-Vietnam Joint Historic Waters Area
- Thai-Malaysia Joint Development Area
- Malaysia-Vietnam "Defined Area"
- China-Vietnam Joint zone – Gulf of Tonkin
- Thai-Cambodia MOU
- Chinese dashed line: 11, 9, 10
- Philippine Treaty Limits "box"
- Unilateral claims (Philippines' KIG polygon)
- Unilateral claims (Malaysia Peta Baru 1979)
- Unilateral claims (Brunei)
- Malaysia-Brunei joint arrangement
- Unilateral claims (Indonesia's EEZ)
- Singaporean Claim from Pedra Branca
- ECS submissions (Malaysia and Vietnam,)



South China Sea

Equidistance/median lines
with full effect from disputed islands



Geopolitical Concerns

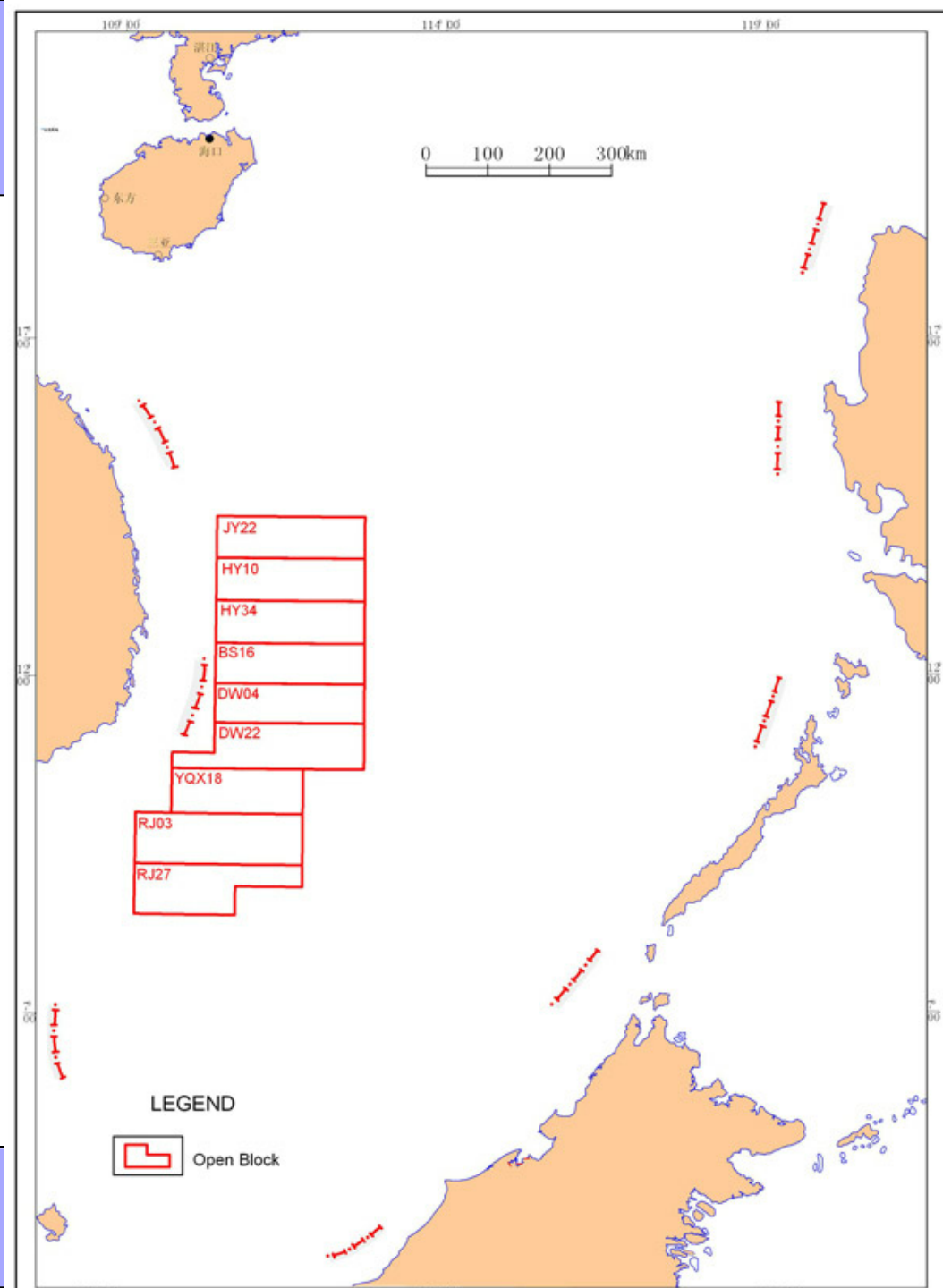
- Sovereignty
- Crucial sea lanes
- Marine Spaces and Resources
 - Oil illusions?
 - Environmental/Food security

The “oil rich” Spratlys?

- Persistent perception that the seabed around the Spratlys hosts significant oil and gas resources
 - The “next Middle East”?
- Wild variation in estimated reserves
 - USGS: 21,500Mb
 - Chinese estimates: 105,000-213,000Mb
- Speculative estimates due to lack of exploration
- Resources vs Reserves
- Seabed hydrocarbons present but at the margins?
- Predominantly gas prone
- Significant lead time
- No ‘silver bullet’ for regional energy security concerns

Recent Developments

- Fisheries incidents with Indonesia, 2009 & 2010
- Cable cutting incidents with Vietnam, 2011 & 2012
- Incident off Malaysia 2012
- Reed Bank incidents, 2011
- Scarborough Shoal standoff, 2012
- CNOOC blocks, June 2012



Prospects

- Increasing clarity or complexity?
- Increasing activity, increasing militarisation
- More incidents highly likely
- Efforts to defuse tensions/clarify claims
 - Code of conduct?
 - Joint development?
 - Arbitration?

