DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MISCELLANEOUS FIELD STUDIES
MAP MF-1360

DISCUSSION

The United States has not received most of its Continental Shelf boundaries with other states. The lines on this map are only approximate, and they do not necessarily reflect the positions or views of the United States with respect to those boundaries. Sources of data for the boundaries and the resource information shown on the map are enumerated below.

1. An indication of the possible extent of the U. S. exclusive economic zone under the Draft Convention on the Law of the Sea (Informal Text), Geneva, 1980, is given by the U. S. Fisheries Conservation Zone. The limits of this zone were set forth in the Federal Register on March 7, 1977, v. 42, no. 44, p. 13197-13240. Successive notices in the Federal Register have corrected errors or made modifications to the original notice: v. 43, no. 92, May 12, 1977, p. 24136; v. 43, no. 241, December 14, 1978, p. 58548-58549; v. 43, no. 42, March 2, 1978, p. 8086; v. 44, no. 244, December 18, 1979, p. 74694.

2. A hypothetical limit of the continental margin north of Alaska was determined by applying Article 76 of the Draft Convention on the Law of the Sea (Informal Text), Geneva, 1980, and using the Draft Convention Line (DCL). The U. S. Atlantic Draft Convention Line is taken from Hill and Nelson (Hill, R.D.,CONFERENCE,1,186,1975). As more scientific information is accumulated, these limits, where they extend beyond 200 nautical miles, may be found to extend farther seaward than the lines shown on this map.

3. The estimates of undiscovered recoverable resources of conventionally producible oil and gas on the U. S. Continental Shelf and Slope are taken from Dolton and others (1981). Detailed estimates from each province are tabulated in terms of barrels of oil equivalent (BOE). For conversion purposes we used 6,000 ft^3 of gas as equivalent to 1 bbl of oil.

4. The study areas constitute the Maritime Boundary Regions in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore southern California; they have been appraised in two reports edited by Powers (1981a, b). These appraisals are not included in the estimates of shelf and slope resources given on this map.

5. The locations of natural-gas hydrates are replotted primarily from Kvenvolden and McMenamin (1980) and Dillon and others (1980). These occurrences suggest the presence of potential unconventional energy resources—either the hydrates themselves or gas trapped below these hydrates.

6. Locations of hard-mineral occurrences on the U. S. continental margin are replotted from Manheim and Hess (1983).

7. The location of the Clarion-Clipperton Manganese Nodule Province, a possible area for deep seabed mining, is from McKelvey and others (1979).

8. Manganese-nodule occurrences in the central Pacific region are discussed in McKelvey and Wright (1980).

9. The mineral resources of U. S. possessions in the Pacific and the U. S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands were reviewed by Joshua I. Tracey, Jr. (unpub. data, 1979). He concluded that no offshore mineral occurrences of economic interest are known at this time, but that possible mineral resources include sand and gravel, phosphate or phosphorite, precious coral or black coral, salt in deep water, manganese crusts or nodules and associated metals.

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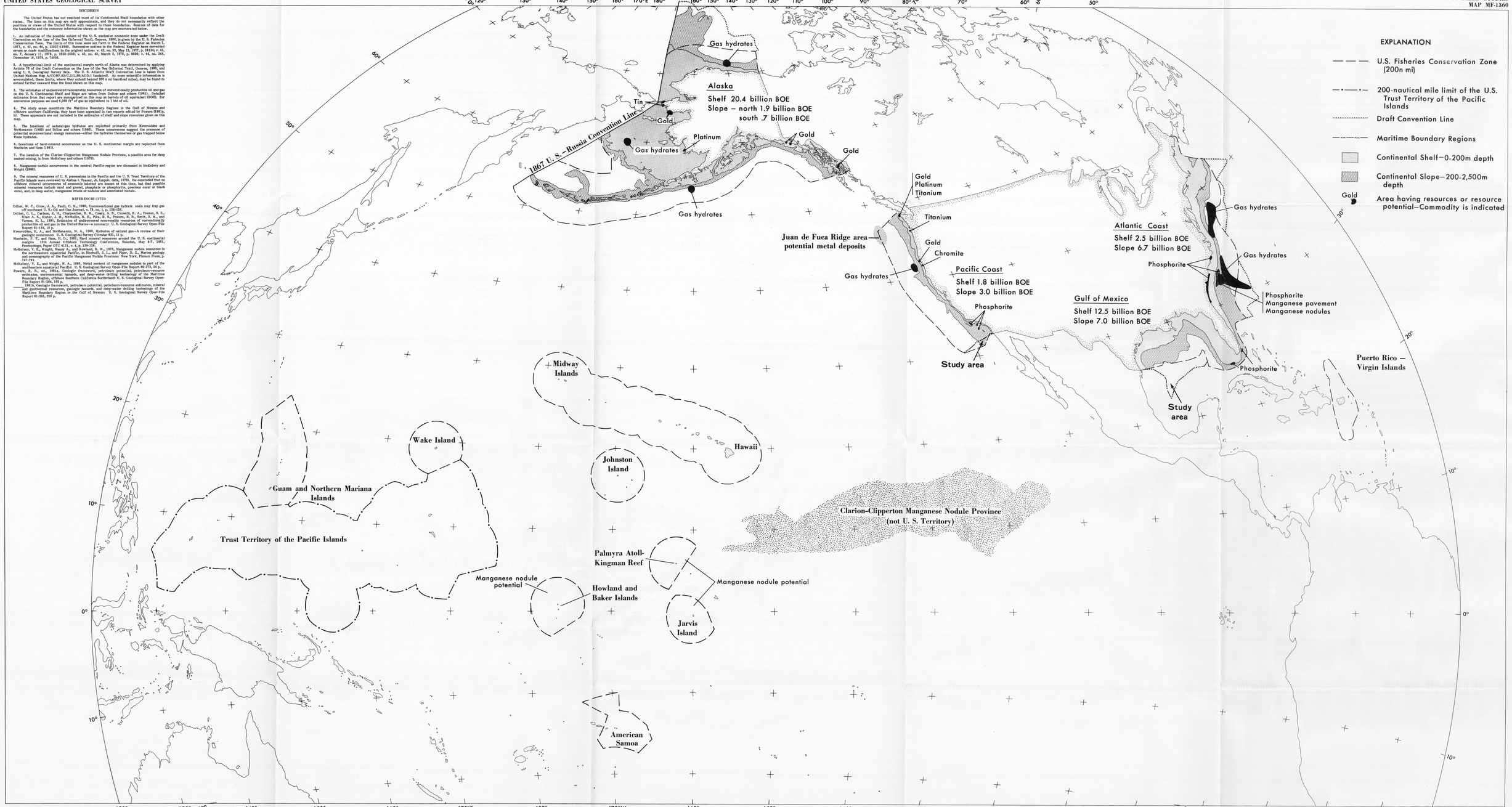

Base from American Association of Petroleum Geologists, 1978
Geographic map of the Circum-Pacific region, Pacific Basin

A COMPILATION OF SUBSEA ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES INCLUDING ITS POSSESSIONS AND TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

By
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1981

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VA—1981; REPRINTED, 1983
For sale by Branch of Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, 1200 South Eads Street, Arlington, VA 22202, and Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225