



Agenda item 5.10  
For decision

**Council**

**CNL(01)30**

***St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries***

*St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries*

1. At its 1999 meeting, following a request from the North American Commission, the Council had asked the Secretary to write to the French authorities expressing concern about the increased level of salmon catches at St Pierre and Miquelon in 1998. Last year, the Council adopted a Resolution concerning St Pierre and Miquelon in which serious concern was expressed that current harvesting levels in St Pierre and Miquelon are not consistent with the scientific advice provided by ICES. It was resolved that the President of NASCO should communicate through appropriate diplomatic channels with France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon):
  - (a) to convey concerns over the level of salmon harvest in St Pierre and Miquelon in 1998 and 1999;
  - (b) to urge France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to cooperate with NASCO to rebuild salmon stocks of North American origin by immediately setting harvest limits for the 2000 salmon fishery at the lowest possible level consistent with advice provided by ICES;
  - (c) to request France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to inform NASCO by its 2001 annual meeting of the measures it has taken to address the concerns of NASCO and to provide additional details on the salmon fishery (including details of licensing, reporting mechanisms and unreported catch).

The Council also agreed that when the Resolution was transmitted to the French authorities, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) should be invited to attend the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO as an observer in order that a report on the measures taken could be made. The Council also agreed that the issue of whether to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to become a Contracting Party to NASCO would be considered by the Council at its Eighteenth Annual Meeting.

2. In accordance with the Resolution, the President wrote to the French Ambassador in London on 17 July 2000 (attached). The Embassy subsequently advised the President that the letter had been passed to the Head of the Fisheries Department in the Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche in Paris, and we therefore wrote on 22 January 2001 inviting France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to be represented at our Eighteenth Annual Meeting. We wrote again on 2 April requesting details of catches at St Pierre and Miquelon in 2000 and seeking clarification as to whether a representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) would be able to attend the meeting. While we have not yet received a response to the points raised in the Resolution, we have been advised that a representative of the Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche will be attending our annual meeting in Mondariz.
3. Both Canada and the USA have also raised concerns with France about the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon and the French authorities have indicated to the US that it would report the requested information to NASCO (see document CNL(01)18).

4. In the light of any information presented at the annual meeting, the Council might wish to consider what further action to take, and in particular whether to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to become a Contracting Party to NASCO.

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
11 May 2001

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NAC14.166

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The President of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) presents his compliments to the Ambassador of France in London and has the honour to inform as follows:

At its Seventeenth Annual Meeting in Miramichi, Canada during 5-9 June, in response to continuing concerns over the level of salmon harvests in St Pierre and Miquelon, the Council of NASCO adopted a Resolution Concerning St Pierre and Miquelon (copy enclosed). The Resolution urges France in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon to immediately set harvest limits for the 2000 salmon fishery at the lowest possible level consistent with advice provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). NASCO's concerns about the level of salmon harvests at St Pierre and Miquelon have previously been drawn to the attention of the Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche, in Paris (copy of relevant correspondence enclosed).

In accordance with the Resolution, on behalf of the Council of NASCO, I would like to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to attend the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO in Galicia, Spain during the period 4-8 June 2001, as an observer, so as to inform NASCO of the measures that have been taken to address concerns about the level of harvests at St Pierre and Miquelon and to provide additional details on the salmon fishery. A formal invitation to attend the meeting will be issued by the Secretary in January next year.

The President of NASCO avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Ambassador of France the assurances of his highest consideration.

M. Jacque Robichaud  
President of NASCO

17 July, 2000

(sent under NASCO seal)