



**SECRETARIAT D'ÉTAT
CHARGÉ DE LA MER**

*Liberté
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Le Secrétaire d'État

Référence à rappeler :

SE / 2023D / 0802 - NS

Paris, le **29 AOUT 2023**

Mr President,

In your letter of 16 December 2022 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 relating to the conservation of salmon.

I share your concerns about the situation facing salmon and the declining stock status and I am also deeply committed to maintaining the sustainability of this cultural and traditional fishery on the archipelago of St Pierre and Miquelon.

In recent years, the management of the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery has again been strengthened to ensure the sustainable and rational management of the resource. To this end, in line with the measures introduced in 2017 to reduce the fishing season, further local measures have now been introduced. These have resulted in a limit in the number of fishing permits issued each year, a voluntary reduction in the recreational fishery season from 1 May – 21 July each year, greater involvement in the French and Canadian scientific programmes and increasing awareness among fishers of the need to manage the stock well.

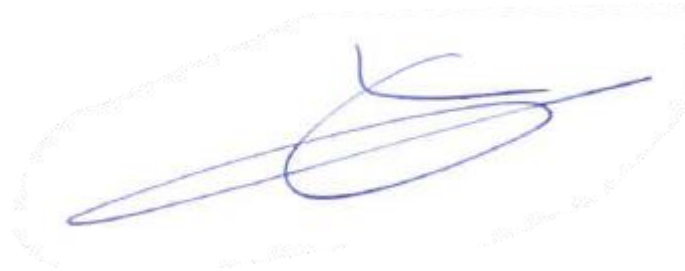
The recreational fishers and the authorities in St Pierre and Miquelon are also actively working towards the creation of a fishing charter, through which the recreational fishers would commit to adhering strictly to the regulations to ensure the longevity of the Atlantic salmon resource and the marine ecosystem around the archipelago.

As stated in the annual report submitted to NASCO in advance of the 2023 Annual Meeting, the catch taken (exclusively in the French EEZ) continued to decline in 2022. There was almost a 54% reduction in the professional fishery and a 17.5% in the recreational fishery when compared to 2021.

In addition to the measures mentioned above, we would, of course, like to continue the regular collaboration between France and NASCO to ensure the sustainability of the resource. On this subject, I would like to thank you for highlighting the active collaboration of France for the past 20 years in the 2023 NASCO Report.

In light of the above, I would like to assure you that the preservation of the salmon stock is a crucial issue for St Pierre and Miquelon and that France wishes to retain its observer status and continue the close exchange with NASCO on all potential improvements to increase the sustainability of the fishery.

Yours sincerely,



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