



ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

Note No. 03/21

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 Regulation (EU) 2021/92 of 28 January 2021 fixing for 2021 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 Regulation, licenses to eleven vessels for catching snow crab in management areas I and IIb (in the Barents Sea and around Svalbard) is allocated to The Republic of Latvia.

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 Embassy would like to draw the Ministry's attention to the fact that the European Union's Delegation to Norway in a note verbale of 20 July 2020 to the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that the limits regarding licenses issued by Member States are considered self-imposed internal measures and that the licensing still calls for practical cooperation between Norway and the European Union. 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 issue licenses without Norway's consent.

**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, 9 February 2021

