

Council

CNL(08)39

St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

CNL(08)39

St Pierre and Miquelon

The attached letter, information on management of the fishery, details of catches and of the number of licenses issued, and a report on the scientific sampling programme were received today, 27 May, from the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

With regard to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) acceding to the NASCO Convention, the letter indicates that a decision requires a process of consultation between different Ministries and Authorities. This process is underway.

The 2007 catch of 2,032 tonnes was the second lowest in the ten year time-series and almost 43% lower than in 2006. The number of licenses remains at about the same level as in 2005 and 2006 but the French authorities indicate that they are committed to reducing this number to limit the harvest on the fragile salmon stocks. A biometric sampling programme was in place in 2007 but there has been no genetic sampling since that undertaken in 2004.

Secretary
Edinburgh
13 August 2008



MINISTRY OF FISHING AND AGRICULTURE

**Maritime Fisheries and
Aquaculture Directorate**

Maritime Fisheries Division

**Resource, Regulation and
International Affairs Bureau**

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**The Director for Fishing and Aquaculture
to
The Secretary of NASCO**

**11 Rutland Square
Edinburgh
EH1 2AS
UK**

**cc. :
Maritime Affairs Dept.;
Saint Pierre et Miquelon;
MOM-DAPAF – Mr. DEGENMANN;
MEDAD – Water Service – Mr. GUERY.**

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Paris, 22nd Mai 2008

Re-:/ 2008 Report to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO).
Enc.: 2

Dear Secretary,

In respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, and in response to your letter of 9th April, please find enclosed the report from France on wild salmon fishing activities, which is intended as preparatory material for NASCO's next Annual Meeting.

As in the previous year, this report contains a section on Saint Pierre et Miquelon salmon fishing activity which describes the regulatory framework of this fishery and provides some statistical information. A second section refers to the biometric study undertaken by IFREMER in 2007.

With reference to your enquiry about the position of France (in respect of Saint Pierre et Miquelon) on acceding to the NASCO Convention, a decision can only be made to join international organisations such as NASCO, once a process of consultation between several ministerial departments has taken place. This would also require seeking the approval of the relevant territorial authorities. This process, which is now under way, should continue into the second semester.

As Observer, France will therefore be represented during the next Annual meeting by Mrs. Christianne LAURENT-MONPETIT, from the State Secretariat for Overseas Affairs.

Yours faithfully,

pp. François GAUTHIEZ, Assistant Director
in the absence of the Director for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Références informatiques

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Data relating to the salmon fishing activity at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon addressed to NASCO's Parties, for their information (June 2008 Annual Meeting)

Given its geographical location, next to Newfoundland banks, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon has always been strongly dependent on maritime fishing activities.

In keeping with this tradition, the inhabitants of the archipelago have included in their fishing activities a fairly small catch from the wild salmon stock.

However, this has never constituted a trading activity as no fish has ever been intended for export.

The continuation of this traditional form of fishing is therefore a cultural rather than a commercial activity.

Besides, this activity has been subjected to a strict regulatory framework. This framework is intended to evolve in time with the view to progressively reduce the fishing effort on this particular stock.

Finally, the programme of scientific study, initiated two years ago, has been extended so as to gain a better understanding of this stock, in agreement with NASCO's recommendations on this point.

I – Fishery regulatory framework

The regulatory framework, within which this type of fishing activity is undertaken, has not changed over the last year. Fishing is indeed carried out in accordance with the 19th March 1987 Decree no. 87-182, which sets the minimum size of salmon caught, and with management and conservation measures as defined by the 20th March 1987 Ministerial Decree.

These measures are based on the following points:

- ✓ A limited period for the fishing season (1st May to 31st July);
- ✓ A ban on the setting of fishing gear at the opening of water courses;
- ✓ A limitation on the length of the nets;
- ✓ A minimum mesh size set to 125 mm;
- ✓ A minimum size for any captured salmon of 48 cm;
- ✓ An obligation to declare catches.
- ✓ An obligation to hold a fishing permit issued by the Prefect (as State Representative)

II- Permit allocation

Fishing permits are allocated to professional fishermen who can then sell on their catch. They are also issued to leisure fishermen who retain their catch for personal consumption. There is no export of salmons. Every single fish is sold on the local market. In practice, the few salmons which are sold tend to be privately consumed. These sales are to restaurants or to private individuals only through the local fish traders.

It is also important to remember, at this juncture, that the expression “professional fishing” is in fact referring to a traditional subsistence fishery by a local community highly dependent on fishing rather than to a truly commercial activity.

One should note that no salmon fishing takes place in the rivers of the Archipelago.

In 2007, 13 fishing permits were issued to professional fishermen and 53 to leisure fishermen. The number of permits remains stable compared with the previous year.

One must note however that only 7 professional fishermen and 49 leisure fishermen were actively involved in fishing for salmon in 2007.

III/ Statistical data concerning salmon fishing at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

3-1/ Catch statistics

CATCHES (in kilogramme per live weight)			
Years	Professional fishing	Leisure fishing	Total
1998	1,039	1,268	2,307
1999	1,182	1,140	2,322
2000	1,134	1,133	2,267
2001	1,544	611	2,155
2002	1,223	729	1,952
2003	1,620	1,272	2,892
2004	1,499	1,285	2,784
2005	2,243	1,044	3,287
2006	1,730	1,825	3,555
2007	970	1062	2032

It has been reported that a significant reduction in the volume of catches, amounting to 42%, occurred in 2007. This is broken down as follows:

- 44% drop in the professional catches
- 42% drop in the leisure catches (ie. 470 salmons only).

This reduction in the catches results partly from the efforts made in raising awareness amongst the professionals during these last years.

The restricted leisure fishing activity is also noteworthy (470 salmons caught by 49 ships, ie. an average of 10 salmons caught every 3 months per leisure fisherman or 1 salmon every 9 days).

3-2/ Permits issued

PERMITS ISSUED			
Years	Professional fishing	Leisure fishing	Total
1998	9	42	51
1999	7	40	47
2000	8	35	43
2001	10	42	52
2002	12	42	54
2003	12	42	54
2004	13	42	55
2005	14	52	66
2006	13	52	65
2007	13	53	66

Given NASCO's recommendations on this point, the mid-term objective is to pursue the trend in the reduction of catches made from this resource. The local Authorities therefore intend to maintain this objective on a year-on-year basis, by continuing, more particularly, to control the number of fishing permits granted for this activity.

Furthermore it must be noted that the number of fishing permits actually issued and used (49 in 2007) is lower to that initially requested and accepted by the authorities (53 in 2007).

IV – The scientific programme

As part of this cooperation with NASCO, the French authorities have implemented, in 2003, a programme of scientific monitoring under the leadership of the *Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer* (IFREMER). This programme, inspired by a project devised by NASCO, is based on the following constituents:

- ❖ A biometric study,
- ❖ A genetic study,
- ❖ A pathological study.

2-1/ The biometric study

The purpose of this project is to better define the characteristics of the salmon population. This biometric study, launched in 2003, was continued over the past year in accordance with the commitments made.

However, given the low number of salmon caught, only one sampling took place in 2007. Details of the results of this study are attached to this document.

2-2-2/ The genetic study

This constituent of the study was initiated in 2004. Results of analyses undertaken in cooperation with the Canadian Authorities have been sent to the Organisation's Secretariat. Further work could be undertaken in the future.

2-2-3/ Pathological study

To date, this aspect of the study has not yet been initiated, but is still planned.

In summary, France has pursued her commitment, with regard to improving the knowledge of this fishery and has implemented measures aiming to reduce the exploitation of this resource.

More particularly, in terms of the scientific programme, the work on the biometric constituent of this programme, aiming to improve the knowledge of this fishery, has been continued.

With regard to the management measures, the French Authorities have implemented a procedure aiming to reduce the number of permits issued in order to reduce progressively the catches made from this vulnerable stock.

**IFREMER local office
Saint-Pierre et Miquelon**

**Report on the biometric study undertaken in 2007 on the Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)
in Saint-Pierre et Miquelon**

*Daniel Briand, IFREMER
(January 2008)*

In 2007, salmon fishing at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon took place mainly during the month of June.

However, compared with the previous years, the study carried out amongst the salmon fishermen revealed the following differences:

- 1) The salmon arrived “late” in 2007, and no particular reason can be invoked for this: According to professional fishermen, as always, it could not be the consequence of bad weather as the weather had not been bad. There was also no evidence that this delay was the consequence of the dirtying of nets.
- 2) Professional fishermen reported that salmons arrived on the coast, “all mixed in” (larger salmons were caught at the same time as smaller salmons). This differed from the previous years when larger salmons were caught earlier.
- 3) Finally, it had been noticed that salmons were positioned in the nets in a primarily east-west direction.

Catches

Fishermen considered 2007 as a poor year for salmon. Indeed, the official catch figures for 2007 (source: Maritime Affairs Department of Saint Miquelon) show a net decrease amongst both the professional and leisure fishermen, for the same fishing effort.

Catches by professional fishermen amounted to 970kg, compared to 1,580kg in 2006 and that of the leisure fishermen 977 kg, compared to 1,589kg the previous year.

1 – Fishing sites

The fishing sites and fishing gear were the same as the previous year (see Figure 1). The sites, where nets were laid, are as follows:

Cap Noir, Ile aux Chasseurs, Les Flacous, Cap à Gordon, Les Canailles, Cap Bleu, Ile Pelée, Anse à la Vierge, Anse de l’Ouest, Rochers de l’Est, Caillou aux Chats, Basse Gélin, Basse des Grappains, Ile aux Vainqueurs, Pointe Blanche, Enfant Perdu, Cap Percé, Pointe Anse à Pierre, Cap aux Morts, Ilot Noir, Mirande, Trou aux Renards, Cap à Dinan, Basse Tournioure. Figure 5 indicates the sectors where salmon fishing took place.

2 – Fishing gear

The fishing gear used by fishermen at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon is a “tésure” made up of 3 or 4 nets linked end to end. Made in Canada, these nets are laced up with 60/100 mm diameter polyamide monofilament thread. The thread colour depends on the size of the mesh, when stretched out, being dark green for the nets with a mesh of 5 inches (125 mm) wide or olive

green for those with a mesh of 6 inches (150 mm). It is worth noting that the nets used are unlikely to all be exactly identical.

The authorised net length for the professional fishermen is 360 metres; leisure fishermen are permitted to use 180 metres long nets (25th April 2007 bylaw).

3 – Sampling from the 2007 landings

Biological sampling from the landings was carried out, in 2007, on a small number of salmon for the following reasons:

The sampling protocol sets out that the IFREMER local office must be contacted by the two local fish traders, as soon as they hold at least 10 or more salmon. Only then would the practical details of the sampling operation be established with the directors of the fish traders so that the handling takes place in the best possible conditions for both parties.

However, in 2007, the numbers of salmon exceeded 10 salmon only once, hence the only one sampling.

Following an investigation, it would appear that given the level of catches, the salmon fishermen preferred selling their salmon within their families or amongst the neighbourhood.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of samplings	12	11	8	19	1
Date of the 1 st sampling	4 June	5 June	6 June	6 June	14 June
Date of the last sampling	6 July	29 June	23 June	4 July	14 June
Total weight sampled (in kg)	872	837	718	926	49
Number sampled	340	355	310	391	12
Number weighed	340	355	310	391	12

Tab. 1 - Summary of the sampling exercise carried out on the salmon from 2003 to 2007 at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

4 – Sizes and weights recorded during the 2007 sampling

The total sampled weight was 48.6kg for 12 fishes. The average weight is 4kg and 50 grammes and the average height is 76.4 cm.

Length in centimetres	Weight in kilo.
71	2.900
72	3.550
73	3.450
74	3.550
75	4.350
75	3.950
78	4.100
78	4.750
79	4.200
79	4.100
80	4.650
82	5.050

Tab. 2 – Sizes and weight recorded during the 2007 sampling of salmon

4) Numbers and weights as recorded on the fishermen’s fishing log

The table below shows the declared catches, at the end of the season, as they are recorded in the leisure fishermen’s fishing logs (source: Maritime Affairs). One must note however that not all the fishermen had returned this document at the time of writing this report.

Length of the nets in metres	Number of caught salmon	Weight of the caught salmon (kg)	Average
180	8	13	1.6
180	4	15	3.8
180	6	11	1.8
180	11	24	2.2
180	1	4.5	4.5
180	5	20	4.0
180	12	30	2.5
180	6	15	2.5
180	12	45	3.8
180	2	6	3.0
180	9	30	3.3
180	6	12	2.0
180	3	5	1.7
180	5	11	2.2
180	9	21.5	2.4
180	8	16	2.0
180	18	32	1.8
180	15	28	1.9
180	8	14	1.8
180	10	16.9	1.7
180	10	16.3	1.6
180	30	71.2	2.4
180	9	16	1.8
180	9	26	2.9
180	3	12.4	4.1
180	11	26	2.4
180	8	19	2.4
180	4	10	2.5
180	16	40	2.5
180	12	23	1.9
180	8	14	1.8
180	6	13.2	2.2
180	10	30	3.0
180	15	32	2.1
180	36	87	2.4
180	2	8	4.0
180	34	64	1.9
180	18	36	2.0
180	6	7.2	1.2

180	12	16	1.3
180	5	16	3.2
180	11	23.8	2.2

Studies in the “Belle Rivière”

The leisure fishing Association of Saint-Pierre-Langlade, in cooperation with the services for Agriculture and Forests and the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS - *Hunting and Wild Fauna National Office*) has undertaken a study in the Belle Rivière to establish the presence of salmon.

Parrs have been captured during electrical fishing taking place between 1998 and 2000. However no adult salmon has ever been captured nor even observed. And yet, each year some fishermen report the presence of young fishes.

The aim of this study was therefore to estimate the presence of salmon in this water course and to define their migration.

To this end, a trap made up of 2 cages was placed in the river to enable the capture of salmon swimming from both directions. This was supplemented with a system of nets laid across the river so as to direct the fishes towards the trap.

The production service of the Agriculture Department was commissioned both to manufacture and install the trap during the first the two weeks in April.

The operation nonetheless proved fruitless as heavy rainfall raised the water level of the river to cause the trap to be swept away. Should the decision be taken to repeat the operation in 2008, steps will be taken to improve the installation.

5 – Results from the water temperature checks

Six water temperature checks, at 5 metres depth, were made near the fishing zone during the period extending from the end of May through to the beginning of July. The lowest temperature registered was on the 23rd May (5.0°C) and the highest on the 4th July (10.0°C).

Day	Month	Depth in metres	Temp. °C in 2003	Temp. °C in 2004	Temp. °C in 2005	Temp. °C in 2006	Temp. °C in 2007
20	5	5	1.8			5.0	
23	5	5			3.6		5.0
24	5	5		3.8			
1	6	5		4.3		5.1	5.1
4	6	5	3.12				
9	6	5		4.5			6.9
10	6	5	3.9			6.9	
14	6	5		4.6			
15	6	5			6.1	6.9	6.9
20	6	5			6.4		
21	6	5		5.4			
23	6	5	6.1				
27	6	5			6.5	7.5	6.5
28	6	5		7.5			
30	6	5	7.9				
4	7	5			8.9	10.0	10.0

List of figures

Fig. 1 – Atlantic salmon fishing net sites at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon in 2007