

Fisheries Minister Helga Pedersen
The Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs
P.O. Box 8118 Dep
0032 Oslo

08.01.2007

Regarding black lists for Barents Sea cod fisheries

Dear minister Helga Pedersen

As companies that are significant users of cod and committed to sustainability, we are deeply concerned about the illegal fishing activities in the Barents Sea cod fishery.

Our companies have made various commitments to sourcing from well-managed fisheries, and we would like to be able to confirm the legality of the fish we buy.

At the moment the recommended "Control Instruction" developed by AIPCE (also known as the "industry standard supplier contract") require that companies do not buy Barents Sea cod from fishing vessels blacklisted by relevant official organisations, like NEAFC, NAFO and the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate. The instruction also makes other recommendations. Please find the current version attached. We would very much like to follow this advice, to help ensure we do not support illegal operators through our fish purchases.

Unfortunately, the current "black list"¹ hosted by the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate is not an up-to-date list of fishing vessels that are known to be currently fishing illegally. We applaud the Directorate's addition of a list of vessels accused of illegally transshipping fish in 2005.² This is certainly a good step forward in developing a more useful current list. However, we are concerned about the lack of clarity regarding the "standard of proof" of illegal fishing required for vessels to become listed, nor how long such listing will be valid or which remedial actions vessels could take to be de-listed. It has also been made clear to us that there exists evidence against other vessels, which still have not made it to any of these lists.

An up-to-date black-list with updated vessel information, clear legal standards for listing and transparent criteria for de-listing would be a valuable component of this effort. We therefore urge you to ensure that a better list is created, that we and our suppliers can use to ensure we are not purchasing from vessels fishing illegally.

We understand that avoiding fish from black-listed vessels is part of the solution necessary to reduce illegal fishing in the Barents Sea cod fishery. However going forward we feel that the use of a "white list", or list of vessels that are proven to operate legally, may mid to long term provide a more comprehensive way to help eliminate illegal fishing.

¹ http://fiskeridir.no/fiskeridir/english/blacklisted_vessels

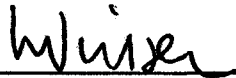
² http://fiskeridir.no/fiskeridir/english/illegal_transshipment

Also, as responsible end sellers of Barents Sea cod, we would want to help eliminate the use of illegal fish. This may include such things as sharing of additional information about our fish purchases, support to get all harbours reporting catches from Barents Sea to EU, Russian – and Norwegian authorities or determine criteria for operating a so-called “white list”.

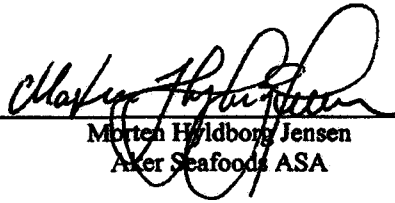
Finally, we are fully aware of the fact, that a sustainable long term solution will need engagement with Russian authorities and – companies as well.

We all hope that by joining our efforts we can develop sustainable fisheries in the Barents Sea.

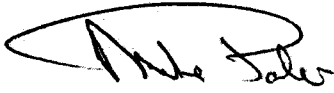
Yours



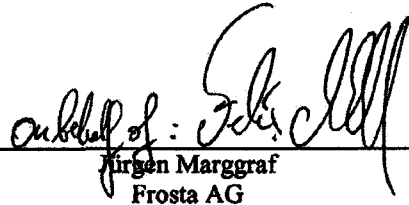
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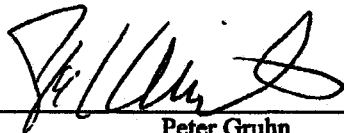
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