

Agenda item 7.5
For Decision

Council

CNL(10)18

St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

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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 critically endangered. In 2007, the Council had asked the President to write to the French authorities to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to accede to the NASCO Convention. Last year the representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) had 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 which has limited impact on the economic development of the archipelago. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) had, therefore, indicated that it wished to have its representation at NASCO as an observer confirmed.
2. The Council believes that accession to the NASCO Convention would have been of benefit to both NASCO and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) and had authorised the President to write to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to express disappointment at their decision and to refer to its concerns about the increased catch in 2008, the second highest in the time-series and approximately 80% higher than in 2007. The President was also asked to express the Council's support for expanding the sampling programme at St Pierre and Miquelon to include genetic analysis and to request that information on the fishery and the sampling programme be made available in time for the meeting of the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon in March. This letter was sent by the Acting President on 11 January 2010 as is attached in Annex 1. To date, no reply has been received. We understand that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada has also written. The NGOs also wrote to the French authorities and this letter is contained in Annex 2.
3. In previous years, reports from the authorities in France on the salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon and on the sampling programme have been made available to NASCO before its Annual Meeting. To date, we have received no reports. However, information provided to the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) for the inventory of marine research indicates that the annual sampling programme which commenced in 2003 was not conducted in 2009 but it is planned to restart this programme in 2010. Information in the 2010 ICES ACOM report, CNL(10)8, states that 'A total harvest of 3.4t was reported in the professional and recreational fisheries in 2009. This is similar to the 2008 harvest which was one of the highest in the available time series.'
4. A representative from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Annual Meeting. We have not yet received confirmation if a representative will be present.

Secretary
Edinburgh
12 May 2010

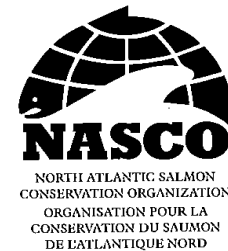
Annex 1

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CNL39.073

11 January 2010

M Jean-François Tallec
Secrétaire général de la Mer
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75007 Paris
France



Dear M le Secrétaire général,

On behalf of the Council of NASCO, I would like to thank you for M Paulmier's letter of 19 May 2009 concerning the outcome of the interministerial consultation in relation to possible accession by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean. This letter together with information on the fishery and on the sampling programme at St Pierre and Miquelon were considered by the Council of NASCO (OCSAN) at its Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting in Molde, Norway during 1-5 June 2009. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Organization.

The Council appreciated the information provided by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) and the attendance of the Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Outre-Mer at the meeting. NASCO (OCSAN) also appreciates the continuation of the sampling programme to better understand the biological characteristics of the exploited stocks at St Pierre and Miquelon. Expansion of this programme to include additional sampling and analysis could contribute important information to our SALSEA-Programme and both the US and Canada offered support for sampling and analysis. SALSEA is an international collaborative scientific research programme to improve understanding of salmon at sea. It would assist both NASCO (OCSAN) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES /CIEM) if this information could be provided to both organizations by the first week of March each year prior to the ICES (CIEM) Working Group on North Atlantic salmon.

While recognising that the salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon is a small traditional fishery, the Council noted with concern that the catch in 2008 was approximately 80% higher than in 2007 and the second highest in the time-series of catches since 1983. Although only limited genetic sampling has been conducted, study results have shown the exploited stocks are of North American origin, many of which are critically endangered. The Council of NASCO (OCSAN) understands from M Paulmier's letter that the salmon fishery is considered to have little impact on the economic development of the archipelago and that this was a factor in the decision not to proceed with an accession to the Convention. However, the Parties to NASCO (OCSAN) believe that there are strong conservation arguments in support of such an accession and that there would be benefits to both NASCO (OCSAN) and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) from enhanced cooperation and exchange of information about the management of this and other salmon fisheries (including other subsistence fisheries) in the North Atlantic. Consistent with the goals of NASCO (OCSAN)

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

of rational salmon management and the application of the Precautionary Approach, it is vital that all salmon fisheries be managed with due consideration to the scientific advice and in a collaborative and transparent manner. We believe that full membership of NASCO (OCSAN) by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) would better facilitate this cooperation than continuing observer status.

I have enclosed a copy of NASCO (OCSAN)'s basic texts. If you would like any other information about NASCO (OCSAN) please do not hesitate to contact our Secretary, Dr Malcolm Windsor. We would be pleased to meet you if that would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Mary Colligan
Acting President

Enc: Handbook of Basic texts

cc Christiane Laurent-Monpetit

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11th January 2010

M. Jean-Francois Tallec
Secrétaire General de la Mer
16 Boulevard Raspail
75007 Paris
France

Dear M.Tallec

St Pierre et Miquelon and NASCO

I am writing as Chairman of the NGO Group at NASCO following the 26th annual meeting in Molde, Norway from June 2nd - 5th 2009. There are currently 35 NGOs accredited to NASCO including three from France and one from Quebec. Together we represent some 10 million stakeholders across the North Atlantic working with governments for the restoration and conservation of Atlantic salmon.

We were disappointed to hear from your representative in Molde, that your Department had decided to remain as observers and not become full signatories to the NASCO Treaty.

Although salmon, like tuna (and I understand you are members of ICATT) are international travellers, unlike tuna, salmon return to freshwater to spawn. Any salmon caught in the coastal waters of St P & M originate in rivers of the USA and Canada. All the riverine populations of salmon in the USA are critically endangered, with many rivers in Canada below their conservation limit, and both governments are spending considerable resources on conservation measures at home. It is most important we all work together to help conserve and restore this unique species for the benefit of future generations. Full membership of NASCO would greatly facilitate this process.

Can I urge you, on behalf of all my colleagues, to reconsider your decision and become full members of NASCO in 2010.

Yours sincerely

C W Poupard
Chairman, accredited Non-Government Observers at NASCO
Copy: Mme Laurent Monpetit, Département des Politiques, Agricoles, Rurales et Maritimes