



Note No. 06/20

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 Council Regulations (EU) 2020/123 of 27 January 2020 fixing for 2020 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 the above mentioned Council Regulations, Latvia will seemingly be authorised to issue licenses to eleven vessels for catching snow crab in management areas I and IIb (in the Barents Sea and around Svalbard).

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.

It should be noted that in the European Union's Delegation to Norway note verbale of 21 October 2019 to the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is stated that the limits regarding licenses issued by Member States are considered internal measures. Furthermore, the Delegation states that the licensing still calls for practical cooperation between Norway and the EU. The Embassy's understanding of the note verbale is that the Council's intention is to limit the number of licenses, not authorize Member States to unconditionally issue licenses.

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

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. 

Riga, 31 January 2020

