

North American Commission

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Letter from the Secretary to France regarding St Pierre and Miquelon

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Mr Christian Ligeard
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FRANCE

I want to echo the statement made by the NASCO President, Jacque Robichaud, and thank you for the information you provided in your recent letter regarding the salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon.

We particularly welcome the expression by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) of its willingness to increase its cooperation with NASCO. In that context you have agreed to improve our knowledge of the Atlantic salmon by a sampling programme.

I believe that this programme reflects broadly the request the President and I made when we visited the Islands in October 2001. I have a comment about the timing of the programme that you have outlined. The genetic study that you have proposed could be started in 2003 because the samples required for genetic analysis can readily be taken from the same fish used in the biometric study. We are, like you, eager to begin this sampling programme this fishing season, in July and August. Please let me know of your acceptance so that we can make the necessary arrangements with the appropriate NASCO scientific representatives to determine how they can assist with the sampling programme.

I look forward to working with France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) and NASCO Contracting Parties to foster the sharing of information on subsistence fishing in conjunction with the scientific cooperative program. In this way, both NASCO and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) can gain from each other's experiences.

Yours sincerely

Dr Malcolm Windsor
Secretary