

**From:** Finbak Christine <Christine.Finbak@mfa.no>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 November 2014 12.12  
**To:** Gabrielsen Elisabeth Norgård  
**Cc:** Vikanes Ingrid; Westberg Ann Kristin; Vidar Landmark; Jervell, Kristian; Johansen, Therese; Nygård, Kristina Kvamme  
**Subject:** RE: Regulation of snow crab

Hi Elisabeth

Thank you for the email and I refer to the conversation we just had. As mentioned, we have had a preliminary round here. In order to conclude whether snow crab are a sedentary species, it will be necessary to obtain a scientific assessment from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research. My understanding is that you will contact the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research to obtain this. The specific issue to be assessed in this context, cf. Article 77 (4) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is whether snow crab are: *“organisms which, at the harvestable stage, either are immobile on or under the seabed or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed or the subsoil.”*

With regard to the NEAFC meeting, it will be important to have a flexible mandate which we will not be bound by, because it will probably be difficult to reach a conclusion in the short period of time until the meeting.

As you outlined, it would be beneficial if you would make private contact with the Russians to further determine what assessments they have made, including their views on the upcoming NEAFC meeting and the proposals that could be raised at the meeting.

With kind regards

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**From:** Gabrielsen Elisabeth Norgård [mailto:Elisabeth-Norgard.Gabrielsen@nfd.dep.no]  
**Sent:** 31 October 2014 11:19  
**To:** Finbak, Christine  
**Cc:** Vikanes Ingrid; Westberg Ann Kristin; Landmark Vidar Jarle  
**Subject:** Regulation of snow crab

Hi

I refer to our telephone conversation and, as agreed, have sent some lines by email. There have been challenges this year relating to gear conflicts between vessels that have been fishing for shrimp and snow crab in the Loop Hole. At the Commission meeting in October, the Russians referred to the fact that snow crab are a benthic species and that fishing in the Loop Hole is regulated by continental shelf jurisdiction. Norway asked whether we should raise the matter at NEAFC, however did not receive a response.

NEAFC's annual meeting is in 2 weeks and we are currently working on a mandate for the negotiations. What are your views on this issue?

If we decide to raise the matter, can we establish contact with the Russian delegation prior to the annual meeting?

I have included a link to the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research, with information about the species:

[http://www.imr.no/forskning/faggrupper/bentiske\\_ressurser\\_og\\_prosesser/nb-no](http://www.imr.no/forskning/faggrupper/bentiske_ressurser_og_prosesser/nb-no)

With kind regards

Elisabeth

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