	<p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery</i></p>	<p>CNL(22)20rev</p> <p>Agenda item: 5h</p>
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Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide information about correspondence between the President of NASCO and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) in 2022 and about the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery in 2021.

Decision

No decision is required.

Background

In recent years, the Council and the North American Commission have been concerned about catches of salmon at St Pierre and Miquelon which, although low, occur at a time when there are serious concerns about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the North American Commission area. An item ‘Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery’ is therefore included on the agendas of both the Council and the North American Commission.

Invitation to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to Join NASCO

In 2021, the Council agreed to write again to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to invite them to join NASCO. The [President of NASCO wrote to France \(in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon\)](#) on 31 January 2022 and emphasised how NASCO’s Implementation Plan process would enable France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to highlight their positive actions for salmon management. A copy of this letter is included in Annex 1. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) replied on 22 April 2022. Annex 2 contains the translated response together with a copy of the original letter. The letter states, among other things that:

‘France has, therefore, decided to strengthen the framework around the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon, shortening the fishing season to 1 May – 21 July and capping the number of recreational licenses issued at 80 in 2021... France therefore wishes to retain its status as observer to NASCO.’

For your information, the President of NASCO had previously written to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) on [15 September 2017](#) and received a reply on [19 October 2017](#).

Annual Report on the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon 2021 Season

As usual, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has provided a report containing information on the management of the Atlantic salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon in 2021. It contains details of catch and of the number of licenses issued. The letter which accompanies the report and the report itself is contained in Annex 3.

In summary, the total weight of the 2021 catch was 1,600.1 kg, compared to 1,738.87 kg in 2020. It can be broken down as follows:

- Professional catch: 216 kg (compared to 90.72 kg in 2020). 96 salmon were harvested by four vessels; and
- Recreational catch: 1,384.10 kg (compared to 1,648.35 kg in 2020). 594 salmon were caught by 81 vessels.

In 2021, four professional and 80 recreational permits were issued.

France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to attend the Annual Meeting in 2022

Representatives of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) have been invited to and will attend the NASCO Annual Meeting in 2022. It will be represented by Camille Servetto (Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer), Herle Goraguer (Co-ordinating Scientist) and Serge Chiarovano (from Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Maritime Affairs Service).

Secretariat
Edinburgh
28 April 2022

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CNL39.138

31 January 2022

Mme Annick Girardin
 Ministre de la Mer
 Ministère de la Mer
 20 avenue de Ségur
 75007 Paris
 France

Dear Ms Girardin,

I am writing on behalf of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to join NASCO, in order to facilitate enhanced co-operation and dialogue relating to the conservation and management of Atlantic salmon.

France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has co-operated with NASCO in relation to the conservation and management of Atlantic salmon for more than 20 years. In that time, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has attended NASCO Annual Meetings as an observer, shared information on the operation and outcomes of its fishery and implemented a sampling programme that includes genetic analyses to determine the origin of the salmon taken in the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery. I would like 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 considered extremely valuable in the fight to conserve Atlantic salmon stocks.

Under the United Nations Convention on the law of the sea of 10 December 1982, relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, the relevant coastal States and the States whose nationals fish for such stocks in the adjacent high seas area shall, in accordance with the Convention, pursue co-operation either directly or through appropriate subregional or regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) or arrangements, taking into account the specific characteristics of the subregion or region, to ensure effective conservation and management of such stocks. Although NASCO is the RFMO responsible for the conservation and management of wild Atlantic salmon, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) is still not a member of NASCO, despite the multiple requests formulated over the years.

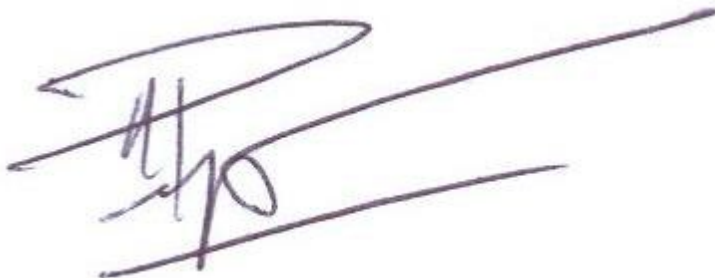
The global status of Atlantic salmon remains of significant concern. Many stocks continue to be at historically low levels of abundance, with several North American-origin stocks threatened with extinction. Both Canada and the United States have had very strict conservation measures in place for many years, including strict prohibitions on fishing. These NASCO Parties are extremely concerned by any fishing activity that may take place in other jurisdictions.

The latest report on the Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery, CNL(21)21, provided to NASCO last year, included information on the latest genetic analyses which shows that almost 90% of the catch taken in the archipelago's waters originates from the Gaspé Peninsula, the southern part of the Gulf of St Lawrence and Newfoundland. The report also shows a significant increase in total catch in 2020 compared to 2019. Although the report of NASCO's Annual Meeting indicated some positive steps being taken in the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery¹, and NASCO acknowledges and appreciates these important actions, NASCO continues to believe that a more formal commitment is needed from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to contribute fully to the work of the Organization as a contracting Party to NASCO.

I wish to take this opportunity to highlight the Implementation Plan and Annual Progress Report process implemented by NASCO, currently in its third reporting cycle. This process allows Parties / jurisdictions to highlight positive actions for salmon management and to demonstrate progress towards the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. It is considered to be one of the most valuable mechanisms that NASCO has developed towards the conservation and management of Atlantic salmon and could allow France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to highlight the good work that is being conducted.

Consequently, the Council of NASCO would like to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to join NASCO to better facilitate enhanced co-operation and dialogue and, in particular, to enable France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to participate in NASCO's Implementation Plan and Annual Progress Report process. We would be grateful to receive your response before NASCO's Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting in June 2022, during which the issues surrounding the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon will next be considered.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Peyronnet', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Arnaud Peyronnet
President of NASCO

CC: The Minister of the Overseas, Mr Sebastien Lecornu, to be forwarded to the Prefect of St Pierre and Miquelon

¹ These include: legislation which establishes that the fishery is subject to authorisation and an Annual Fishery Plan and that all catch must be declared; the substantial work that has been undertaken to increase awareness among fishers to improve the quality of the available data for sampling and inspections; a new regulation in 2021 to limit the number of licences for the recreational fishery in order to prevent the total harvest from increasing; and the inspection team having their own patrol boat in 2021. We note also the ongoing and successful collaboration with Canada on the sampling programme set up in 2013 between IFREMER – St Pierre and Miquelon and DFO – Newfoundland and Labrador.



**MINISTÈRE
DE LA MER**

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Paris, 22 April 2022

The Minister

Ref: MM/2022-04/16072

Mr Arnaud Peyronnet
President of NASCO
11 Rutland Square
Edinburgh
EH1 2AS
Scotland
UK

Dear Mr President,

In your letter of 31 January you invited France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to join the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), in order to enhance co-operation and dialogue related to the conservation and management of Atlantic salmon.

I share your concerns about the situation facing salmon, whose decline is noted by ICES, given the considerable fishing effort around the North Atlantic. Like you, on the basis of the scientific advice I am dedicated to ensuring that catches are as low as possible. The aim is to ensure that fishing is sustainable, while taking socio-economic factors into account.

France has, therefore, decided to strengthen the framework around the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon, shortening the fishing season to 1 May – 21 July and capping the number of recreational licenses issued at 80 in 2021. This cap is now written into an Order of the Prefect.

Furthermore, no commercial fishing takes place beyond the EEZ by fishers from St Pierre and Miquelon.

France therefore wishes to retain its status as observer to NASCO. France also wishes to continue the close exchanges with your organization on all potential improvements designed to increase the protection of salmon stocks, whether that be regarding controls on landings and sales, the scientific programme or further limits on catches.

Yours sincerely,

Annick GIRARDIN

20, avenue de Ségur – 75007 Paris
Tel : 33(0)1 40 81 22



MINISTÈRE DE LA MER

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La ministre

Réf : MM/2022-04/16072

Paris, le 22 AVR. 2022

Monsieur Arnaud PEYRONNET
Président de NASCO
11 Rutland Square Edinburgh
EH1
2AS Scotland UK

Monsieur le Président,

Par courrier du 31 janvier, vous invitez la France, au titre de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, à rejoindre l'organisation pour la Conservation du Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord (OCSAN) pour renforcer la coopération et le dialogue relatifs à la conservation du saumon.

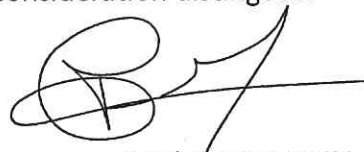
Je partage votre inquiétude sur la situation du saumon, dont la dégradation est constatée par le CIEM, compte tenu d'un effort de pêche important dans l'Atlantique Nord. Comme vous, je suis très attachée, sur la base des avis scientifiques, à ce que les captures soit les plus faibles possible, dans un objectif de durabilité de la pêche et en tenant compte des facteurs socio-économiques.

A Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, la France a ainsi décidé de renforcer l'encadrement de la pêche, en raccourcissant la période d'ouverture de la pêche, du 1er mai au 21 juillet, et en plafonnant le nombre de licences de pêche récréative à 80 en 2021. Ce plafond est désormais inscrit dans un arrêté préfectoral.

De plus, les pêcheurs de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon ne pratiquent aucune pêche commerciale hors ZEE.

La France souhaite ainsi maintenir son statut d'observateur à l'OCSAN. Elle souhaite également continuer à échanger étroitement avec votre organisation sur toutes les améliorations envisageables pour renforcer la préservation du stock de saumon, que ce soit en terme de contrôle au débarquement et à la vente, de programme scientifique ou encore de limite de captures.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'expression de ma considération distinguée.



Annick GIRARDIN

Annex 3



Direction générale des affaires maritimes,
de la pêche et de l'aquaculture

Paris, le 21 AVR. 2022

Service de la pêche et de l'aquaculture durables
Sous-direction des ressources halieutiques
Bureau des affaires européennes et internationales

Mr Arnaud Peyronnet
President of NASCO
11 Rutland Square
Edinburgh
EH1 2AS
Scotland
UK

Dear Mr President,

Please find enclosed the Annual Report on the Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon for 2021, which shows that the level of catch was lower than in 2020.

Given the improved situation in respect of Covid-19, a delegation should be able to participate as an observer at the Annual Meeting in June.

France will continue to co-operate with NASCO, its Parties and the scientific community.

Yours sincerely,

Direction Générale des Affaires Maritimes
de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture

Eric BANEL

Copie :

- Monsieur le Directeur général des Outre-Mer

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1/1



PRÉFET DE SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON

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

Saint Pierre, 3 February 2022

Reference: D2022/SAMP/017

The Director of Territories, Food and the Sea

To

The Director of Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture

Annual Report on the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon 2021 Season

Introduction

The archipelago of St Pierre and Miquelon (France) is one of the territories in North America which continues to authorise 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 resident salmon population which is not subject to fishing restrictions. The latest genetic analyses, carried out in 2017, show that almost 90 % of fish caught in the archipelago's waters originate from the Gaspé Peninsula, 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 programmes, carried out by the Department for Territories, Food and the Sea's Maritime and Port Affairs Service. Catches have been decreasing since 2014 while 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 which establishes a number of conservation and management measures for marine resources in the French territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone around the coasts of St Pierre and Miquelon;

- the Order of 24 March 2015 which establishes a number of technical measures and catch sizes for the professional fishery in the French territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone around the coasts of St Pierre and Miquelon; and
- Order of the Prefect no. 304 of 8 June 2021 which limits the number of Atlantic salmon fishing permits that may be issued to recreational fishers in St Pierre and Miquelon to 80.

These pieces of legislation establish the following measures:

- the fishery is subject to authorisation and an Annual Fishery Plan;
- the minimum catch size is 48 cm;
- nets must be declared and marked;
- the minimum mesh size is 125 mm;
- regulations are in place to restrict the fishery season to 21 May – 21 July;
- fishing gear must not be placed within 300 m of a river mouth;
- all catch must be declared (through fishing log-books and annual declarations)
- restrictions on fishing effort:
 - 3 x 360 m nets for professional fishers
 - 1 x 180 m net for recreational 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 and fish only for personal consumption).

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 (recreational and professional Atlantic salmon fishing permits for the 2021 season were allocated under Order of the Prefect no. 232 of 29 April 2021).

In 2021, 4 professional and 80 recreational permits were issued.

3. Salmon catch

The 2021 catch was as follows:

Professional catch: 216 kg (compared to 90.72 kg in 2020). 96 salmon were harvested by 4 vessels.

Recreational catch: 1,384.10 kg (compared to 1,648.35 kg in 2020). 594 salmon were caught by 81 vessels.

Fishing effort varies greatly between vessels. Two vessels caught 38 and 27 salmon respectively, while another 16 vessels caught less than five salmon each. Further, a number of fishers only fish for a very short period and bring their nets in well before the end of the season. Twenty permit holders did not catch any salmon in 2021.

The total weight of the 2021 catch was 1,600.1 kg, compared to 1,738.87 kg in 2020. There is, therefore, a slight reduction in catch when compared to the previous year. The reduction is more pronounced in the recreational fishery.

Table 1. *Salmon catch at St Pierre and Miquelon from 2015 to 2021*

Season	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Professional Fishery							
No. of licences	8	8	8	9	7	5	4
Volume (kg)	1,213	978	593	155.5	72.21	90.52	216
Recreational Fishery							
No. of licences	70	70	80	80	80	81	80
Volume (kg)	2,300	3,749	2,223	1,130.7	1,214.12	1,648.35	1,384.1
Total	3,513	4,727	2,816	1,286	1,286	1,739	1,600.1

Note. Average catch volume over the time-series is 2,240 kg.

4. The Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon 2015 – 2021

There is no export of salmon and all catch is 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. Although catch increased by 33 % between 2019 and 2020 (while the number of licenses remained stable), 2021 saw an 8 % decrease in the amount caught compared to 2020. The number of licenses issued remained relatively stable during this timeframe, with one less professional licence issued.

5. 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.

6. 2021 Report

In total, 72 inspections were carried out by the Maritime and Port Affairs Service in 2021. Sixty of these took place on the recreational fishery and 12 on the professional fishery. The inspections were carried out at random during the mornings and / or the evenings during the period 20 May – 8 July.

There is believed to be no undeclared catch.

Compliance with the regulations is very high. In 2023 the inspection team will have their own patrol boat.

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Glossary

Mixed-Stock Fishery Atlantic salmon from many different rivers are found in the ocean, coastal areas and in a number of 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.

The Director