

*Translated from Norwegian (translated from Russian)*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Russian Federation

No. 5138/2ЕД

Courtoisie... in reference to a note from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs no. 19/3051 dated the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 concerning the management of snow crab populations in areas under Russian jurisdiction, and having the honour to convey the requested information with a copy of Russian regulations (attached).

Courtoisie

Moscow, 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2020

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Attachment: As mentioned, 5 pages

To the Norwegian Embassy  
Moscow

**Regulations concerning the catching of snow crab in the Russian Federation's exclusive economic zone in the Barents Sea**  
(Information)

Regulation of catches for Russian fishing vessels was implemented in 2016 through the establishment of total allowable catches of this resource and its distribution between types of fisheries and between Russian users. This is based on agreements regarding the distribution of fishing quota allocation for aquatic biological resources that are entered into after completed tender rounds.

In accordance with Russian law, it is only possible for foreign vessels to harvest snow crab on the continental shelf in the Russian Federation's exclusive economic zone in the Barents Sea if the Russian party has allocated a quota to a foreign state pursuant to international agreement.

The harvesting of snow crab in the open part of the Barents Sea began in 2013 (with two Russian vessels). In the following two years, efforts to harvest this type of aquatic biological resource were significantly strengthened. Prior to 2016, Russian snow crab fishery in the open part of the Barents Sea took place without the distribution of fishing quota allocation for aquatic biological resources. This was in accordance with instructions from the Federal Agency for Fishery concerning the facilitation of fishing in open sea and/or in areas subject to the Russian Federation's international agreements on fisheries and the conservation of aquatic biological resources relating to the types of aquatic biological resources that are not regulated by these agreements ([instructions] dated 19 December 2012 No. 57-p and dated 5 February 2015 No. 5-p). These instructions were laid down pursuant to Articles 116 and 118 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea dated 10 December 1982, and in accordance with Federal Law dated 20 December 2004 No. 166-FZ "On fisheries and conservation of aquatic biological resources" Article 19, Paragraph 4.

Following these instructions, the Agency for Fishery's regional office for the Barents Sea and the White Sea entered into agreements with resource users regarding the exploitation of aquatic biological resources and issued fishing permits for snow crab in the open part of the Barents Sea.

In accordance with Article 77 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, snow crab in the Barents Sea is considered a sedentary species of aquatic biological resources. According to the same article of the Convention, the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Norway have the exclusive right to fish for sedentary species. However, the harvesting of snow crab in NEAFC's regulatory area in the Barents Sea cannot take place without the consent of the mentioned coastal states.

Pursuant to Article 1 of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Norway concerning Maritime Delimitation and Cooperation in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Ocean of 15 September 2010, The Russian Federation exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction east of the delimitation line between the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Norway on the continental shelf in the Barents Sea.

The regulation of fishing in the internal waters of the Russian Federation, including internal areas of sea, in the territorial waters of the Russian Federation, on the continental shelf of the Russian Federation, in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation within the Northern Fishery Basin takes place in accordance with Federal Law dated 20 December 2004 No. 166-FZ “On fisheries and conservation of aquatic biological resources”, as well as fishery regulations for the Northern Fishery Basin laid down through regulations from the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation dated the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 No. 414.

These regulations stipulate uniform measures for the regulation of fishing and rules for harvesting snow crab in the Barents Sea for Russian legal persons, self-employed persons and citizens, as well as foreign legal persons and citizens who fish within the Russian Federation’s Northern Fishery Basin.

The Russian Federation has sovereign rights to natural resources on the continental shelf in the Barents Sea concerning exploitation and exploration, including the implementation of regulatory measures for the catching of sedentary species of living organisms.

From 1 January 2014, commercial harvesting of snow crab on the Russian Federation’s continental shelf in the Barents Sea will be regulated on the basis of total allowable catch.

Russian users conduct catches based on entered agreements regarding the distribution of fishing quota allocation for aquatic biological resources. In accordance with Russian law, it is only possible for foreign vessels to catch snow crab on the Russian Federation’s continental shelf in the Barents Sea after the Russian Federation has allocated a quota to the foreign state in question.

From 2013 up to the present day, no recommendations have been adopted regarding the distribution of quotas between foreign states for catching snow crab inside and outside the Russian Exclusive Economic Zone on the continental shelf in the Barents Sea. Information about foreign users’ snow crab catches inside and outside the Zone on the continental shelf in the Barents Sea during this period is absent.

In 2014, the captain of the vessel KL ‘Juros Vilkas’ (Lithuanian flag), Lithuanian citizen Aleksandr Grusko, was penalised for harvesting snow crab in the Zone in the Barents Sea during the period from 9 to 16 September 2014. On board the vessel, they only had permission to harvest this type of aquatic biological resource in NEAFC’s regulatory area. In order to shed light on the circumstances surrounding the breach, the vessel was arrested. Following an application from the shipowner for the release of the vessel on bail, Murmansk Regional Court accepted that bail be set at 36.5 million rubles on 23 October 2014.

In 2015, the captain of the vessel ‘Adexe Primero’ (Spanish flag), Spanish citizen Garcia Elias Blanco and legal entity ‘Mariscos Polar SL’ were penalised for harvesting snow crab in Russian Exclusive Economic Zone in the Barents Sea without proper permission. In addition, all specimens of the crab were released back to their natural habitat. Garcia Elias Blanco and ‘Mariscos Polar SL’ paid 0.5 million and 1 million rubles in fines, respectively. The offenders also paid 0.5 million rubles in damages.

Information on inspections and checks of foreign vessels' snow crab catches

2015:

March 18<sup>th</sup> - 'Adexe Primero' (Spain), NEAFC Regulatory Area 37  
March 30<sup>th</sup> - 'Juros Vilkas' (Lithuania), NEAFC Regulatory Area 37  
August 12<sup>th</sup> - 'Prowess' (Norway), NEAFC  
August 12<sup>th</sup> - 'Kalmar' (Latvia), NEAFC  
August 16<sup>th</sup> - 'Ocean Tiger' (Denmark), NEAFC  
September 17<sup>th</sup> - 'Valka' (Latvia), NEAFC  
September 18<sup>th</sup> - 'Saldus' (Latvia), NEAFC  
September 18<sup>th</sup> - 'Prowess' (Norway), NEAFC  
September 18<sup>th</sup> - 'Kalmar' (Latvia), NEAFC

2016:

February 27<sup>th</sup> - 'Adexe Primero' (Spain), NEAFC  
February 28<sup>th</sup> - 'Memele' (Latvia), NEAFC  
March 1<sup>st</sup> - 'Senator' (Latvia), NEAFC  
March 21<sup>st</sup> - 'Dubna' (Latvia), NEAFC  
July 10<sup>th</sup> - 'Kalmar' (Latvia), NEAFC  
July 13<sup>th</sup> - 'Dubna' (Latvia), NEAFC  
July 13<sup>th</sup> - 'Senator' (Latvia), NEAFC  
October 24<sup>th</sup> - 'Roestnesvag' (Norway), NEAFC Regulatory Area 38  
October 24<sup>th</sup> - 'Prowess' (Norway), NEAFC Regulatory Area 37