

# South and East China Seas Energy potential of disputed areas

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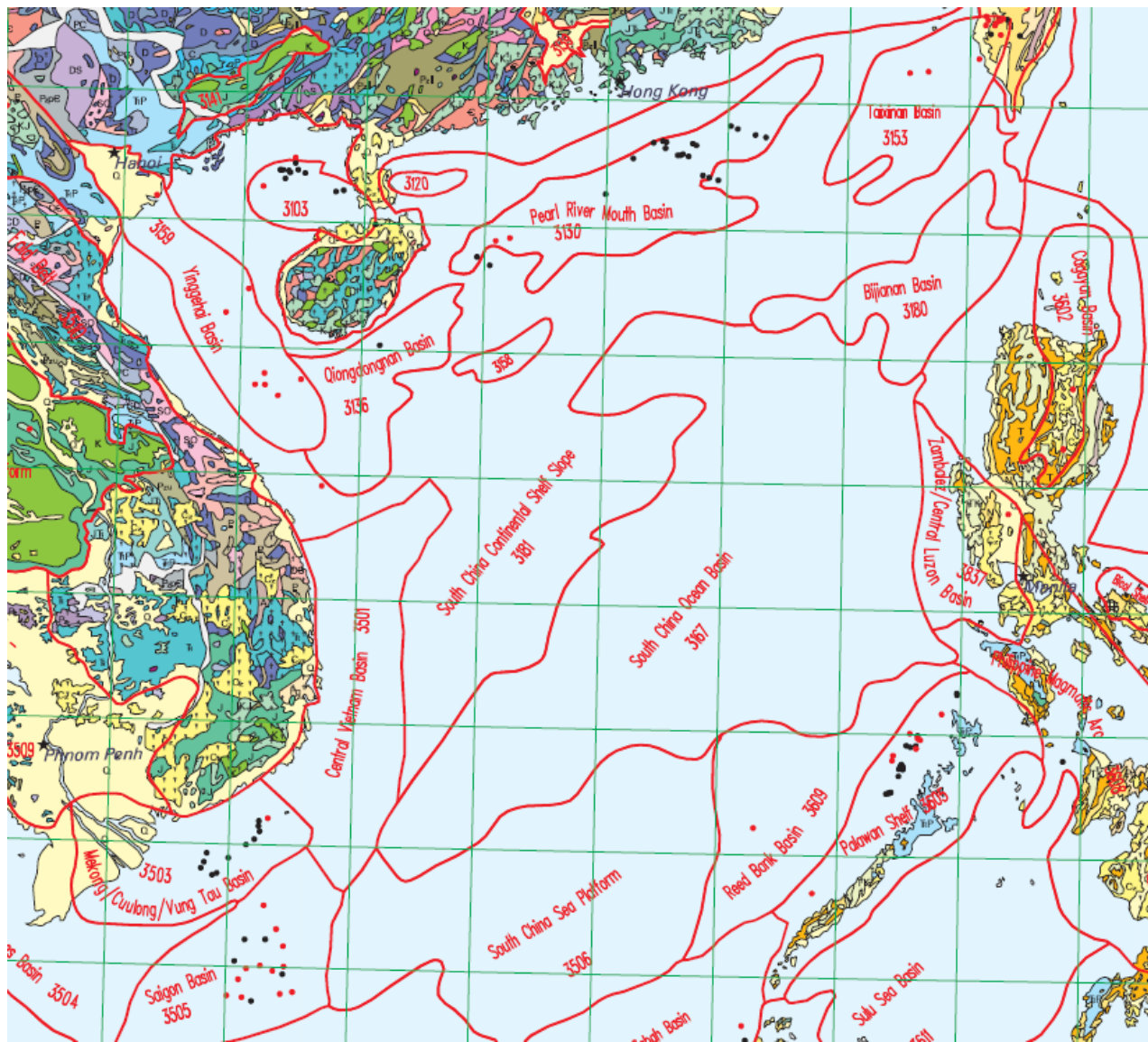
**REUTERS**

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(John Kemp is a Reuters market analyst. The views expressed are his own)



# South China Sea is ringed by known oil (black) and gas fields (red) (United States Geological Survey, 1997)



# South China Sea estimated to contain 11 billion bbl oil, 145 tcf gas (United States Geological Survey, 2010)



In 2010, USGS assessed undiscovered oil and gas resources in the South China Sea and neighbouring areas

Assessed resources included

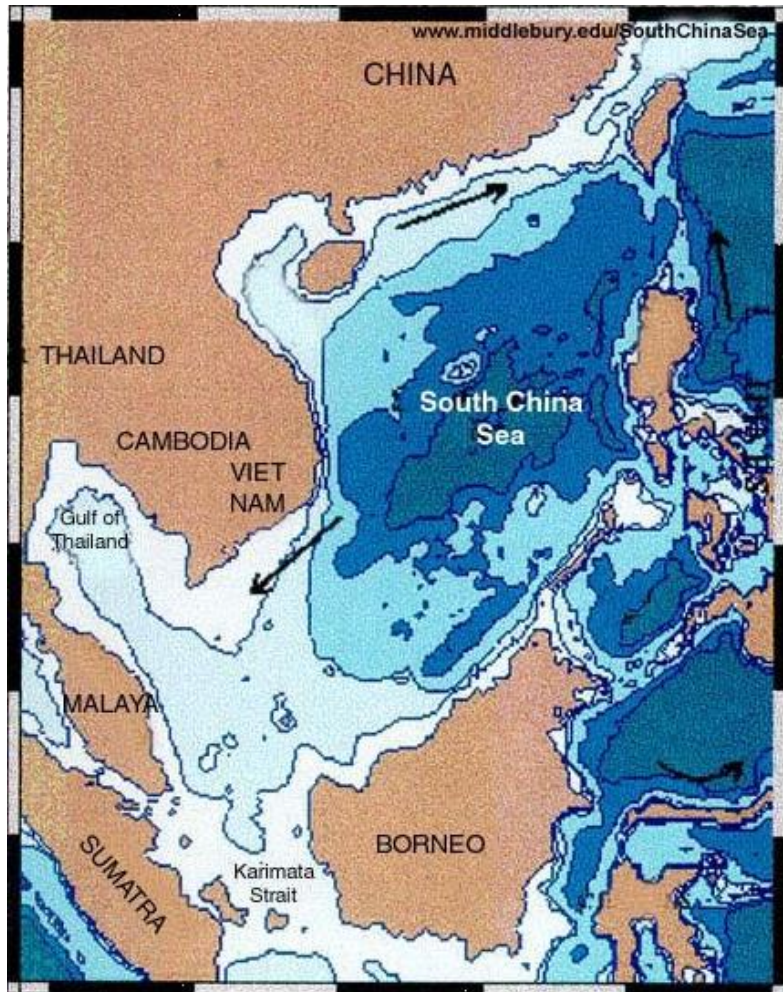
- + Pearl River Basin
- + Song Hong Basin
- + Phu Khanh Basin
- + Cuu Long Basin
- + Nam Con Son Basin
- + Greater Sarawak Basin
- + South China Sea Platform
- + Baram Delta/Brunei-Sabah Province
- + Palawan Shelf

= 11 billion barrels of oil and 145 tcf of gas (mean estimates)

Not all assessed areas are disputed

But assessment did not include central South China Sea areas

# Oil and gas exploration has been confined to shallow coastal areas (Middlebury College; University of Mississippi, depths in metres)



## Ten Dashed Line: extent of China's territorial claim in South China Sea (Sinomaps, 2013)

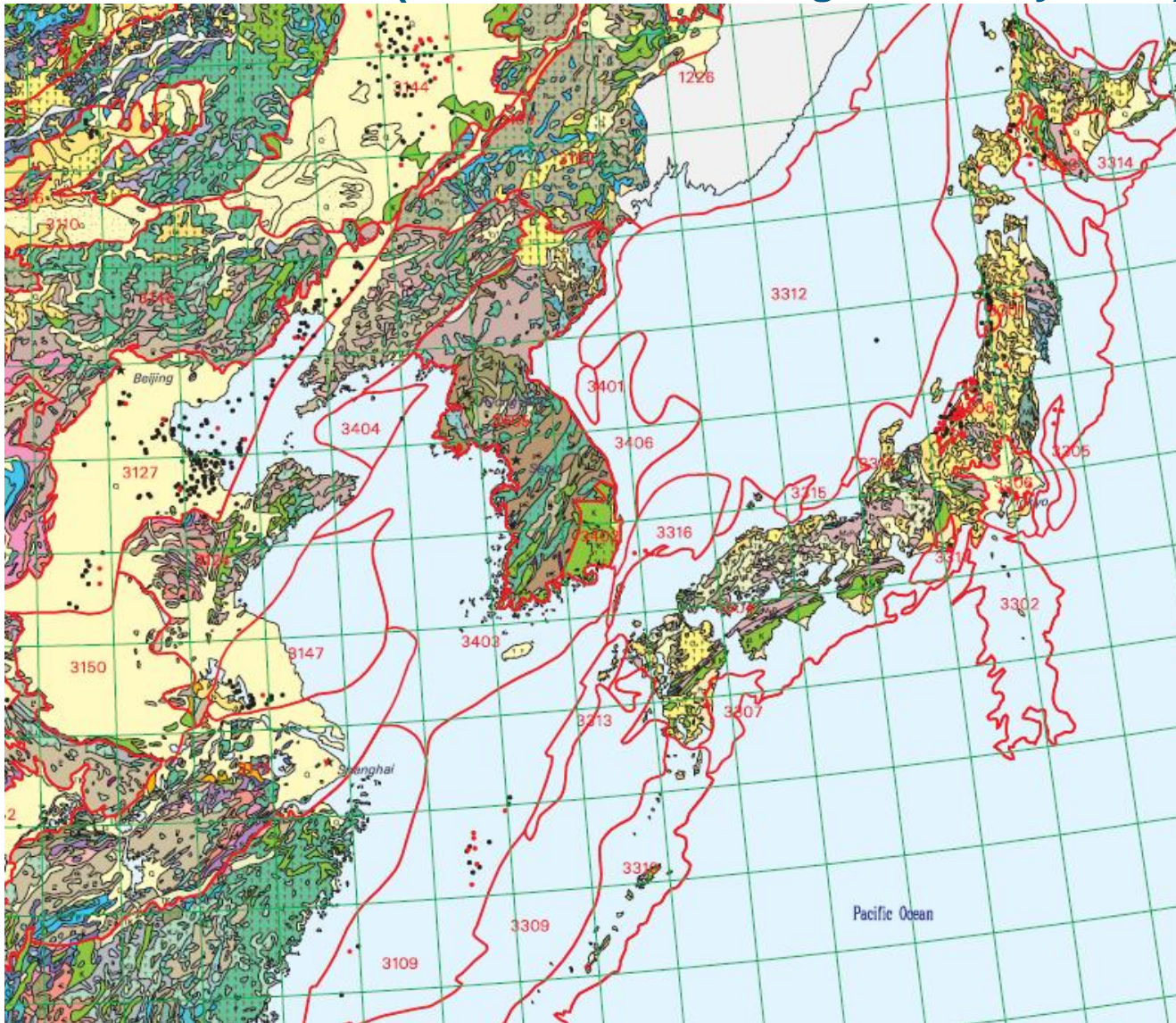


Ten-Dash Line (and variants) has appeared on Chinese maps since 1947/8

Exact nature of the claims implied by the line remains unclear

But in 2013 edition of Sinomaps national atlas, Ten-Dash Line is shown in the same style as China's land borders

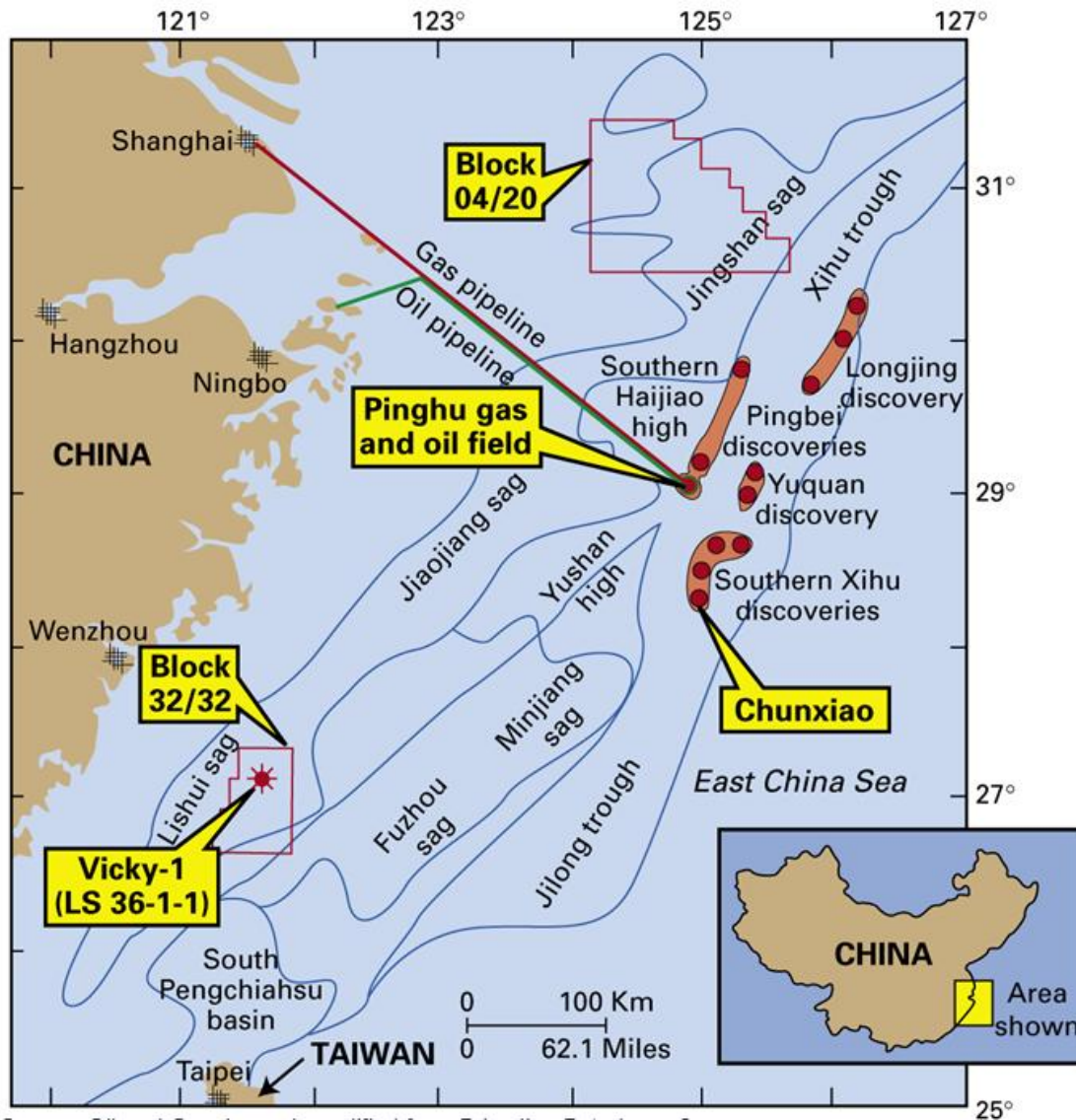
## East China Sea has known oil/gas fields and borders China's most productive basins (United States Geological Survey, 1997)



East China Sea borders Songliao and Bohaiwan basins which produce most of China's oil and gas

Known oil and gas fields in the offshore East China Sea basin

# Existing oil and gas fields in East China Sea (EIA, *Oil and Gas Journal*, 2012)



# Oil and gas fields are in or close to disputed territorial areas (EIA, *Interfax*, 2012)

