



**Council**

**CNL(20)24**

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





MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE  
ET DE L'ALIMENTATION

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La Défense, le 22 AVR 2020

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Monsieur le Président par intérim,

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre le rapport annuel sur la pêcherie de saumon à Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon pour 2019, avec un niveau de captures qui reste stable par rapport à 2018.

Compte-tenu des circonstances actuelles, une délégation devrait pouvoir participer en observateur à la réunion annuelle, reportée à la fin de l'année, ce qui vous sera confirmé en temps voulu.

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 par intérim, l'expression de ma considération distinguée.

**Monsieur Serge DOUCET**  
Président de l'OCSAN par intérim  
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Le Directeur Adjoint  
des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture  
  
Laurent BOUVIER

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 2020

*Service des Affaires Maritimes et Portuaires*

Le directeur

to

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

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Tour Sequoia  
92055 LA DEFENSE CEDEX

**RE:** Report on the 2019 salmon fishery

**Annual Report on the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon  
2019 Season**

## Introduction

The archipelago of St Pierre and Miquelon (France) is one of the territories in North America which still authorises an interceptory mixed-stock sea fishery using gill nets to target Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*).

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 and 2018 show that almost 90% of the catch taken in the archipelago's waters originates in the Gaspésie, the southern part of the Gulf of St Lawrence and Newfoundland (Bradbury *et al.* 2016).

Substantial work has been undertaken to increase awareness among fishers in order to improve the quality of the available data. The legislation that applies to this fishery is subject to dedicated inspection campaigns. Catches have been decreasing since 2014 as the number of licenses issued has remained stable.

### 1. Legislation

Salmon fishing at Saint Pierre and Miquelon is regulated by the Rural and Maritime Fishery Code (CRPM), in particular Book IX, the Order of 20 March 1987 and the Order of 24 March 2015.

This legislation establishes the following:

- the fishery is subject to authorisation and an Annual Fishery Plan;
- the minimum capture size is 48 cm;
- nets must be declared and marked;
- the minimum mesh size is 125 mm;
- 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 360 m nets for professional fishermen
  - 1 x 180 m net for recreational fishermen
- all catch must be declared (through annual declarations and a fishing log).

250 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 fishers (who may sell their catch) and recreational fishers (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 2019, 7 professional and 80 recreational permits were issued. The figure is fixed at 80 and cannot be increased.

### 3. Salmon catch

The 2019 catch is as follows:

**Professional catch:** 72.25 kg (compared to 593.17 kg in 2017 and 155.5 kg in 2018). 36 salmon were harvested by 7 vessels. Only one vessel fished this year. There has therefore been a marked reduction in catch figures over the last two years.

**Recreational catch:** 1,214.12 kg in 2019 (compared to 2,223.4 kg in 2017 and 1,130.7 kg in 2018). 470 salmon were caught by 62 vessels. The number of salmon caught per fisher varies greatly: two vessels reported a catch of 26 salmon (the highest number caught by a single vessel), while 20 vessels reported harvesting less than 5 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. 19 permit holders did not catch any salmon. More than half (41) of licensed fishers caught less than 5 salmon.

The total weight of the 2019 catch was 1,286.37 kg, compared to 2,816.57 kg in 2017 and 1286.2 kg in 2018. The catch is, therefore, stable when compared to the catch taken in the previous year, although there is a slight increase in the catch taken in the recreational fishery and a decrease in the catch taken in the professional fishery.

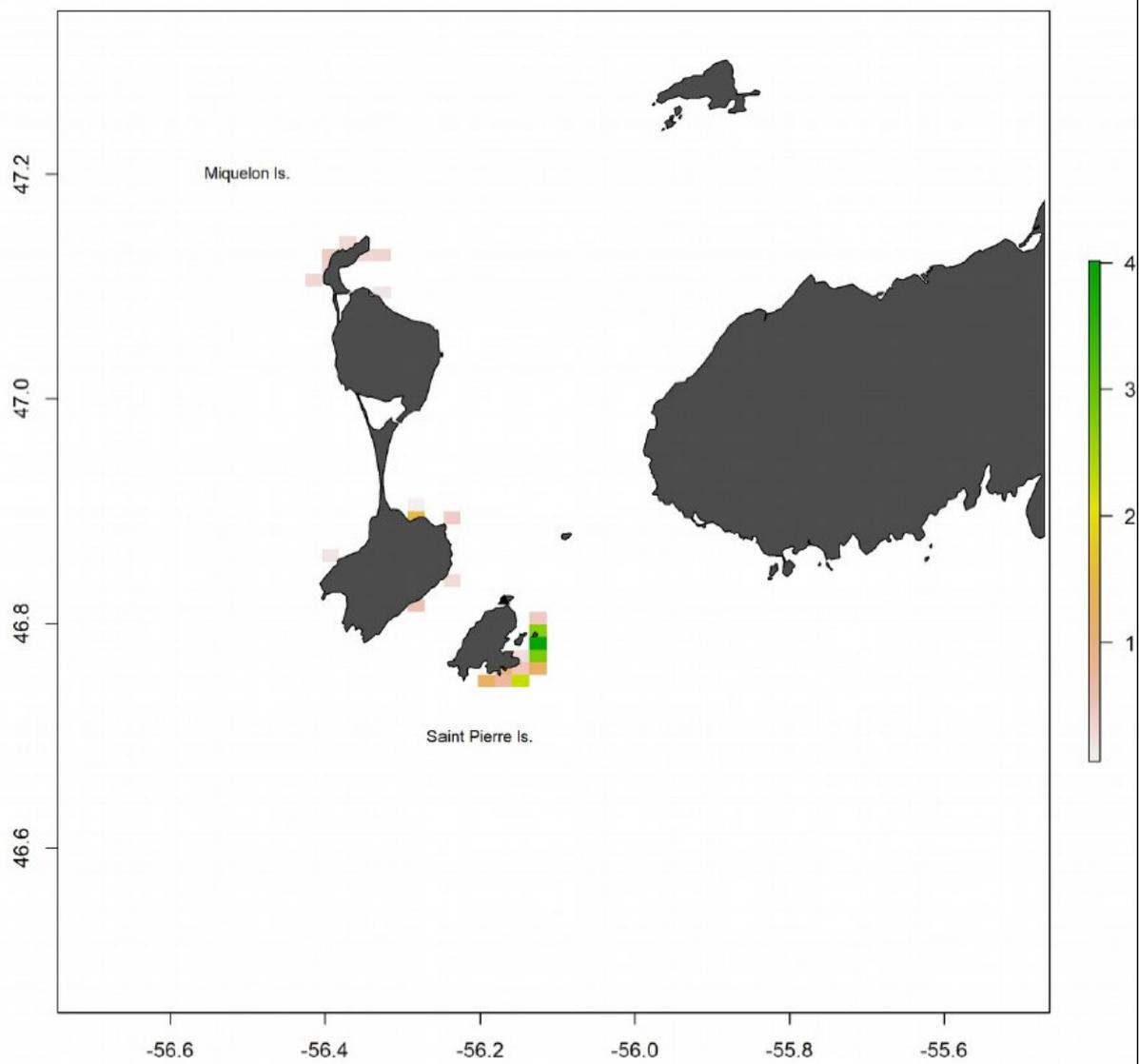
*Table 1. Salmon catch at St Pierre and Miquelon from 2002 to 2019*

Season	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Professional</b>																		
No. Of Licenses	12	12	13	14	13	13	9	8	9	9	9	9	12	8	8	8	9	7
Volume (kg)	1223	1620	1499	2243	1730	970	1604	1864	1002	1764	278	2291	2250	1213	978	593	155.5	72.25
<b>Recreational</b>																		
No. Of Licenses	42	42	42	52	52	53	55	50	57	58	60	64	70	70	70	80	80	80
Volume (kg)	729	1272	1285	1044	1825	1062	1846	1600	1780	1992	1168	3011	1561	2300	3749	2223	1130.7	1214.12
<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>	<b>1286.37</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 salmon caught by professional fishers being sold to restaurants or individuals through a local fishmonger, or directly by the fisher to individuals. There has been a decrease in catch since 2017 as the number of licenses issued has remained stable. The measures in place make undeclared catch unlikely.

#### 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.



*Figure 1. Fishing effort (in metres of net) per geographic unit*

#### 5. Length Analysis

The distribution of the length measurements of salmon caught at St Pierre and Miquelon shows two clearly distinct cohorts. In 2019 66,5% of salmon caught were one-sea-winter fish (grilse – total length <63 cm). Similar observations have been made for several years. In 1975, B. Paturol 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. 2019 Report

2019 saw a slight decrease in the number of inspections due to the retirement of a member of staff who has not yet been replaced. However, the targeting of inspections has improved, allowing patrols to target those fishers catching the highest number of salmon and those who have had irregularities in reporting in the past. Joint patrols carried out by the Maritime Affairs Service and the Gendarmerie allowed the placing of nets to be checked. The fishers

comply very well with the regulations. In 2020 the inspection team will have their own patrol boat.

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. 64 length / weight measurements and scale and adipose samples were taken by IFREMER.

le 6/04/2020  
Le Directeur des Territoires,  
de l'Alimentation et de la Mer

**Romain GUILLOT**

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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.

**Two-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 or more winters 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 some estuaries. Some of these are from at-risk populations 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.