

North American Commission

NAC(02)9

NASCO Resolution Concerning Cooperation with St. Pierre and Miquelon

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RECALLING that the NASCO Convention recognizes that Atlantic salmon originating in the rivers of different States intermingle in certain parts of the North Atlantic Ocean,

NOTING that the NASCO Convention desires to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international cooperation,

EMPHASIZING that the Convention desires to promote the acquisition, analysis and dissemination of scientific information pertaining to Atlantic salmon stocks in the North Atlantic,

CONSIDERING the comprehensive efforts NASCO and its Contracting Parties are making to acquire additional scientific information to characterize mixed stocks of Atlantic salmon and the importance of these data to NASCO's ability to make informed management decisions,

RECALLING Article 66 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning anadromous fish stocks, as well as Article 242 concerning international cooperation,

ENDORSING more recent developments in international law that stipulate that countries that are not members of a relevant regional fishery management organization have a duty to cooperate with that organization,

RECALLING the adoption by NASCO in 2000 of the *Resolution by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean Concerning St. Pierre et Miquelon*,

TAKING NOTE OF the extensive efforts by NASCO and its Contracting Parties to seek the cooperation of France, on behalf of St. Pierre and Miquelon, in gathering information to improve the understanding of Atlantic salmon as well as to support ongoing conservation efforts,

RECOGNIZING that France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, has provided some information concerning the mixed stock salmon fishery prosecuted by St. Pierre and Miquelon,

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that French scientific personnel routinely participate in the ICES North Atlantic Salmon Working Group, which provides scientific advice to ICES on the status of Atlantic salmon stocks,

STRESSING the need for additional scientific information concerning the mixed stocks exploited by St. Pierre and Miquelon,

Now, therefore, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization resolves that:

1. Its Contracting Parties should use all means and influences available to encourage France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, to cooperate with NASCO and its members in instituting a scientific sampling program for the fishery in St. Pierre and Miquelon beginning in 2003 in order to gather information on the origin and biological characteristics of the catch, on the disease status of salmon harvested, and on the proportion of escapees from salmon aquaculture operations,
2. NASCO and its Contracting Parties should continue to encourage France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, to provide all available information on the St. Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery, including catch data, licensing and other management measures, reporting mechanisms, and unreported catch estimates,
3. At the earliest opportunity, the NASCO Secretariat should invite France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, to attend the 2003 Annual Meeting of NASCO, and the NASCO Contracting Parties should also strongly encourage France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, to attend the 2003 and future annual meetings of NASCO in order to enhance cooperation and information exchange.