

CNL39.142

20 March 2024

M. Hervé Berville  
Secrétaire d'État chargé de la Mer et de la Biodiversité  
Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des territoires  
246, boulevard Saint-Germain  
75007 Paris  
France

Dear Mr Berville,

As the incumbent President of NASCO, I write on behalf of the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) in response to your letter to my predecessor, Arnaud Peyronnet, dated 29 August 2023. The letter (ref. SE/2023D/0802-NS) confirmed that the French Government wishes to maintain its observer status to NASCO and wishes to continue the close exchange with NASCO on all potential improvements to increase the sustainability of the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery.

While the Council of NASCO welcomes the exchanges between St Pierre and Miquelon and NASCO, we are disappointed in this decision and would like to press France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to strengthen its relationship with NASCO by joining in 2024.

As you may know, Iceland has rejoined NASCO in 2024, following its withdrawal from the Organization in 2009 due to economic reasons at that time. In her [letter](#) to the previous NASCO President advising of Iceland's intention to rejoin the Organization, the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Svandís Svavarsdóttir, recognised 'the responsibility we [Iceland] bear in safeguarding this remarkable species for future generations' and stated that:

*'We firmly believe that cooperation among nations is vital in addressing the challenges faced by our shared environment and we acknowledge the invaluable role played by NASCO in promoting the preservation and sustainable use of salmon populations [...] Rejoining NASCO will allow us to collaborate with like-minded nations and pool our expertise and resources to further the cause of salmon conservation.'*

We believe that 2024 would be an excellent time for France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to join Iceland in strengthening the international co-operation in restoring and conserving wild Atlantic salmon across the North Atlantic Ocean by joining NASCO.

In addition, information presented during a Special Session held on climate change during our 2023 Annual Meeting showed that the warming environment will be devastating for wild Atlantic salmon, and its effects are already becoming evident. Already many Atlantic salmon stocks are threatened with extinction; the climate crisis is increasing the urgency to take meaningful action to ensure the future of this iconic species. The Special Session highlighted actions that NASCO Parties are taking in their own waters to mitigate those effects. However,

more work is needed urgently at the national and international level to address this existential threat.


To address this, and other threats to wild Atlantic salmon, the Parties agreed to relaunch NASCO, in 2024, with a renewed focus on restoring and conserving wild Atlantic salmon in the face of the climate crisis. A Working Group comprising representatives from the Parties and NGOs is currently developing a NASCO Strategy, with an accompanying Action Plan. This Strategy and Action Plan will set the future direction of the Organization and is designed to articulate clearly the actions NASCO intends to take meet its objective to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon through international co-operation, taking account of best available scientific information. Joining NASCO in 2024 would allow France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to be involved in this process of shaping the future of NASCO and enjoy the same benefits as our other Contracting Parties, such as:

- meeting its obligations under Article 66 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas, as described in the President's letter of 31 January 2022 (ref [CNL39.138](#));
- influencing the future of NASCO and being involved in NASCO's decision-making process; and
- joining NASCO's renewed effort to restore and conserve wild Atlantic salmon in the context of the climate emergency to ensure that populations across the North Atlantic are as resilient as possible.

I strongly urge France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon), therefore, to join NASCO in 2024 and look forward to your response.

If you would like further 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly B R', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Kimberly Damon-Randall  
President

CC: Mme Marie Guévenoux – Deputy Minister responsible for Overseas Territories, for onward transmission to the Prefect of St Pierre and Miquelon