



Agenda item 5.10  
For information

**Council**

**CNL(19)19**

***Management and Sampling of the  
St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery***



MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE  
ET DE L'ALIMENTATION

Direction des pêches  
maritimes et de l'aquaculture

Sous-direction des ressources  
halieutiques

Bureau des affaires  
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92055 LA DÉFENSE CEDEX

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La Défense, le 29 MAI 2019

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Monsieur le Président,

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre le rapport annuel sur la pêcherie de saumon à Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon comportant des données complémentaires demandées par les scientifiques (groupe de travail sur le saumon de l'Atlantique du CIEM) en 2018 à Portland. Lors de la campagne 2018 les captures ont nettement diminué. Elles ne représentent que 1,43% du total des captures de l'année déclarées en Amérique du nord.

En réponse à l'invitation de l'OCSAN, une délégation participera en observateur à la réunion annuelle qui aura lieu à Tromsø, en Norvège, du 5 au 7 juin prochains. Le délégué de l'Ifremer à Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon assistera également au symposium scientifique qui précède la réunion annuelle, en cette année internationale du saumon.

La France poursuit ainsi, comme elle s'y est engagée, la coopération avec l'OCSAN, ses membres et la communauté scientifique.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de ma considération distinguée.

**Monsieur Joannes HANSEN**  
Président de l'OCSAN  
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Le Sous-Directeur  
des Ressources Halieutiques

  
Stéphane GATTO

Copie :

- Monsieur le Directeur général des Outre-Mer



PRÉFET DE SAINT-PIERRE-ET-MIQUELON

*Direction des Territoires,  
de l'Alimentation et de la Mer*

Saint-Pierre, 13 March 2019

*Service des Affaires Maritimes et Portuaires*

Le directeur

to

**Monsieur le directeur des pêches  
maritimes et de l'aquaculture**

**Reference:**

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Tour Sequoia  
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**RE:** Report on the 2018 salmon fishery

## **Annual Report on the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon 2018 Season**

CC: MOM/Délégué IFREMER SPM / Archives

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## **Introduction**

St Pierre and Miquelon is one of the last territories in North America that still permits an interceptory mixed-stock Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) sea fishery using gill nets. North American 2SW stocks are generally in decline, and do not attain more than 64% of their conservation limit. The latest advice from ICES recommends that no salmon fishing takes place at West Greenland in 2018, 2019 and 2020 to allow the stocks to be rebuilt (ICES. 2018). Only one river in the archipelago (the Belle Rivière) has a residual salmon stock which is not subject to fishing restrictions. The latest genetic analyses carried out in 2017 show that almost 90% of the catch taken in the archipelago originates in the Gaspésie, the southern part of the Gulf of St Lawrence and Newfoundland (Bradbury *et al.* 2016). Catch levels have been declining since 2014 as the number of licenses issued has remained stable since 2014.

### **1. Legislation**

Salmon fishing at Saint Pierre and Miquelon is regulated by the Rural and Maritime Fishery Law, in particular Book IX, the Order of 20 March 1987 and the Order of 24 March 2015 revising the Annexes of Decree No 87-182, which were repealed and integrated into the Rural and Maritime Fishery Law by Decree No 1608/2014 of December 2014.

This legislation establishes the following:

- the fishery is subject to authorisation and an Annual Fishery Plan
- the minimum capture size is 48cm
- nets must be declared and marked
- the minimum mesh size is 125mm
- the fishery season is restricted to 21 May - 21 July
- fishing gear must not be placed within 300m of a river mouth
- restricted fishing effort:
  - 3 x 360m nets for professional fishermen
  - 1 x 180m net for recreational fishermen
- all catch must be declared (through annual declarations and a fishing log)

377 inspections were carried out by the Maritime and Port Affairs Service between 21 May and 7 July. These were carried out at random in the morning and/or the evening on both recreational and professional fishers.

### **2. Permit Allocation**

Fishing permits are allocated to professional fishermen (who may sell their catch) and recreational fishermen (who are not authorised to sell their catch).

The allocation procedure is based on fishery precedence and on the applicant's compliance with catch declaration obligations throughout the previous year.

The Maritime and Port Affairs Service deals with permit requests and allocates each permit holder with a specific site to fish for the season. The overall fishery site plan is mapped and published annually by Order of the Prefect.

In 2018, 9 professional and 80 recreational permits were issued.

### 3. Salmon catch

The 2018 catch is as follows:

**Professional catch:** 155.5 kg (compared to 593.17 kg in 2017). 80 salmon were harvested by 4 professional vessels, averaging around 20 salmon per professional fisher. The highest catch by a single boat was 65 salmon. Five boats did not fish in 2018.

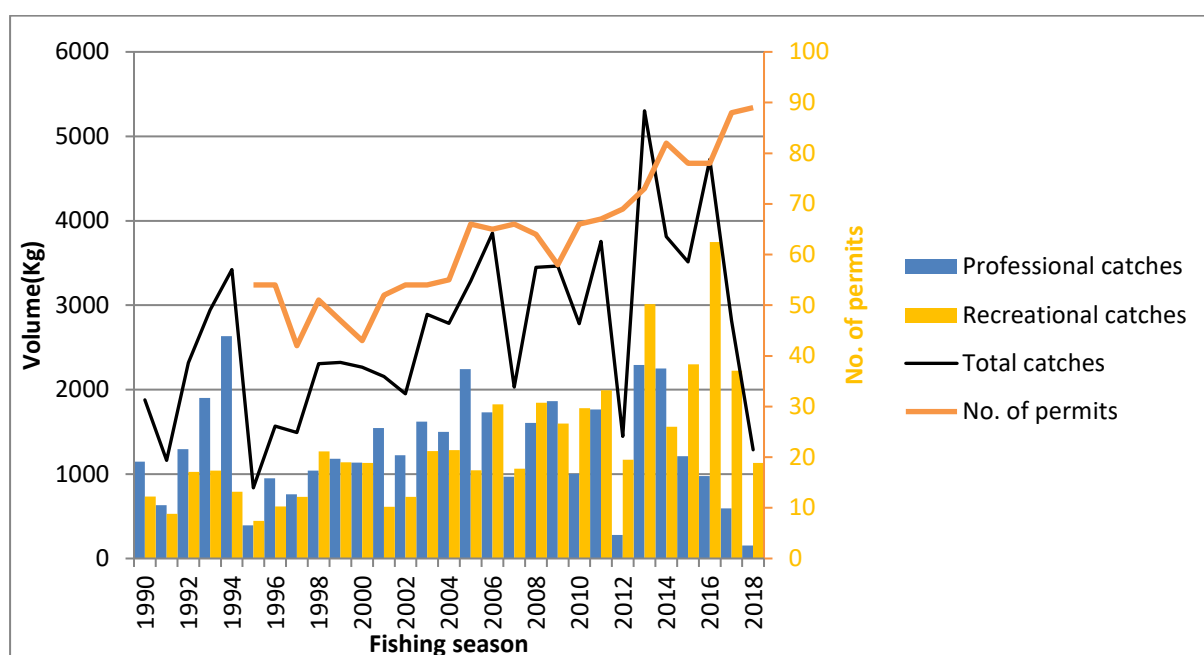
**Recreational catch:** 1,130.7kg (compared to 2223.4kg in 2017). 516 salmon were caught by 59 vessels, averaging around nine salmon per recreational fisher. The number of salmon caught per fisher varies greatly: the highest catch reported by a single recreational vessel was 35 salmon. It should also be noted that many people only fish for a very short period and bring their nets in well before the end of the season. 21 permit holders did not catch any salmon.

The total weight of the 2018 catch was therefore 1,286.2 kg, compared to 2,816.57 kg in 2017.

#### 2002 – 2018 Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon

Season	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Professional Fishery</b>																	
No. of permits	12	12	13	14	13	13	9	8	9	9	9	9	12	8	8	8	9
Volume (kg)	1223	1620	1499	2243	1730	970	1604	1864	1002	1764	278	2291	2250	1213	978	593	155.5
<b>Recreational Fishery</b>																	
No. of permits	42	42	42	52	52	53	55	50	57	58	60	64	70	70	70	80	80
Volume (kg)	729	1272	1285	1044	1825	1062	1846	1600	1780	1992	1168	3011	1561	2300	3749	2223	1130.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1952</b>	<b>2892</b>	<b>2784</b>	<b>3287</b>	<b>3855</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>3450</b>	<b>3464</b>	<b>2782</b>	<b>3756</b>	<b>1446</b>	<b>5302</b>	<b>3811</b>	<b>3513</b>	<b>4727</b>	<b>2816</b>	<b>1286.2</b>

There is no export of salmon and all salmon caught are consumed by the local market. Most are retained for personal consumption, with only a few sold to restaurants or individuals through a local fishmonger, or directly by the professional fisher to individuals.



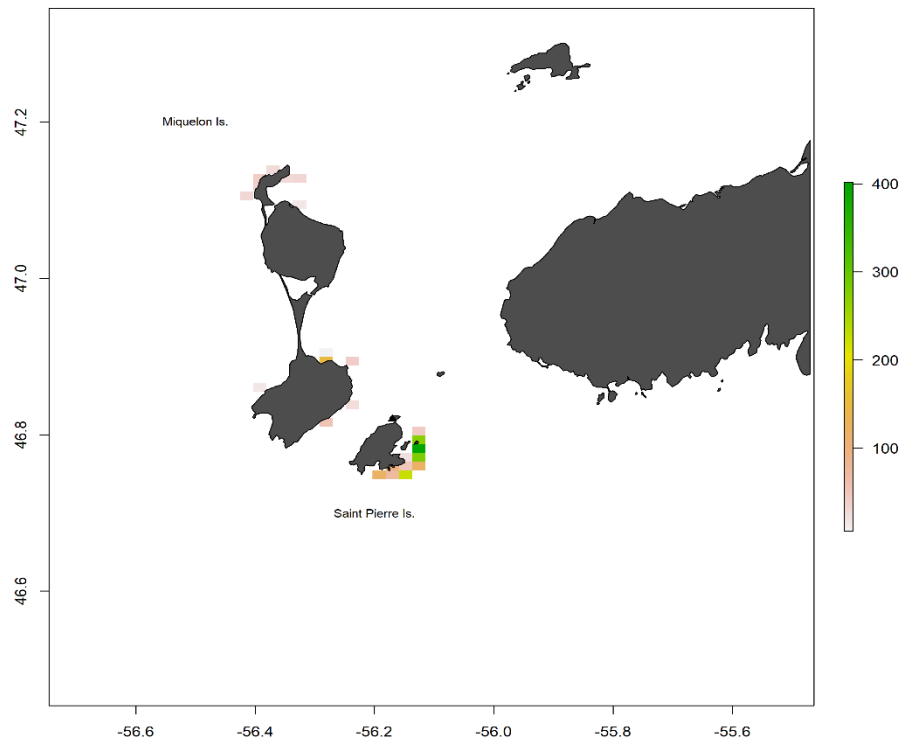
There has been a reduction in catch since 2017 due to a stable number of licenses

#### 4. Fishing Effort

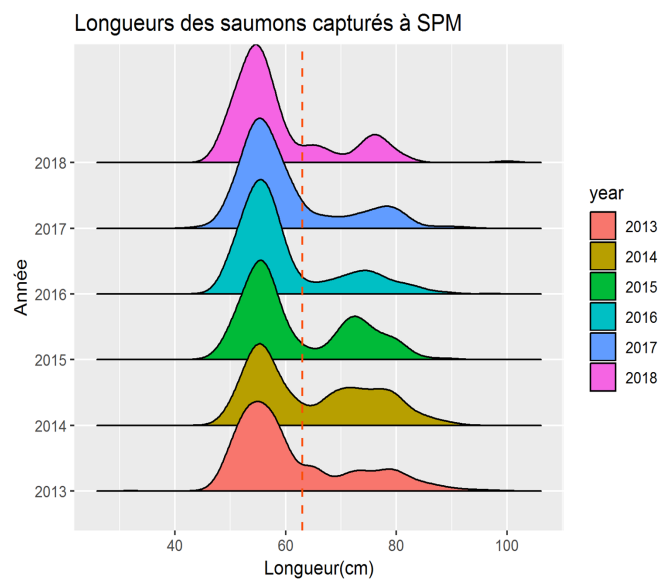
Fishing effort is mainly concentrated around the East and South-East of St Pierre. Other fishing sites are located around Miquelon and Langlade.

##### Salmon fishing effort in 2016

Fishing effort (cumulated length ( $\times 10^{-2}$ ) of gillnets deployed per day) per geographic unit



##### Salmon catch at St Pierre and Miquelon – Distribution of length (‘Longueur’) measurements



## 5. Length Analysis

The distribution of the length measurements of salmon caught at St Pierre and Miquelon shows two clearly distinct cohorts. In 2018, 77.4% of salmon caught had only spent one winter at sea (grilse – total length <63cm). Similar observations have been made for several years. In 1975, B Paturel reported that 58% were grilse, confirming the general downward trend in the number of multi-sea-winter fish in North American Atlantic salmon stocks (ICES. 2018).

## 6. 2018 Project Reports

More inspections were carried out in 2018. Increased patrols carried out jointly between Maritime Affairs Service and the Gendarmerie allowed the placing of nets to be checked. 2019 should see the number of inspections at sea increase as an extra patrol boat is brought into service. Analyses of seal diet have so far shown capelin to be the main prey of seals at the time salmon are present in the archipelago's waters. 56 length / weight measurements and scale and adipose samples were taken by IFREMER.

## Bibliography

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## Glossary

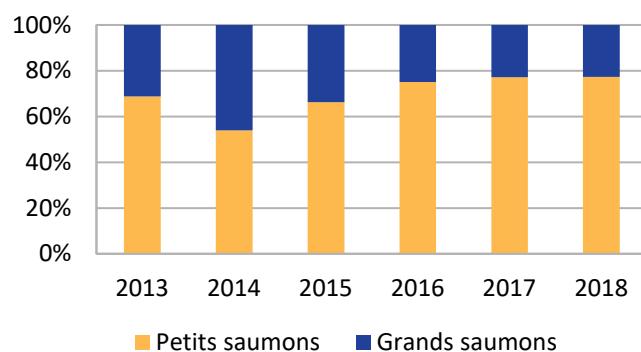
**Grilse** Atlantic salmon that spend one winter at sea and return to their river of origin to spawn. Salmon populations in some rivers and some groups of rivers are mainly composed of grilse.

**2-Sea-Winter Salmon (2SW)** Atlantic salmon that spend two winters at sea before returning to spawn. The majority of salmon harvested at Greenland are 2SW salmon.

**Multi-Sea-Winter Salmon (MSW)** Atlantic salmon, including 2SW salmon, which spend more than one winter at sea. Some spend three winters or more at sea and return to spawn several times. The majority of salmon in some rivers are Multi-Sea-Winter salmon.

**Mixed-Stock Fishery** Atlantic salmon from many different rivers are found in the ocean, coastal areas and in estuaries. Some of these are from populations at risk of disappearing and are harvested along with salmon from healthy populations. This kind of fishery operates in Greenland, on the Labrador coast and at St Pierre and Miquelon.

**Conservation limits** A conservation limit is the minimum number of spawners necessary to maintain a population and prevent its decline.



Trend in the proportion of small salmon ('Petits saumons') (<63cm) and large salmon ('Grands saumons') (>63cm) caught