NASCO

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON
CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION POUR LA
CONSERVATION DU SAUMON
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

CNL39.140

16 December 2022

Mr Hervé Berville
Secrétaire d'État chargé de la Mer,
Ministère de la Mer
20 avenue de Ségur
75007 Paris
France

Dear Mr Berville,

I write on behalf of the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to join NASCO.

NASCO's objective is to contribute to the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean. It is the only inter-governmental organization with this mandate, which it implements through international consultation, negotiation and co-operation.

In response to my letter of 31 January 2022, your predecessor, Mme Annick Girardin, expressed concern about the situation facing salmon. She highlighted her dedication to ensuring that catches are as low as possible (Ref: MM/2022-04/16072).

The Council of NASCO thanks France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) for taking measures to strengthen the framework around the Atlantic salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon. These include shortening the fishing season and capping the number of recreational licenses issued.

However, the fish caught in the archipelago's waters often belong to endangered populations that are subject to substantial protection and conservation measures in their rivers of origin in Canada and the United States, and the catches in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon are, therefore, a particularly sensitive issue for these countries. Indeed, the rational management of these salmon populations urgently requires a stronger co-operation from France (in respect of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), which should be achieved through its participation as a NASCO member.

Indeed, Article 66 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea legislates for these circumstances. Paragraph 1 provides that:

'*States in whose rivers anadromous stocks originate shall have the primary interest in and responsibility for such stocks.*'

Paragraphs 4 and 5 state that:

'*4. In cases where anadromous stocks migrate into or through the waters landward of the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone of a State other than the State of origin,*

such State shall cooperate with the State of origin with regard to the conservation and management of such stocks.

5. The State of origin of anadromous stocks and other States fishing these stocks shall make arrangements for the implementation of the provisions of this article, where appropriate, through regional organizations.'

Being the sole competent regional organization to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon though international co-operation, NASCO therefore strongly renews its request for France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to join formally as a fully-fledged NASCO Member, in order to enable a meaningful implementation of the provisions of Article 66 of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon)'s accession to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean would be timely, as NASCO is about to begin a new phase. The third performance review of NASCO is now taking place and will report in Spring 2023. The international experts on the Review Panel are assessing NASCO's performance and effectiveness in addressing current threats and challenges facing salmon and identifying areas where improvements are needed. NASCO's response to the Review Panel's report and recommendations will re-energise efforts to conserve Atlantic salmon.

I look forward to receiving your response, but if you would like additional information on NASCO' s work please do not hesitate to contact our Secretary, Dr Emma Hatfield, who will be very pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely,

Arnaud Peyronnet
President of NASCO

CC: Mr Jean-François Carenco – Minister of the Overseas, to be forwarded to the Prefect of St Pierre and Miquelon