



Agenda item 7.7
For information

Council

CNL(18)17

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

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Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

1. At the 2017 Annual Meeting of the North American Commission, concerns were expressed about the continuing mixed-stock salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon. It was noted that many of the salmon caught in this fishery are from vulnerable populations. It was proposed that the President of NASCO write to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to express NASCO's concerns and encourage France to become a member of the Organization. The Council agreed to this request and the President therefore wrote to the French Minister for Agriculture and Food on 15 September 2017. A copy of this letter is included in Annex 1.
2. We received a response to this letter on 22 May 2018. This response has now been translated into English and is included in Annex 2 of this report. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has noted that it wishes to retain its observer status at NASCO and has committed to providing NASCO with information on the fishery and taking NASCO recommendations on catch taken by communities dependent on fishing into account.
3. As in previous years, we have received a report containing information on the management of the fishery, details of catches and of the number of licenses issued from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon). This information is contained in Annex 3. The total catch in 2017 was 2,816.57kg (down from 4,727.58kg in 2016), and there were 88 licensed fishermen (8 professional permits and 80 recreational permits). This is an increase on the previous year when 8 professional and 70 recreational permits were issued. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has advised that it is not yet in a position to provide CPUE information on the fishery but hopes to do so in 2019.
4. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting and will be represented by Ms Christiane Laurent-Monpetit, (Ministère des Outre-Mer), Mr Herlé Goraguer, (IFREMER) and Ms Marie-Lénaïck Tabart (Direction des Territoires, de l'Alimentation et de la Mer).

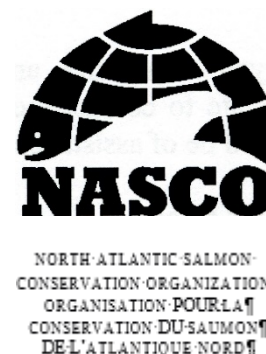
Secretary
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1 June 2018

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CNL39.112

15 September 2017

M. Stephane Travert
Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
78 Rue de Varenne
75007 Paris
France



Dear M. Travert

I am writing on behalf of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) to express appreciation for the information that continues to be provided to NASCO on the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon. France's long-standing and strong commitment to sustainable fisheries management, including in its homewater salmon fisheries, is well known, and NASCO seeks your government's assistance regarding an important matter of mutual interest concerning the conservation and management of Atlantic salmon.

NASCO recently held its Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting at which it considered information on the status of Atlantic salmon populations from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The global status of Atlantic salmon remains of significant concern. Many stocks continue to be at critically low levels of abundance, with several Canadian-origin stocks in a threatened condition and US-origin salmon in danger of extinction. Both countries have had very strict conservation measures in place for many years, including prohibitions on fishing. Genetic information has shown that these and other North American salmon populations are vulnerable to the mixed-stock, interceptory salmon fishery conducted at St Pierre and Miquelon.

The information made available to NASCO this year on the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery shows an increasing trend in catches over time, with catches in 2016 the second highest in the time-series. These increases appear to be largely related to growth in the number of recreational licenses issued. According to the report on the fishery presented by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon), the number of recreational licenses issued in 2002 was 42 and the corresponding catch for this component of the fishery was less than 1t. By 2016, the number of recreational licenses issued had increased to 70, a 67% increase, and the harvest to more than 3.7t. Moreover, the representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) reported that the number of licenses issued for the 2017 fishery increased to 80 and has been permanently capped at that level. The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) did indicate that the fishing season will be shortened by 10 days this year and two weeks next and that implementation of a fixed limit on the number of salmon which a

recreational fisherman can retain is being considered for future years. While these are positive steps, there was no indication about what the retention limit would be, when this measure would come into effect, or that setting an overall catch limit for this component of the fishery is being contemplated.

Over the same period (2002-2016), the number of commercial licenses was reduced from 12 to 8. Catches for this component of the fishery, however, only decreased about 0.2t, from about 1.2t to 1t. While the commercial catch has been relatively stable over time, harvests could begin to increase if there is a change in the interests of commercial fishermen given that there are no catch limits or effective effort controls in place for the fishery.

NASCO first sought cooperation with France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) in relation to the conservation and management of Atlantic salmon almost 20 years ago. Since that time, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has attended NASCO Annual Meetings regularly as an observer, sharing information on the operation and outcomes of its fishery, and implementing a sampling programme that includes, in more recent years, critical genetic analyses to determine the origin of the salmon taken in the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery. While NASCO very much appreciates this increased engagement in the work of our organization, we remain concerned that the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery is not only harvesting highly vulnerable salmon stocks contrary to scientific advice but that those harvests have been increasing significantly over the last 20 years due to a lack of management measures that effectively limit harvests.

The Parties to NASCO therefore urge France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to further enhance its cooperation with NASCO by introducing effective measures to limit catches in the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery to the lowest possible level, taking into account the scientific advice. In addition, given the continued interest of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) in prosecuting a mixed-stock fishery for Atlantic salmon, NASCO once again requests that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) seriously considers joining NASCO to better facilitate cooperation and dialogue.

NASCO will next consider issues surrounding the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon at its Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting in June 2018. We would be grateful to receive your response before that time and thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

Jóannes Hansen
President of NASCO

cc : Mme. Annick Girardin, Ministre de l'Outre-Mer pour transmission au Préfet de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon



MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE L'ALIMENTATION

Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture
Sous-direction des ressources halieutiques
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MINISTÈRE DES OUTRE-MER

Direction générale des Outre-mer
Sous-Direction des politiques publiques
Bureau des politiques agricoles, rurales
et maritimes

Paris, 17 May 2018

Dear Mr President,

Your letter of 15 September 2017 has been given due consideration by the French authorities. The conservation of North Atlantic salmon is a sensitive subject of great importance to the French administration.

As mentioned in your letter, a delegation from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has attended NASCO plenary meetings as an observer for many years. France has committed to voluntarily providing NASCO with its fishery data. The scientific sampling programme is carried out in collaboration with Canada.

The commercial salmon fishery at the archipelago continues to decline. There is also a traditional recreational fishery, for familial consumption, which is limited by its nature. The traditional fishing season has been shortened for both types of fishery.

Given that the salmon catch at St Pierre and Miquelon represents around 3.5% of the total catch in the North American area, we would propose that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) maintains its position as an observer to NASCO. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) will continue to provide NASCO with as much information as possible and commits

to take NASCO recommendations on catch taken by communities dependent on fishing into account.

Yours sincerely,

Le Directeur des Pêches Maritimes
et de l'Aquaculture

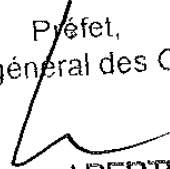
Frédéric GUEZDAR DELAHAYE



Le Directeur général des Outre-Mer

Préfet,
directeur général des Outre-Mer

Emmanuel BERTHIER





PRÉFET DE SAINT-PIERRE-ET-MIQUELON

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

Saint-Pierre, 2 March 2018

Service des Affaires Maritimes et Portuaires

Le directeur

to

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

Reference:

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RE: Report on the 2017 salmon fishery

**Annual Report on the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon
2017 Season**

CC: MOM/Délégué IFREMER SPM / Archives

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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 1 May - 31 July. The 2017 fishing season was shortened by 10 days and closed on 21 July. This was achieved through negotiations with the permit holders
- 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)
- all catch in the recreational fishery must be tagged

36 boat inspections were carried out by the Maritime and Port Affairs Service between 9 May and 7 July. These were carried out at random in the morning and/or the evening, on both recreational and professional vessels.

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 by Order of the Prefect.

In 2017, 8 professional and 80 recreational permits were issued. The total number of permits issued has remained stable over the last 4 years, while the number of actual fishers has remained constant since 2005 (an average of 50 fishers per year over the last 12 years).

3. Salmon catch

The total 2017 catch stands at:

Professional catch: 593.17kg (978.58kg in 2016). 245 salmon caught

Recreational catch: 2,223.4kg (3,749kg in 2016). 878 salmon caught

The total weight of the 2017 catch was therefore 2,816.57kg, compared to 4,727.58kg in 2016.

The 878 salmon caught by 80 recreational boats averages around 11 salmon per recreational fisher. However, the highest catch by a single recreational vessel was 86 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, when they consider that their catch is sufficient for their personal use and that of their immediate circle.

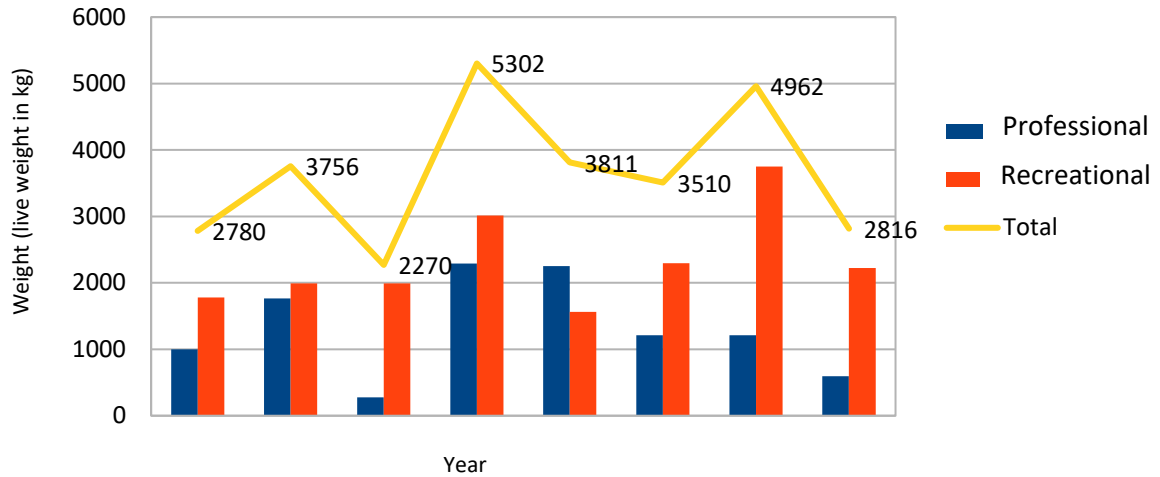
The 245 salmon caught by 8 professional vessels averages around 31 salmon per professional fisher. The highest catch by a single professional vessel was 124 salmon. One professional license holder reported that he did not fish this season.

No. of licenses and catch volume 2002 - 2017

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

Note: Between 2002 and 2017, the number of permits issued increased by 47.5%. The average catch volume during this period was 3,241kg.

Salmon catch at St Pierre and Miquelon 2010 - 2017



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 at market.

It should be noted that, although the number of permits issued increased in 2017, the catch was around 43% lower than in 2016. The decline is mainly due to poor weather in July and, undoubtedly, the salmon's delayed arrival.

There is still an upwards trend in catches, with the average catch volume over the seven year period from 2010 - 2017 of 4,021kg.

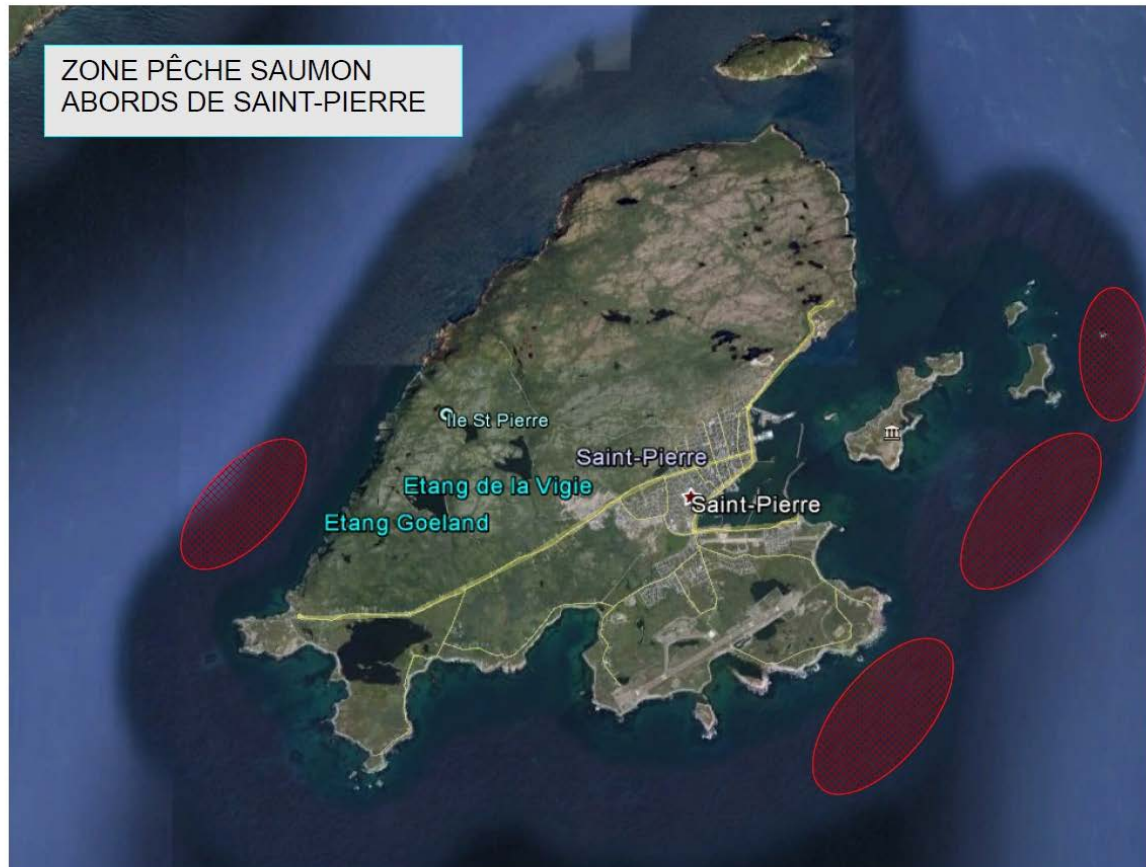
8,424 kg of Canadian salmon were imported into the territory in 2017.

4. Profile of fishers/location of fishing sites

The average salmon fisher on the archipelago is male (no females fish), aged approximately 55 years old (the youngest being 38 and the oldest 77).

The Atlantic salmon fishing sites are located around the archipelago as follows:





5. 2017 Project Reports

In 2018, the Directorate for Territories, Food and the Sea / Maritime and Port Affairs Service will benefit from a new vessel. It is hoped that this vessel can be used to increase awareness among permit holders of the specific concerns relating to the salmon fishery in the archipelago.

Parr Study in the Belle-Rivière river

Many in-river fishers reported the presence of parr in the Belle-Rivière (Langlade) in 2014. A study could be carried out to determine whether the river, whose mouth is frequently obstructed, could sustain more salmon if their return to the river was facilitated by dredging the river mouth. The Belle-Rivière was not obstructed in 2016 and there was therefore no need to dredge it. Electro-fishing was carried out to determine whether there were parr present in the river.

2017 Update: No electro-fishing took place on the Belle-Rivière in 2017, although further electro-fishing is expected to be carried out from 10 September 2018. Therefore, there is no new information on the salmonid population in the river. The river, which is not polluted, is in satisfactory condition.

Seal Counts

A report on the status of, and recommendations for monitoring, the seal population at St Pierre and Miquelon published in November 2015 did not indicate an overpopulation of

these mammals in the archipelago. However, the report established a procedure for monitoring seal populations, recognising the different species and recommended studying the seals' diet and interactions between seals and fishing activity. In 2016, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) advised NASCO that it had not been established that the seal population in the archipelago was increasing. However, the impact of these mammals on fishery resources, particularly salmon, was under serious consideration.

Two seal counts were carried out in July and November 2016, one was carried out in April 2018 and two further counts are planned for July and October 2018.

Additionally, 10 satellite tracking tags were placed on grey seals in 2017. This work was carried out in partnership between CEBC (the Chizé Centre for Biological Studies) and DFO (Canada). The results have not yet been analysed or published.

CEBC, in collaboration with DFO (Canada), the University of Florida, the St Pierre and Miquelon Association of Artisanal Fishers and the French National Office for Hunting and Wildlife) also plans to submit a project for a study on seals to the call by the AFB (the French Agency for Biodiversity) on biodiversity restoration in over-sea territories.

Le directeur