

REPORT OF ICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ON

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON STOCKS

TO

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

Manuel **NAC Area** Lassen

CNL(10)8

Advice generated by ICES in response to terms of reference from NASCO

With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:

- 1. describe the key events of the 2009 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)**
- 2. update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available**

- ❖ **In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the framework of indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required, see other terms of reference**

- **In January 2010, NASCO indicated that based on the FWI analysis, no change to the management advice previously provided by ICES was required for the fishery at West Greenland and in North America**

- **Terms of reference 1 and 2 would be considered by ICES**

Conservation Limits

- **No changes to CLs proposed**

Key events of the 2009 fisheries

- The majority of harvest fisheries were directed to small salmon
- Catch in 2009 was second lowest (after 2007) of the time series

Management in 2009

Commercial fisheries remained closed

No fisheries on Atlantic salmon in US

Three user groups accessed salmon in Canada:

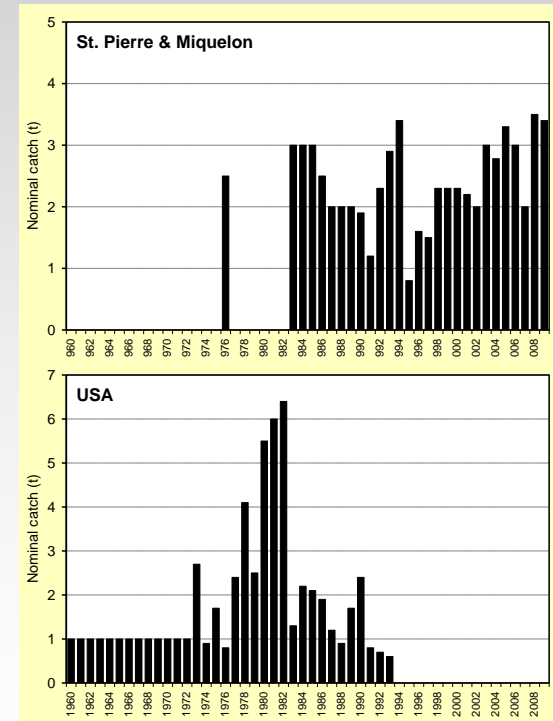
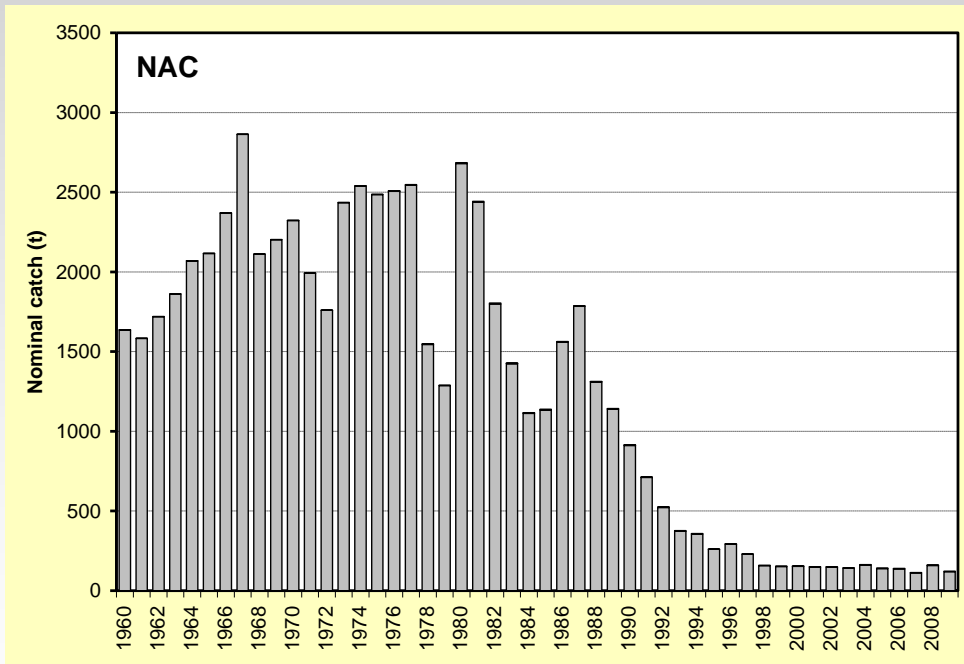
- **aboriginal peoples**
- **recreational fisheries**
- **food fisheries for residents of Labrador**
- **some region specific changes in recreational fisheries management** (reduction from 8 to 4 of season bag limits in Nova Scotia, mandatory catch and release in P.E.I.)

St. Pierre & Miquelon

- **recreational and professional gillnet fisheries as in previous years**

Catches

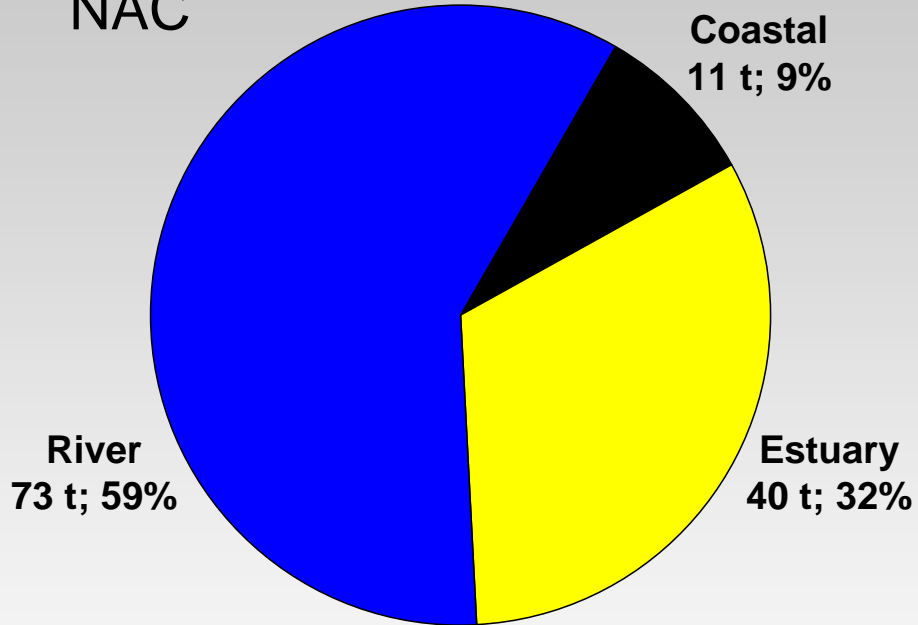
| In 2009 | Canada | USA | St. P&M |
|----------------|--------|-----|---------|
| Catch (t) | 119 | 0 | 3.4 |
| Unreported (t) | na | 0 | na |



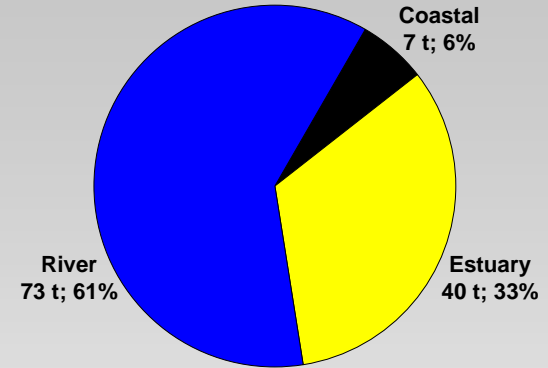
- Catch in 2009, second lowest of time series (after 2007)
- Large decline in catches post commercial fishery moratorium 1992

Location of Catches

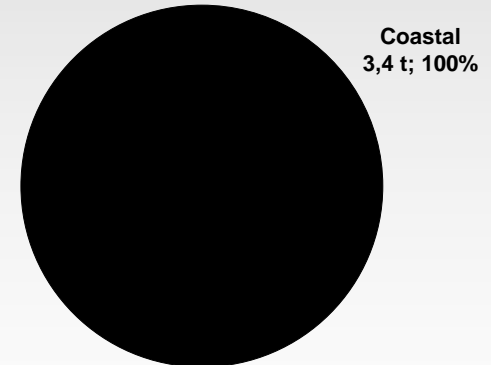
NAC



Canada



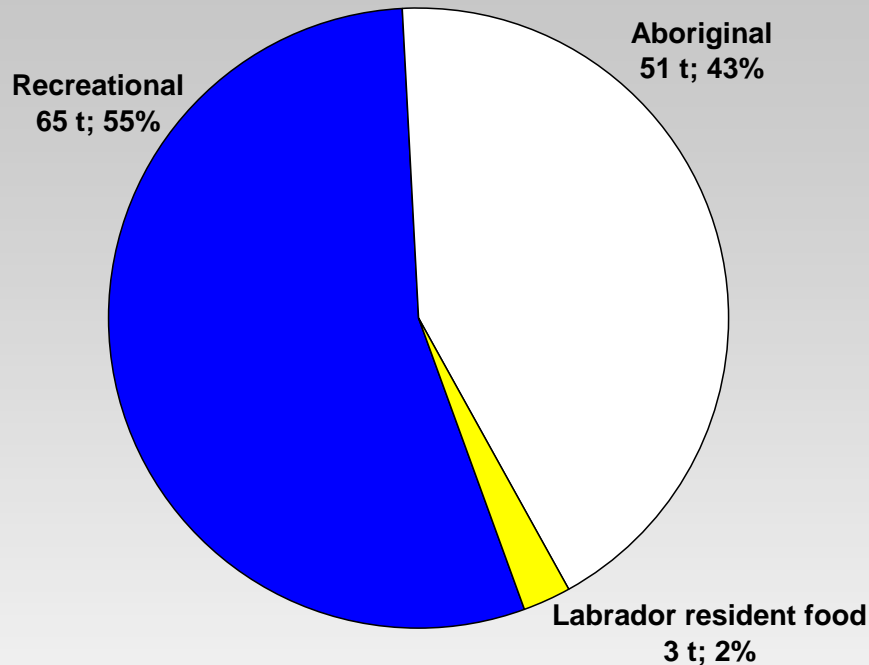
St. Pierre & Miquelon



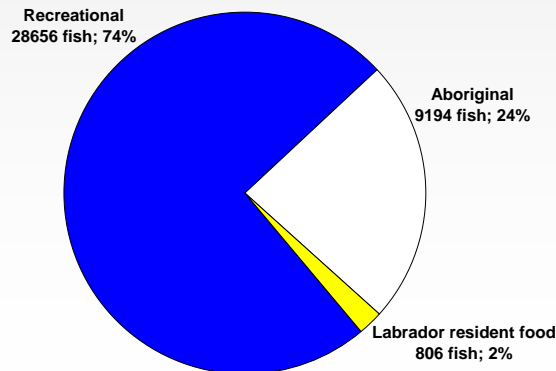
Catches by User Group

Canada

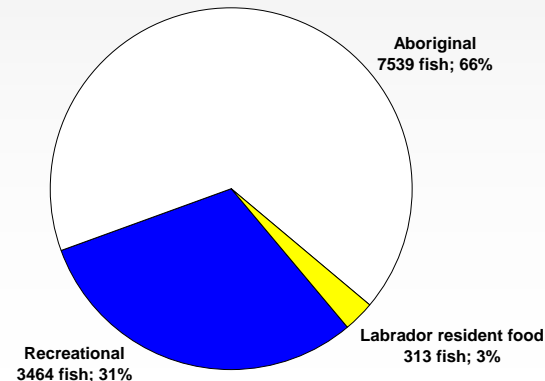
- largest catch by weight was in recreational fisheries
- recreational fisheries harvested the most small salmon by number
- aboriginal fisheries harvested the most large salmon by number



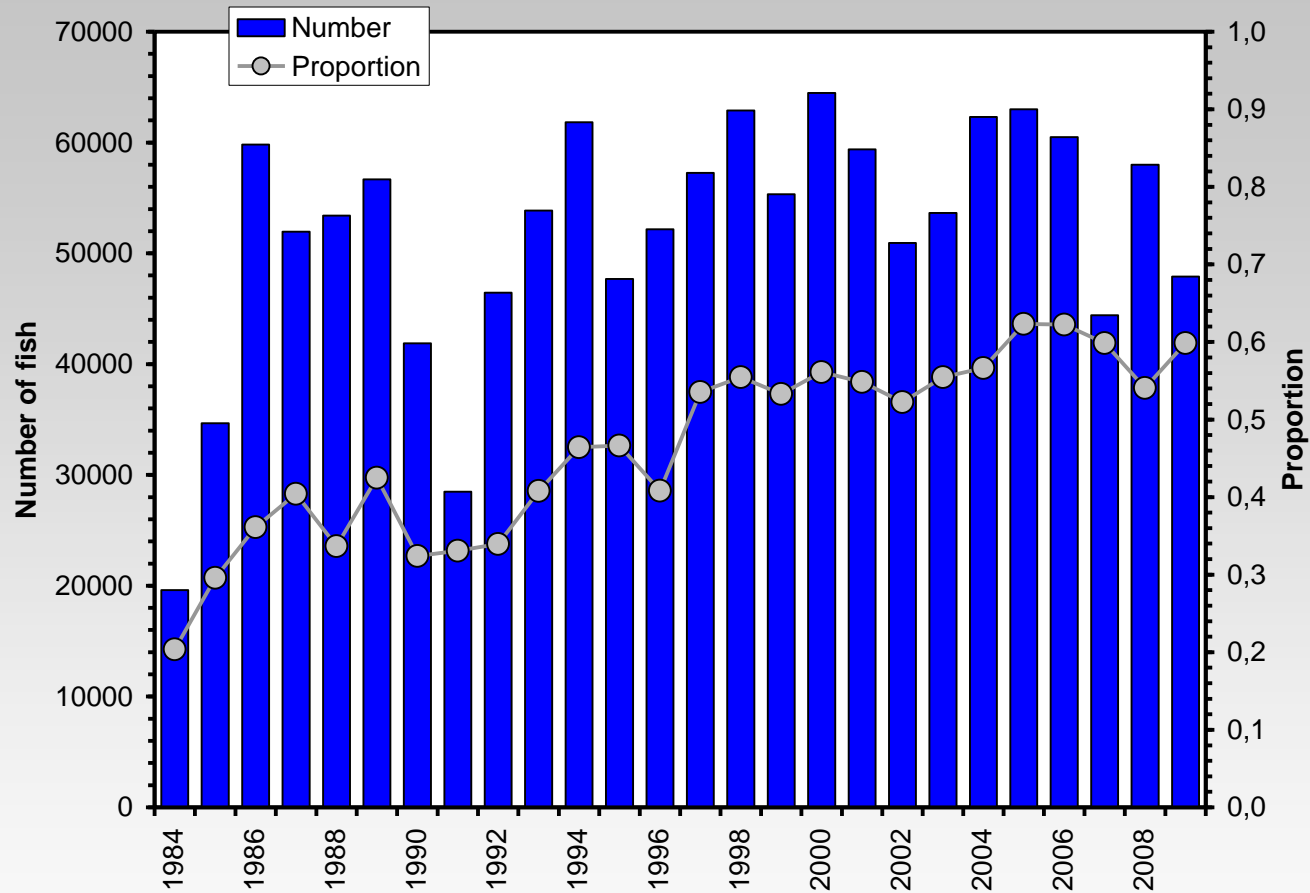
Small salmon, by number



Large salmon, by number



Catch and release in recreational fisheries



Canada

- almost 48000 salmon (all sizes) were reported caught and released in 2009 (60% of total recreational catch)

Origin and composition of catch

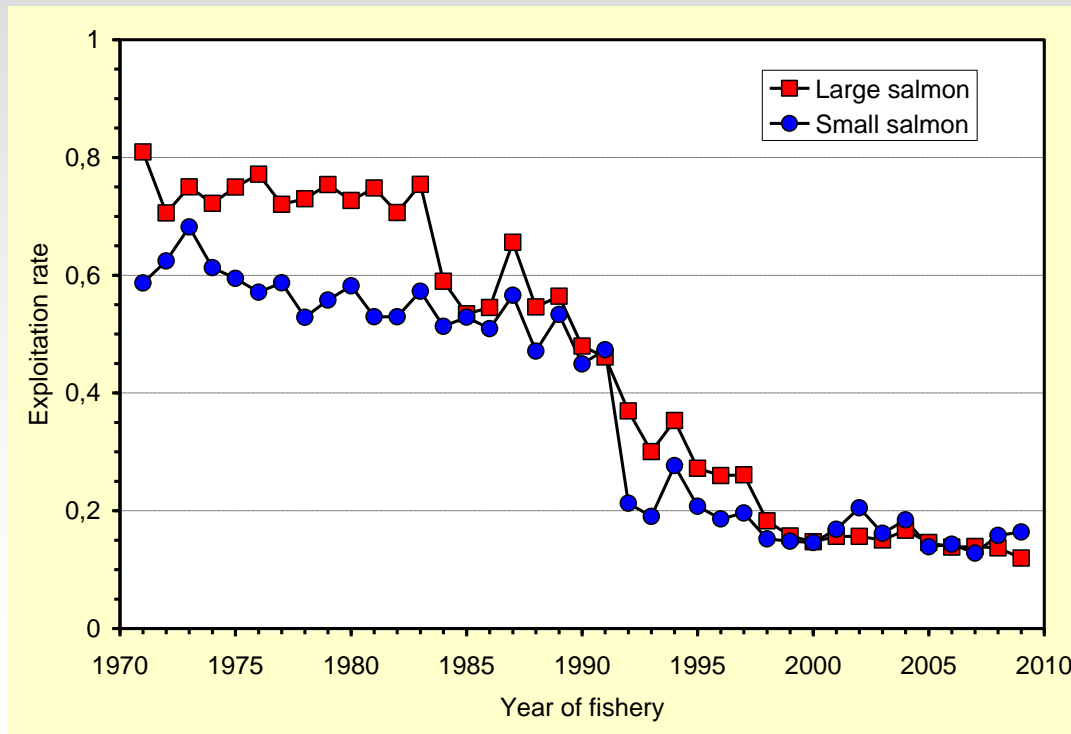
No salmon tagged in other areas of North America were reported from the Aboriginal Peoples' and resident food fisheries in Labrador in 2009.

Based on samples from the Labrador aboriginal fisheries:

- absence of river age 1 and rarity of river age 2 salmon in the catches in 2009 suggests low exploitation on southern North America stocks
- presence of river age 5 to 7 years in the samples provides evidence that the fisheries exploited northern area (predominantly Labrador) stocks

Exploitation Trends in NAC

- Exploitation rates of both small and large salmon declined sharply after 1984 and 1991.
- Over recent decade, exploitation rates remained at the lowest in the time-series, average of 15%.
- Exploitation rates across regions within North America are highly variable.



Recommendations

See general recommendations

Also

- Continued and expanded sampling program of the Labrador subsistence fishery to provide biological characteristics of the catches and material to assess the origin of salmon
- ICES recognises that river specific, regional and international management requires extensive monitoring and recommends expanded monitoring programmes across all stock complexes

Acknowledgements

Members (23) of participating countries (13) to Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon, March 22-31, 2010