



MW
Agenda item 5.10
For decision

Council

CNL(03)32

St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

1. Last year the Council adopted a Resolution concerning cooperation with St Pierre and Miquelon which requested that the Contracting Parties encourage France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to cooperate with NASCO and its members in instituting a scientific sampling programme for the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon in 2003. The objective of such a programme would be to gather information on the origin and biological characteristics of the catch, on the disease status of the salmon harvested and on the proportion of escapees from salmon aquaculture operations. The Resolution further requested that NASCO and its Contracting Parties should encourage France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to provide information on the salmon fishery including catch data, licensing and other management measures, reporting mechanisms, and unreported catch estimates. It was agreed that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) should be invited to attend the 2003 Annual Meeting and future annual meetings of NASCO in order to enhance cooperation and information exchange.
2. I have recently received the attached correspondence from the Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation, de la Pêche et des Affaires Rurales in Paris indicating that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) wishes to increase its cooperation with NASCO and will implement a biometric sampling programme, to be carried out by IFREMER scientists, during the 2003 fishing season. Furthermore, it is hoped that a genetic study will be conducted in cooperation with Canadian scientists in 2004 and consideration will be given to a disease-sampling programme in the future. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) also wishes to participate in an exchange of information with NASCO Parties managing "traditional fisheries".
3. While France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) is unable to be represented at the Twentieth Annual Meeting, we have been advised informally that it is hoped that a representative will be able to attend the Twenty-First Annual Meeting.
4. In the light of this information the Council is asked to consider if it wishes to take any further action in relation to the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery.

Secretary
Edinburgh
30 May, 2003

(TRANSLATION)

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD, FISHING AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Maritime Fisheries and
Aquaculture Directorate

Maritime Fisheries
Division

Resource, Regulation and
International Affairs Bureau

3, Fontenoy place
75007 Paris

Dossier under the responsibility of :
Yann Becouarn; email: yann.becouarn@agriculture.gouv.fr
Tel: 01 49 55 82 38
Fax: 01 49 55 82 00

Subject: NASCO Annual meeting
Ref.: 1144

29 May, 2003

To: NASCO
For the attention of: Monsieur Robichaud, President

Mr. President,

Thank you for your kind invitation to take part, as an observer, in NASCO Annual meeting. I will unfortunately not be able to attend.

I wish nonetheless to make the following points concerning the fishing activity in the community of Saint Pierre et Miquelon, first of all in relation to the catch statistics and secondly in relation to the prospects concerning this species.

- Catch statistics:

As every year, please find enclosed the salmon catch statistical data for Saint Pierre et Miquelon, gathered in the context of the cooperation existing between NASCO and the local community. It must be remembered, however, that this activity is a tradition in Saint Pierre et Miquelon and that it is indeed part of the local culture. Further, the quantities harvested, which are low, remain stable around 2 tons. There is, of course, no export. The catch statistics for 2002 are comparable to those of the previous years and the management method (licences) remains unchanged.

- Prospects concerning salmon and a greater cooperation with NASCO:

France (in respect of Saint Pierre et Miquelon) wishes to increase its cooperation with NASCO to better participate in the process of understanding, conservation and management of this species. This cooperation should also reinforce the natural links which exist between Saint Pierre et Miquelon and some of NASCO's Parties. Further, this initiative is in line with the audit of the Saint Pierre et Miquelon Maritime fishing activities which took place in April 2003, as a result of the problems currently encountered in this sector (salmon are an integral part of this review).

In this context, it was decided to improve the knowledge gained on the Atlantic salmon demographic structure and on the fishing activity from the following perspectives:

- 1 - the implementation of a scientific programme by IFREMER. This programme, inspired from a project devised by NASCO, will be based on the following constituents:
 - a biometric study, commencing in the 2003 season, to better define the characteristics of the salmon population;
 - a genetic study to gain a better understanding of the origin of the salmon captured in the fishery. It is hoped that this study will be implemented in cooperation with Canada during the 2004 campaign;
 - a pathological study : such a study could be considered at a later date;
- 2 - a willingness to exchange information with some of the NASCO's Parties who manage traditional fisheries.
- 3 - an audit of the current activity management method.

This initiative as a whole should contribute to NASCO's commitment towards the understanding, conservation and management of the Atlantic salmon. I will be sure to keep you informed of the outcomes of these studies and debates.

I thank you for the attention you will give to these new developments.

Yours faithfully,

Christian Ligeard
Maritime Fisheries Assistant Manager

SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON
SALMON STATISTICS

CATCHES
(in kilograms per live weight)

Years	Professional fishing	Leisure fishing	Total
1998	1,039	1,268	2,307
1999	1,182	1,140	2,322
2000	1,134	1,133	2,267
2001	1,544	611	2,155
2002	1,223	729	1,952

LICENCES GRANTED

Years	Professional fishing	Leisure fishing	Total
1998	9	42	51
1999	7	40	47
2000	8	35	43
2001	10	42	52
2002	12	42	54

N.B.: The expression "leisure fishing" corresponds to sport and recreational fishing activities whereas the phrase "professional fishing" is an incorrect expression. It refers in fact to the traditional subsistence fishing for the local community highly dependent on fishing.