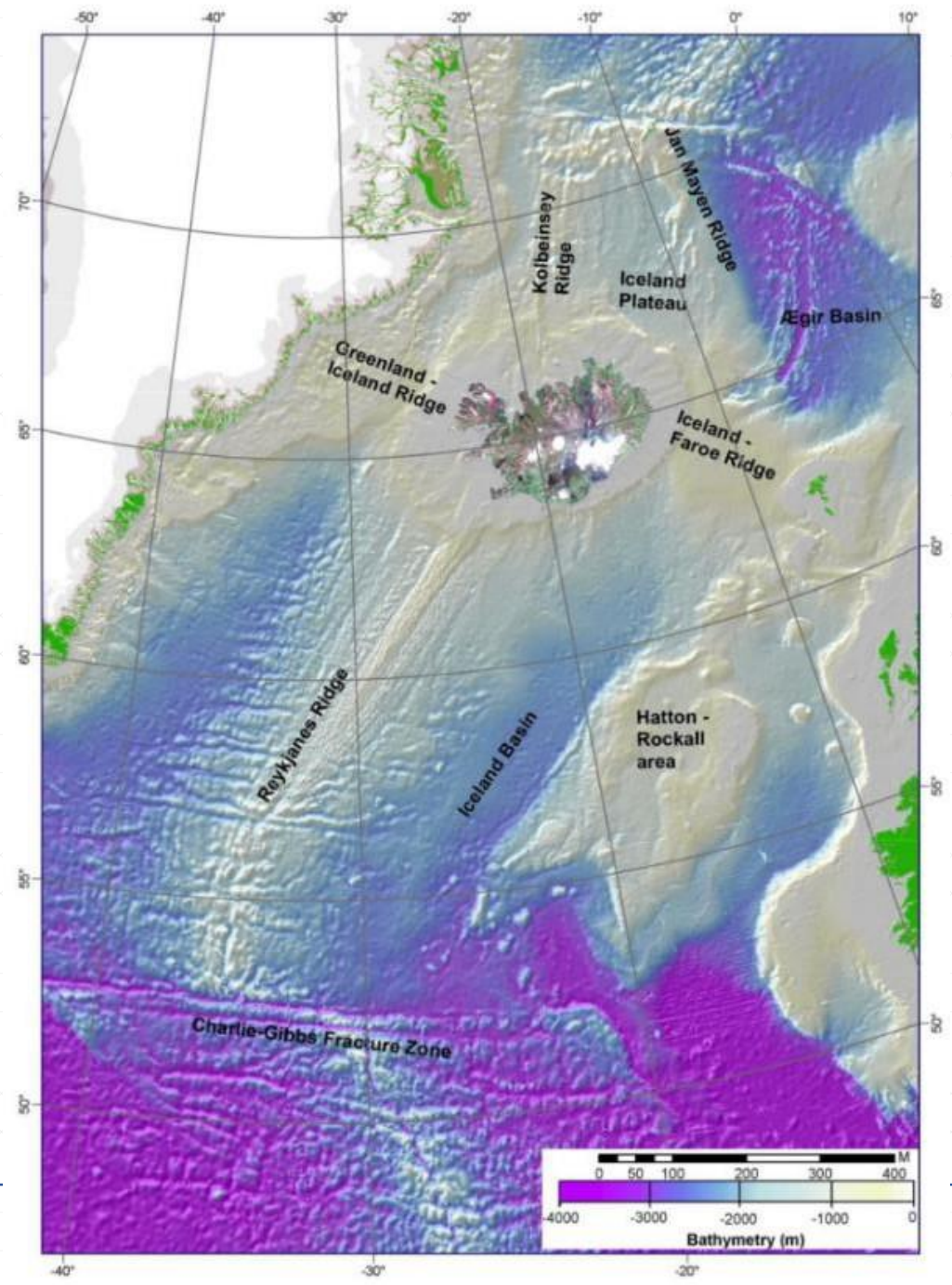
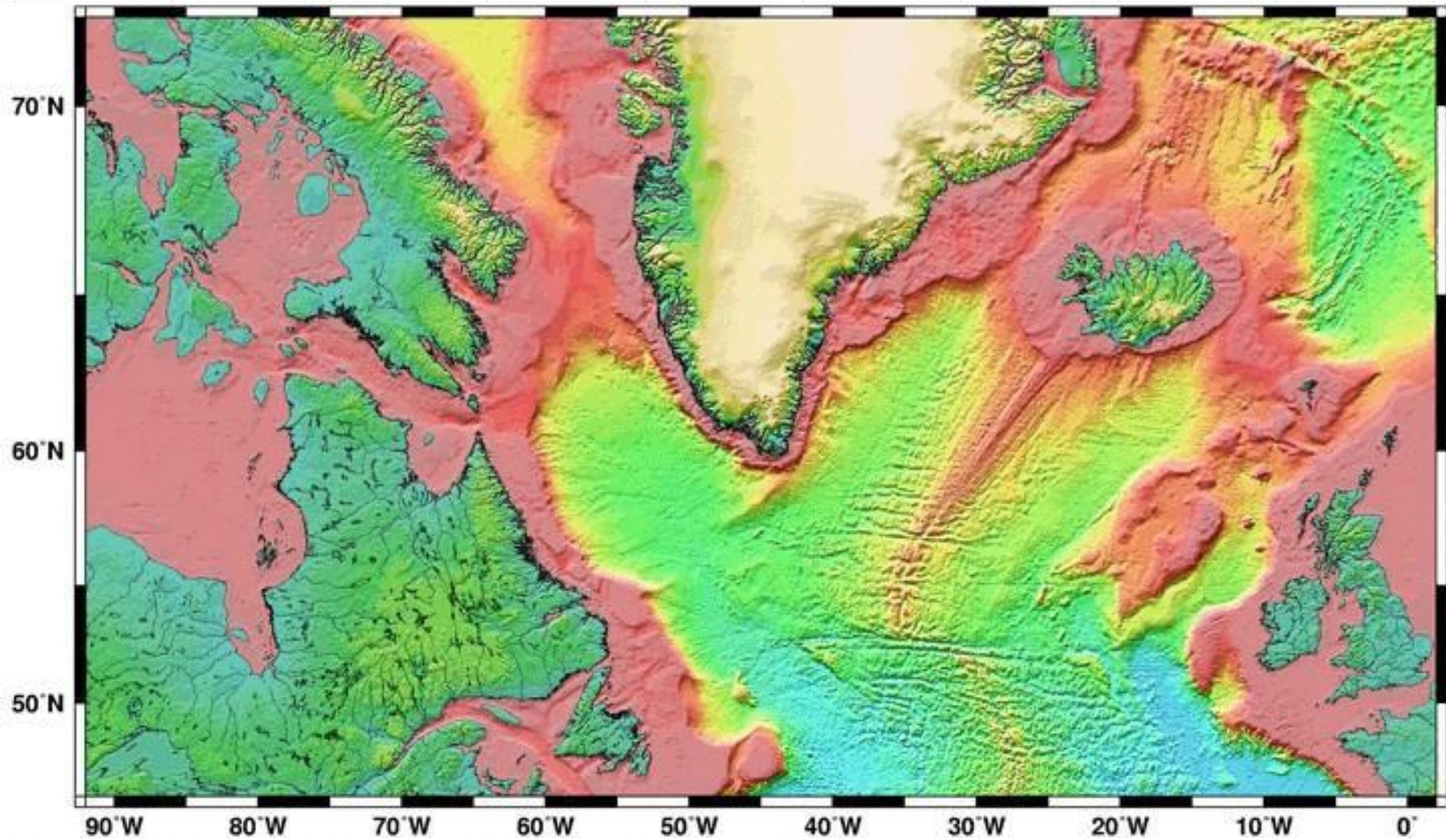
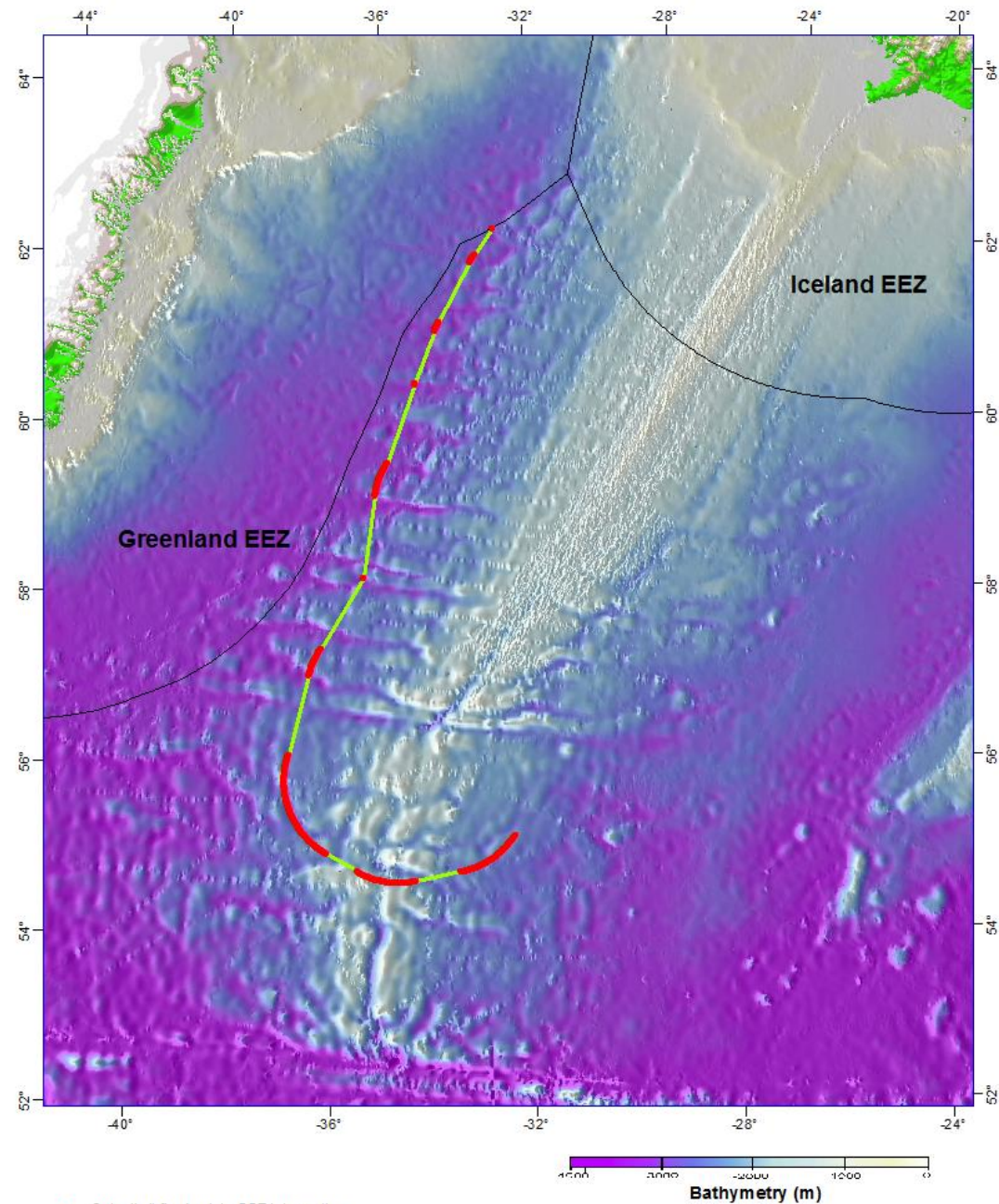


The Case of the Reykjanes Ridge

Iceland's submission to the CLCS



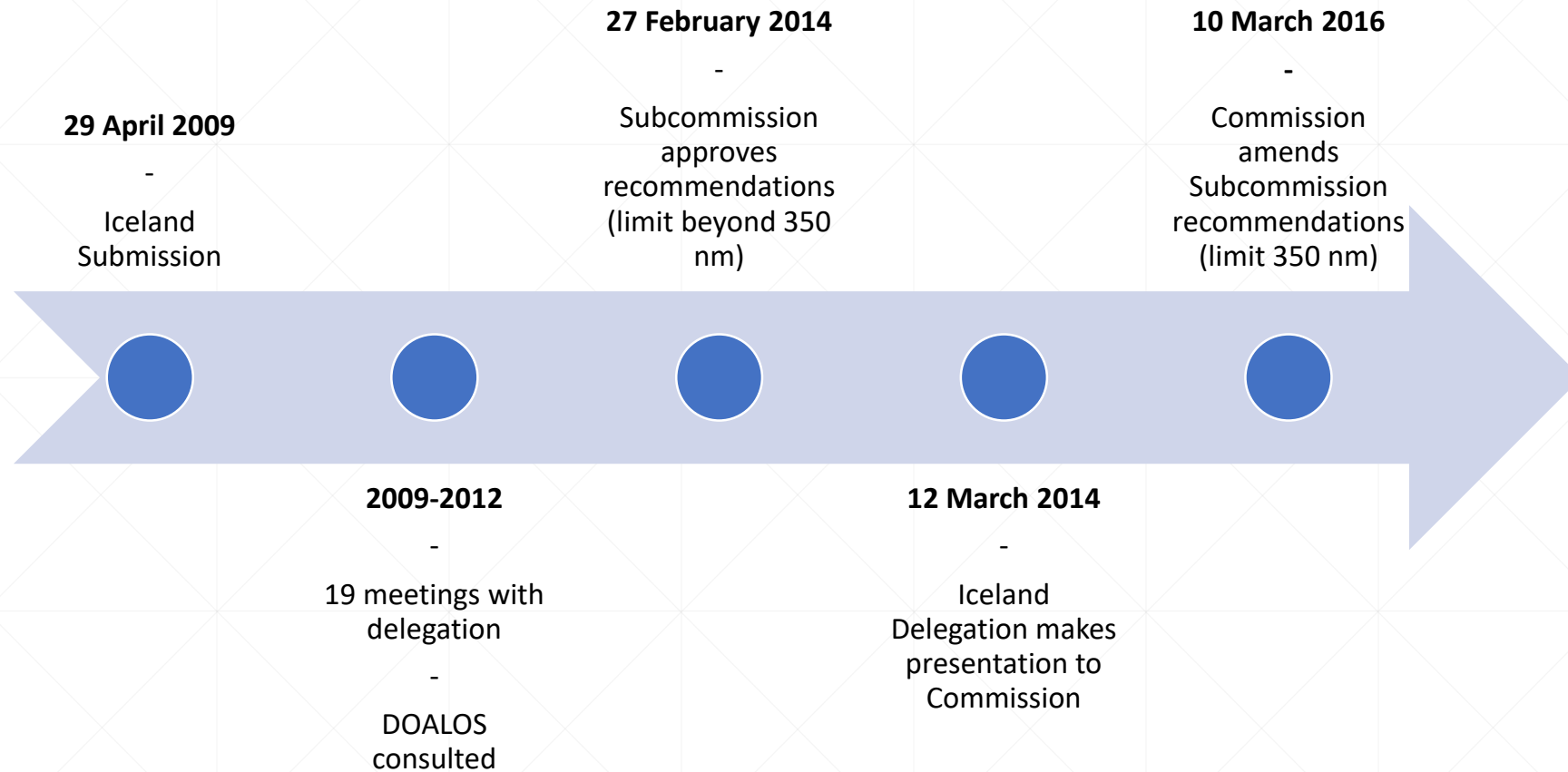




- ▲ Outer limit fixed points: EEZ Intersection
- Outer limit fixed points: FOS + 60 M
- Outer limit straight lines



Case timeline



What are the prevailing definitions of seafloor highs?

Varying approaches to seafloor high classifications

Geomorphology + geology

- (1) Geomorphological + geological relation to the coastal State's landmass = submarine elevation is a natural component of the continental margin
 - (2) Geological test applied only to features which are deemed to be a ridge or ridge-like (but what is a ridge?)
-

Morphology

- If a feature can be considered a ridge (however that is defined), the depth constraint is out of the question

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Reykjanes Ridge/hotspot interaction characteristics

- Well connected to Iceland, both morphologically *and* geologically
 - Crustal composition distinguishable from the surrounding mid-ocean ridge flanks
 - Anomalously shallow bathymetry in comparison to mid-oceanic ridges in general
 - Formed by the same geological processes as the Icelandic land mass
-

What could Iceland do now?

“An important question to ask is how one can expect coastal States to take recommendations into account and consider following them when there is no rationale provided by the Commission in the recommendations? The only meaningful way forward for Iceland, as regards this part of our submission, is to continue working on the basis of the well founded and balanced recommendations of the Subcommission.”

Statement by Iceland

Twenty-Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea Agenda item 10 a) Information reported by the Chair of the CLCS

New York, 20 June 2016

Iceland could:

1. present a new and revised submission
 2. unilaterally establish its boundaries
 3. argue that the Commission acted ultra vires by amending the Subcommission's Recommendations
 4. seek support of interested States for a request for an Advisory Opinion from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
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Arguments that the Commission acted ultra vires

Article 6, Annex II to the Convention:

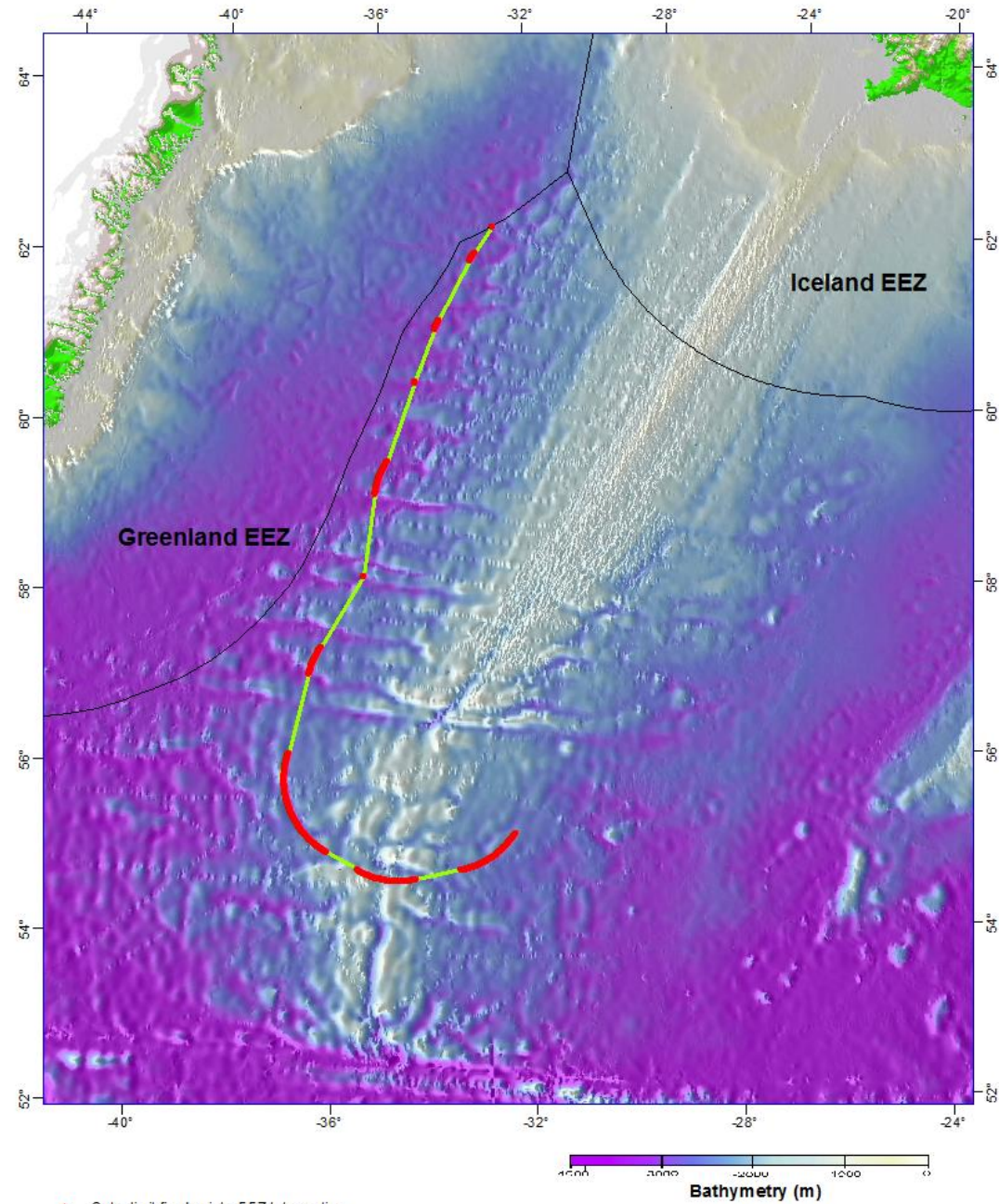
1. The sub-commission shall submit its recommendations to the Commission
2. **Approval** by the Commission of the recommendations of the sub-commission shall be by a majority of two thirds of Commission members present and voting. (Emphasis added.)

Rule 53 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure:

The Commission shall consider and *approve or amend* the recommendations prepared by the subcommission following their submission by the subcommission. (Emphasis added.)

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Thank you

