

Agenda item 7.6
For Decision

Council

CNL(08)19

St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

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1. For a number of years the Council has requested, from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) information on the regulatory framework for managing the fishery, details of the licences issued and catches, and progress in implementing the sampling programme for the fishery that comprises biometric, genetic and pathology components. Last year the French authorities had indicated that they have continued to pursue the commitment made with regard to gathering scientific information on salmon stocks at St Pierre and Miquelon and with regard to management and conservation efforts. Furthermore, they indicated that it is the intention to introduce a procedure with a view to reducing the number of permits granted and hence reduce progressively the catches made on fragile North American stocks.
2. Last year the Council noted that while the number of licences issued in 2006 had declined the catch at St Pierre and Miquelon, while low, had increased compared to 2005 and was the highest in the period 1998-2006. The North American Commission had proposed to the Council that it would be beneficial if France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) became a Party to the NASCO Convention and the President of NASCO was, therefore, authorised to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to accede to the Convention. Accordingly the President wrote to The Director for Fishing and Agriculture on 18 January 2008 (Annex 1) and a follow-up letter was sent on 9 April 2008 (Annex 2). France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) was also invited to attend the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting as an observer. As in previous years, information on the fishery has again been requested from the French authorities. To date we have not received a response to any of our correspondence.
3. The Council is asked to consider what further steps it wishes to take in relation to cooperation with France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon).

Secretary
Edinburgh
12 May 2008

Annex 1

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CNL39.056

18 January, 2008

The Director for Fishing and Agriculture
Ministry of Fishing and Agriculture
3 Place Fontenoy
75700 Paris 07SP
France



Dear Sir

For several years now, your Ministry has cooperated with NASCO by providing details of the salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon. This information includes details of the regulatory framework to manage the fishery, catch data, the results of the scientific monitoring programme and perspectives on the regulatory framework. The Council of NASCO welcomes this cooperation. It recognises that the salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon is small, and subsistence-only in nature, and notes that the French authorities have indicated that through a reduction in the number of permits it will aim to reduce the catch in the fishery. However, the fishery exploits North American stocks and the abundance of these stocks has declined markedly over the last thirty years. For the two-sea-winter component of these stocks, ICES considers them to be suffering reduced reproductive capacity and some have been listed as 'endangered' under US and Canadian legislation. Furthermore, the Council of NASCO has noted that while the number of licences issued in the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery had declined in 2006, the catch, while low, had increased compared to 2005 and was the highest in the period 1998-2006. There is also a concern that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) was unable to be represented at NASCO's 2007 Annual Meeting.

The North American Commission of NASCO has recommended to the Council that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) be invited to become a Party to the NASCO Convention. The fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon is the only "distant-water fishery" for salmon that is not subject to discussion and regulation within NASCO.

In the past, your Ministry has confirmed that it wishes to increase its cooperation with NASCO to better participate in the process of understanding conservation and management of salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean. My Council believes that this could best be achieved by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) acceding to the NASCO Convention.

NASCO is an inter-government organization established by an international Convention

If you would like to discuss this matter further, the Secretary of NASCO, Dr Malcolm Windsor, and I would be pleased to meet you or your colleagues in Paris. (As it happens, we will both be in Paris on other business on 20, 21 and 22 February).

Best regards.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth F. Whelan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dr Ken Whelan
President

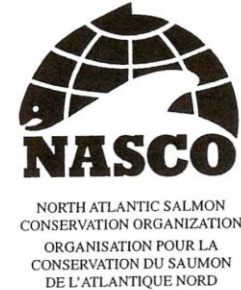
Copy: Mr John Spencer
Mr Guy Beaupré

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CNL39.060

Annex 2

9 April 2008

The Director for Fishing and Agriculture
Ministry of Fishing and Agriculture
3 Place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris
FRANCE



Dear Sir

St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

First, further to the letter to you dated 18 January from our President, Ken Whelan, I would be grateful if you could advise me if there has been any consideration given to the proposal from NASCO's Council that, in order to increase cooperation with NASCO and improve understanding of salmon management in the North Atlantic, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) accede to the NASCO Convention.

Second, in previous years the your Ministry has provided to NASCO details of the number and weight of salmon caught in the salmon fisheries at St Pierre and Miquelon, with a breakdown into recreational, commercial (subsistence) and by-catch components, together with information on the sampling programme and details of the management of the fishery. I would again like to ask if this information could be provided to NASCO, in this case for the fisheries in the calendar year 2007. If you can help with this information, if possible before the end of April, I would be most grateful.

I would also be grateful if you could advise as to whether you or one of your colleagues will be able to attend our annual meeting in Gijón, Spain during 3-6 June. I had written to Mr Guyau on 24 January inviting France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to attend as an observer so as to inform NASCO of the measures being taken to address NASCO's concerns about the harvests at St Pierre and Miquelon.

With best regards.

Yours faithfully



Malcolm Windsor
Secretary

Copy to: Mr J-M Guyau, Chargé du Mission – affaires internationales