

Cabinet Decision on “Cabinet Order for Partial Revision of the Cabinet Order on Prescribing the Areas of the Sea under Article 2, item(ii) of the Law on the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf”

The Cabinet today approved the “Cabinet Order for Partial Revision of the Cabinet Order on Prescribing the Areas of the Sea under Article 2, item(ii) of the Law on the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf,” which newly prescribes most of the Ogasawara Plateau Region (OGP) as Japan’s extended continental shelf. This revision of the Cabinet Order allows the Government of Japan under the domestic law to exercise its sovereign rights as a coastal state for the purpose of exploring the continental shelf and exploiting its natural resources, in the area of the sea defined by this revised cabinet order.

## 1. Background

Regarding the extended continental shelf of the Ogasawara Plateau Region (OGP), the Government of Japan has held necessary consultations with the United States, as the sole country concerned, based on the “Future Policy for Extending the Continental Shelf,” which was decided by the Headquarters for the Ocean Policy of the Government of Japan on July 4, 2014.

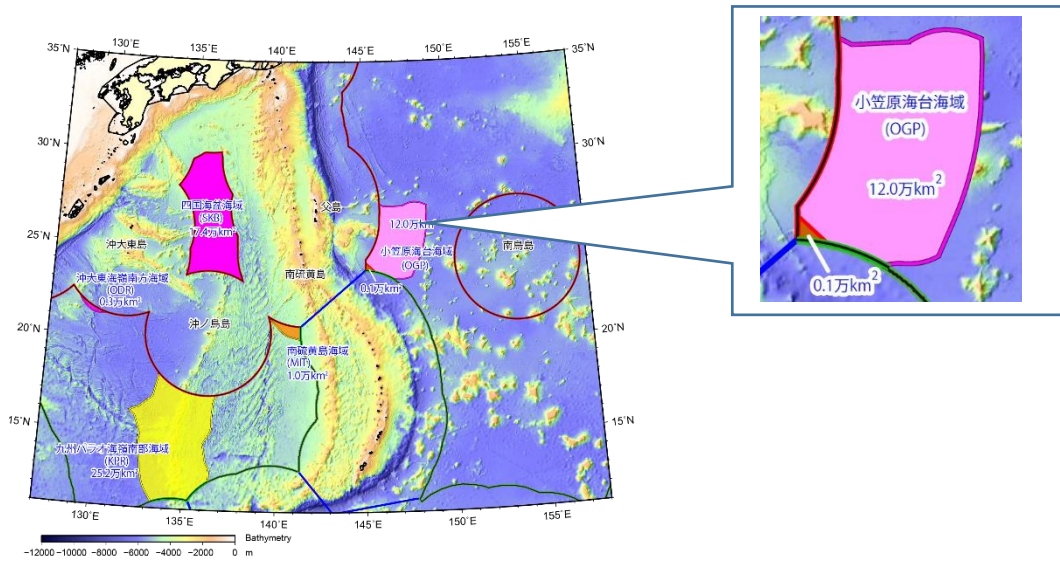
On December 19, 2023 (U.S. time), the United States announced the outer limits of the extended continental shelves in 7 regions including the OGP. Following that, the Government of Japan decided to prescribe most of the OGP, excluding the area that overlaps with the extended continental shelf announced by the United States, as the area of the sea of Japan’s extended continental shelf.

## 2. Outline of the Cabinet Order

### (1) Revision concerning the sea area of the extended continental shelf

The Cabinet Order on Prescribing the Areas of the Sea under Article 2, item(ii) of the Law on the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf (Law No. 74, 1996) was revised to newly prescribe most of the Ogasawara Plateau Region(OGP) as one of the areas of the sea of Japan’s extended continental shelf.

(2) Date of enforcement  
July 20, 2024



- The maritime area which was prescribed as a area of the sea of Japan's continental shelf by the Cabinet Order in 2014.
- The maritime area which was prescribed as a area of the sea of Japan's continental shelf by the revised Cabinet Order in 2024.
- The maritime area of OGP about which the consultation with the U.S is ongoing.
- The maritime area about which the consultation with the U.S is ongoing.
- The maritime area on which CLCS decided not to take action to make its recommendation at the moment.