



## Spitsbergen: Legal Regime of Adjacent Marine Areas

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### **Annex 18: Note of Embassy of USSR in Norway (17 July 1998)**

The Embassy of the Russian Federation conveys its respect to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and has the honor to state the following.

The position of Russia with respect to the fisheries protection zone around the Spitsbergen Archipelago set out in the Note of the Embassy of the USSR in Norway, No. 60, of 15 June 1977 remains unchanged. In this connection the prohibition against fishing established by the Norwegian authorities in June of this year in the area westward from Bear Island is regarded as unlawful and contrary to the 1920 Treaty on Spitsbergen. Enforcement measures taken by the Norwegian side against Russian fishing vessels in this area as consequently qualified as being without legal grounds.

We draw attention to the severity of the actions of the Norwegian side, not adequate to the situation and not corresponding to the traditions of Russo-Norwegian good-neighborliness. The Russian side is convinced that the language of ultimatums and enforcement measures are unacceptable in normal inter-State relations. The Russian side recalls that at the extraordinary session of the Mixed Russian-Norwegian Commission for Fisheries held on 22–24 June 1998 at Kirkeness an arrangement was reached concerning the working out of a unified scheme for taking decisions with regard to the establishment of limitations on fishing on the fisheries area.

In displaying a constructive approach and being guided by the joint interests of Russia and Norway in the sphere of fishing, the Russian side expresses its readiness for dialogue and suggests bilateral consultations be held to discuss the working out of the mechanism for establishing measures for the preservation of fish stocks on the basis of scientific research conducted.

The Embassy takes advantage of the occasion to renew to the Ministry assurance of its high regard.

City of Oslo

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