



ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

Note No. 40/18

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia and has the honour to refer to the political agreement reached in the EU Agricultural and Fisheries Council on 17-18 December 2018, fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

According to received information regarding the above mentioned Council meeting, Latvia will seemingly be authorised to issue licenses to 11 vessels for catching snow crab in management areas I and IIb (in the Barents Sea and around Svalbard).

The Embassy refers to Norway's note verbale of 15 February 2018 to the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in Oslo and reiterates the position expressed therein. In particular the Embassy reminds the Ministry that it is illegal under international law to harvest snow crab on the Norwegian continental shelf without the express consent of Norway, and that Norway considers any license issued without its consent to be without legal effect.

The harvesting of snow crab on the Norwegian continental shelf is prohibited by Regulations of 19 December 2014 No. 1836, with later amendments. Norway will continue to enforce applicable regulations in a consistent and predictable manner.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia the assurances of its highest consideration. *KS*

Riga, 28 December 2018



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Latvia
RIGA**