



Agenda Item 8.5  
For Decision

**Council**

**CNL(13)15**

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



## CNL(13)15

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

1. The salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon, although small, has been shown to exploit North American stocks, some of which are listed as endangered. Information presented to the Council last year showed that genetic analysis of 73 samples collected in 2011 had confirmed earlier (2004) analyses that most (71 fish; 97.3%) of the salmon sampled were of Canadian origin. However, 2 (2.7%) of the fish were of US origin (Narraguagus River).
2. In 2009, the representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) advised the Council that the outcome of an inter-ministerial consultation in France was that full membership of NASCO by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) did not appear to be appropriate given the low level of the catch which is taken in a traditional fishery and is important for socio-economic reasons. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) wished to have its representation at NASCO as an observer confirmed. Last year, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) reiterated that it wished to retain its observer status and to develop scientific cooperation with NASCO. While welcoming the progress on the scientific sampling programme, the Council considered that accession to the NASCO Convention would be of benefit to both NASCO and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) and authorised the President to write to encourage France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to accede to the Convention. This letter is contained in Annex 1. NASCO's External Performance Review had highlighted the need to increase the dialogue with St. Pierre and Miquelon in order to agree upon targets and a method for making decisions on its salmon fishery and also to improve data collection.
3. As in previous years, we have received from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) a report containing information on the management of the fishery, details of catches and of the number of licenses issued. This information is contained in Annex 2. The total catch in 2012 was 1.446 tonnes and there were 69 licensed fishermen (9 professional permits and 60 recreational permits). No sampling of the fishery was conducted in 2012.
4. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Thirtieth Annual Meeting and will be represented by Ms Christiane Laurent-Monpetit, Ministère de l'Outre-mer, France.

Interim Secretary  
Edinburgh  
29 May 2013



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CNL39.084

26 February 2013

Monsieur Patrick Chevallereau  
Le Secrétaire général adjoint de la mer  
69, rue de Varenne  
75007 PARIS  
France

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON  
CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION POUR LA  
CONSERVATION DU SAUMON  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Dear M le Secrétaire générale adjoint,

On behalf of the Council of NASCO (l'OCSAN), I would like to thank you for continuing to provide information on the fishery and on the sampling programme at St Pierre and Miquelon. The information provided in your letter of 14 May was considered by the Council of NASCO (l'OCSAN) at its Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting in Edinburgh during 5 – 8 June 2012. The Council very much appreciates the provision of this information and welcomes the commitment to improve the quality of the genetic analyses conducted under the sampling programme in order to identify the origin of the salmon in the fishery.

At our Annual Meeting, M Fairise reiterated that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) wishes to retain its observer status to NASCO (l'OCSAN) and to further develop its scientific cooperation with NASCO (l'OCSAN). He again stressed that while the fishery is an interception fishery, it is small and catches are low compared to elsewhere in the North Atlantic and it is important for socio-economic reasons. As noted in my letter of 11 January 2010 to M Tallec, the Council recognises the small, traditional nature of this salmon fishery, but genetic sampling to date, although limited, indicates that the exploited stocks are of North America origin, some of which are endangered. The Council of NASCO (l'OCSAN) continues to believe that there are strong conservation arguments in support of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) acceding to the Convention and that this would bring benefits to both NASCO (l'OCSAN) and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) in terms of enhanced cooperation and exchange of information about the management of this and other salmon fisheries (including subsistence fisheries) in the North Atlantic. Consistent with the goals of NASCO (l'OCSAN) of rational salmon management and application of the Precautionary Approach, it is vital that all salmon fisheries are managed with due consideration to the scientific advice and in a collaborative and transparent manner.

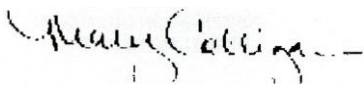
In accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/105, an external performance review of NASCO's work has recently been conducted by a panel that included representatives from the United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

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

and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. One of the Review Group's recommendations was that dialogue with St Pierre and Miquelon should be increased 'in order to agree upon targets and a method for making decisions on their salmon fishery and also to improve data collection'. The Council of NASCO (l'OCSAN) believes that full membership of NASCO (l'OCSAN) by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) would better facilitate this cooperation and dialogue.

If you would like any additional information about NASCO (l'OCSAN) please do not hesitate to contact me. We would be pleased to meet with you or your colleagues if that would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Colligan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Mary Colligan  
President of NASCO

cc: Christiane Laurent-Monpetit; Nicolas Fairise

**Annual report on the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at Saint Pierre and Miquelon  
2012 Season**

**1. Legislation**

Salmon fishing in the St Pierre and Miquelon archipelago is regulated by decree No 87-182 of 19 March 1987, implemented under the Order of 20 March 1987.

This legislation establishes the following:

- The fishery is under license and subject to 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 1 May – 31 July
- It is not permissible to place fishing gear 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)

310 boat inspections were carried under this legislation in 2012, 295 of which were of recreational vessels and 15 were professional vessels. The inspections were carried out over 20 days, both in the morning and in the evening.

**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 compliance with catch declaration obligations throughout the previous season.

The Maritime Centre deals with permit applications and allocates each permit holder with a specific site to fish for the entire season. The fishery site plan is published by Order of the Prefect.

In 2012, 9 professional permits were issued (as in 2011) and 60 recreational permits were issued (58 were issued in 2011). The total number of permits is relatively stable when compared to previous years (58 in 2009 and 66 in 2010).

**3. Salmon Catch**

The total 2012 catch stands at:

Professional catch: 278kg (1764kg in 2011)

Recreational catch: 1168kg (1992kg in 2011). 405 salmon were caught, compared to 470 in 2007, 933 in 2008, 748 in 2009, 768 in 2010 and 819 in 2011.

The total weight of the catch was 1446kg (compared to 3756kg in 2011 and 2782kg in 2010) and fishing effort remains modest.

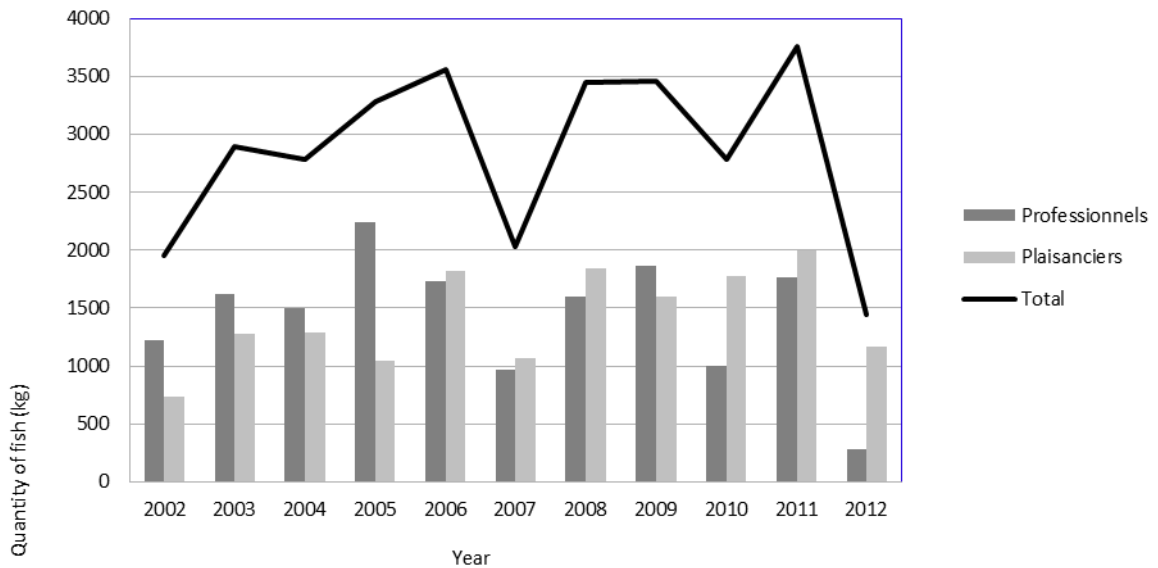
The 405 salmon caught by 60 recreational boats averages around 7 salmon per recreational fisherman (the average in 2011 was 14). However, 24 salmon were caught by one vessel, while

approximately a dozen vessels did not catch any. It should also be noted that many boats only fish for a very short period and bring their nets in well before the end of the permitted season, as soon as they consider that their catch is sufficient for them and their immediate circle.

Around 80% of the professional catch was taken by 2 vessels.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Professional Fishery</b>											
<b>No. of licenses</b>	12	12	13	14	13	13	9	8	9	9	9
<b>Catch volume</b>	<b>1223</b>	<b>1620</b>	<b>1499</b>	<b>2243</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1604</b>	<b>1864</b>	<b>1002</b>	<b>1764</b>	<b>278</b>
<b>Recreational Fishery</b>											
<b>No. of licenses</b>	42	42	42	52	52	53	55	50	57	58	60
<b>Catch Volume</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>1272</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>1825</b>	<b>1062</b>	<b>1846</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>1780</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1168</b>
<b>Total catch</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>

The Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon



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

It should be noted that there is no fishing for salmon in the archipelago's rivers.