



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels,
MARE/ (2016)

Mr. Ivan Lopez van den Veen
Chairman
Long Distance Advisory Council
C/del Doctor Fleming 7, 2º derecha
28036 MADRID
SPAIN

Subject: LDAC Position on Snow Crab in Svalbard

Your ref.: R-12-16/WG2

Dear Mr. Lopez,

Thank you for sending us the LDAC position paper on Snow Crab in Svalbard. The exchanges that took place during the last meeting of your Working Group 2, together with consultations at technical level that our services have had with Member States have contributed significantly to our proposal to the Council and, as matter of fact, your recommendations have been to a large extent taken into account. Hopefully, the Council will take a decision on this issue during its meeting on 12-13 December.

I agree with you that we need to maintain this issue separate from the annual negotiations with Norway on the mutual exchange on fishing opportunities, and this is what we have done, since the right to fish in the Fisheries Protection Zone around Svalbard has been granted to the Contracting Parties to the Treaty of Paris of 1920.

I am pleased to see that you propose complying with Norwegian non-discriminatory rules as well as other rules to avoid interference with other fleets. We welcome your approach and hope that you will encourage the fishing industry that will carry out the fishery in the near future to comply with this recommendation.

We will of course notify the Norwegian authorities of the decision of the Council setting fishing opportunities for snow crab in the area of Svalbard and provide them with a list of names and details of the fishing vessels that have received a fishing authorisation by their flag States to conduct the fishery. We also intend to send them a reminder of our request made in the *Note Verbale* of 1 November 2016 for Norway to instruct their authorities in charge of control and enforcement to desist from interfering with legitimate activities of EU vessels in the area.

The EU cannot lead research on a stock which falls under the sovereignty of Norway, but we should be ready to offer to collaborate with Norwegian scientists to further study the

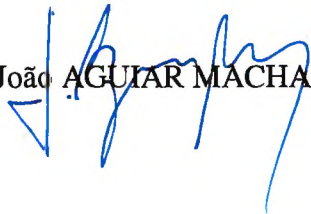
Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 229-91111
Office: J-99 5/014 – Telephone: direct line +32 229-96310

E-mail: Joao.AGUIAR-MACHADO@ec.europa.eu

biological and ecological aspects of the snow crab population. This is a position that we also intend to transmit to Norway.

Thank you again for your constructive input. If you have any questions on this reply, you may contact Ms. Evangelia Georgitsi (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43) or Ms. Ramune Genzbigelyte-Venturi (ramune.genzbigelyte-venturi@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 85043).

Yours sincerely,


João AGUIAR MACHADO