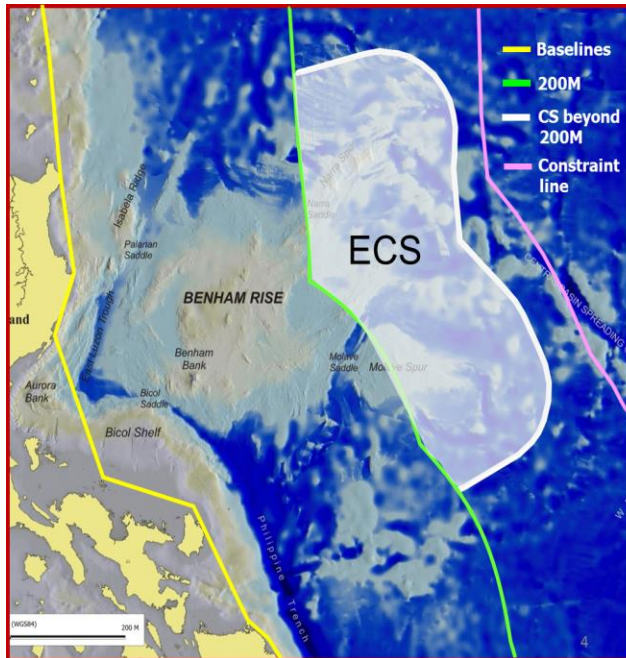


BENHAM RISE: What You Need to Know



Benham Rise is a 24.4-million hectare undersea region located east of Luzon.

It includes a 13-million hectare outer section which was validated by the United Nations' Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLOS) as part of Philippine territory in 2012.

Benham Rise expanded from the original 11.4-million hectares to 24.4-million hectares – almost as large as the land area of the Philippines, which is about 30-million hectares.

The shallowest part of the region is Benham Bank, with a depth of at least 50 meters. It was named by surveyors in honor of American Admiral Andrew Ellicott Kennedy Benham, who died in 1905.

Natural Resources and Exploration:

- In May 2016, a team of scientists from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), University of the Philippines, plus Oceana conducted an expedition to Benham Bank. The expedition team documented a vast coral reef ecosystem at depths of up to 500 feet, plus at least 170 fish species – including fearsome tiger sharks and powerful tuna.
- The expedition team conducted oceanographic, seabed and microbiological surveys. They documented large species like tuna and reported over 100% coral cover for parts of Benham Bank.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that the continental shelf has huge deposits of minerals including nickel, copper, cobalt, silver, plus other rare earth metals. Please help Oceana protect Benham Rise by signing this petition. Every signature counts!

<https://www.change.org/p/i-support-the-protection-of-benham-rise>

Oceana is the largest international advocacy organization dedicated solely to ocean conservation. Oceana is rebuilding abundant and biodiverse oceans by winning science-based policies in countries that control one third of the world's wild fish catch. With over 100 victories that stop overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution and killing of threatened species like turtles and sharks, Oceana's campaigns are delivering results. A restored ocean means that one billion people can enjoy a healthy seafood meal, every day, forever. Together, we can save the oceans and help feed the world. Visit www.oceana.org to learn more.

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