



# Murman SeaFood Co. Ltd

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Dated: 14 of November 2025

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway**  
**Att. Minister**

*Sent by e-mail*

Dear Mr. Espen Barth Eide.

The Russian fishing company Murman SeaFood LTD is contacting you regarding Norway's joining to the 17th package of EU sanctions against the Russian Federation, in terms of its to Murman SeaFood Co LTD.

On May 20, 2025, the Council of the European Union adopted the 17th sanctions package, restricting the activities of Russian fishing companies, which included our company too. It is worth noting that this was the first time a food producer had been included in the sanctions package.

The EU Council previously stated that such **sanctions cannot be applied to food companies**. As you know, Murman SeaFood Co LTD produces fish and seafood products and does nothing else.

On July 8, 2025, Norway joined the aforementioned EU sanctions package. However, in addition to the standard list of restrictive measures aimed at limiting the company's operations, a very significant addition was established: a ban on fishing by our company's vessels in the Norwegian Economic Zone.

This decision not only significantly expanded the scope of the sanctions adopted by the EU, but also directly contradicts the bilateral Russian Norwegian Fisheries Agreement concluded in 1975 (amendments of 1976 and 1978).

The fishing ban for vessels of the contracting parties, adopted unilaterally by Norway, for reasons in no way related to fisheries and the conservation of aquatic biological resources, not only violates the specific terms of the Agreement, but also undermines its core purpose – the conservation of aquatic biological resources and the reasonable regulation of fisheries not only in the region of our two countries, but also in the North-East Atlantic as a whole.

However, we are confident that the issue of compliance with the terms of the Russian Norwegian agreement will be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the joint Russian Norwegian Fisheries Commission.

We are writing to you for to get your explanation of the reasons why our company was included in the 17th EU sanctions package and, as a result, was denied fishing rights in the Norwegian Economic Zone.

On June 18, 2025, we submitted a request to the Council of the European Union with the same question and a request to reconsider the decision to impose sanctions on our company, as it was likely made in error.

In its response on 18 July 2025, we were informed of the refusal to change the decision, and as evidence of the reasons for which sanctions were applied to our company, the Council of the European Union attached various publications from newspapers (including electronic publishers) on 156 pages.

By letter dated 7 October 2025, the Council of the European Union informed us that it would maintain its decision on sanctions but indicated that we had the right to appeal it until 9 June 2026.

Murman SeaFood Co LTD strongly objects to this decision. This decision is based on entirely false premises that completely do not correspond to the actual situation. We are confident that it was made based on assumptions and fantastic stories presented in the media. The accusations contained in these articles are unsubstantiated and demonstrate the authors' lack of professional knowledge and expertise in the field of industrial fishing. Unfortunately, authors in their desire to stand out and gain immediate publicity, the authors likely failed to consider the potential consequences of these publications.

We are sure that the decision to impose sanctions on our company was made erroneously and through misunderstanding, perhaps hastily, without sufficient research into the facts and evidence to support the accusations, and under the pressure of certain circumstances.

At present time, a full, comprehensive analysis of all the circumstances of the case, which were outlined in various media publications and, as we understand it, formed the basis of the accusations against our company, has now been carried out.

This analysis was fulfilled and published by Norwegian security analyst Mr. Ole K. Fostad on October 26, 2025, at <https://skyggekrigen.no/artikler/spiontraleren/> (copy attached).

This work was completed at a highly professional level, with technical and legal arguments. It completely refutes all the far-fetched arguments presented in the media, which, we are certain, formed the basis for accusing us of destabilizing the situation.

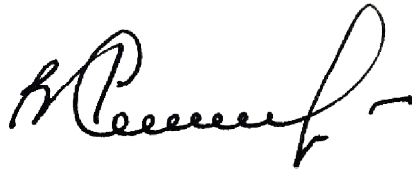
We reiterate that all accusations against us, which led to Norway joining the 17th sanctions package of EU regarding the fishing ban, are far-fetched and not supported by any facts or circumstances of the case.

Since its foundation in 1997, our company has enjoyed fruitful cooperation with many Norwegian companies and organizations. We have regularly paid their invoices for their services. Overall, we have **invested over five billion Norwegian kroner in the Norwegian economy**. It is unlikely that such activities by our company can be characterized as a threat to Norway's national security.

In light of the above, as well as the attached materials, we appeal to you with a strong request to reconsider the decision taken by Norway with respect to our company and to abolish the imposed sanctions.

We are sure that the sanctions were imposed erroneously, and that their cancellation will restore justice and promote the development of long-established business relationships between companies in our countries in the fields of fisheries and the conservation of aquatic biological resources.

Sincerely,  
General Director  
Vladimir Khizhnyakov



Attachments:

1. Article by Mr. Ole K. Fostad - Sanksjoner basert på innbilte ugjerninger – Skyggekrigen Kan vi stole på NRK – 17 pages.
2. Letter from Council of EU dated 18 July 2025 – 1 page
3. Attachment to letter from Council of EU dated 18 July 2025 (wk06029en25.pdf) – 156 pages
4. Letter from Council of EU dated 07 October 2025 (e7-Murman SeaFood.pdf) – 2 pages