



Council

CNL(01)37

*Response from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon)
to the Resolution by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the
Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean Concerning St Pierre
and Miquelon (CNL(00)59)*



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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

PREMIER MINISTRE



Secrétariat
Général de la Mer

Paris, le 1^{er} juin 2001

N° 624 SG Mer

Le secrétaire général de la mer

à

Monsieur le secrétaire exécutif de
l'organisation pour la conservation du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord (OSCAN)

oOOo

Vous voudrez bien trouver ci-joint la réponse de la France à la résolution prise par l'OSCAN au cours de sa 17^{ème} réunion annuelle.

Paul RONCIERE

M. Malcolm WINDSOR
Secrétaire exécutif
NASCO
11 Rutland Square
Edinburgh - EH1 2AS Scotland
Royaume Uni

REPLY FROM FRANCE TO NASCO'S RESOLUTION CONCERNING SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON

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- Subject:** Salmon fishing at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon
- References:** NASCO document; ref. CNL (00)59
Letter from NASCO, dated: 22nd January, 2001; ref.: CNL 13.094
Letter from NASCO, dated: 2nd April, 2001; ref.: NAC 14.171.
Letter from NASCO, dated: 11th April, 2000; ref.: CNL 13.098.
- Attachment:** Statistical information on Salmon fishing at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

This letter contains some explanatory details on salmon fishing activity, together with a table summarising the level of captures over the last three years.

Its aim is to demonstrate to NASCO Contracting Parties that the level of salmon fishing at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon is not such as to constitute a threat to the stock's sustainability. It also endeavours to offer a reply to the Resolution adopted during NASCO Seventeenth Annual Meeting, concerning Saint-Pierre et Miquelon.

Given the concern expressed by the Contracting Parties in this Resolution about the level of salmon harvests in 1998 and 1999 (at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon), France on behalf of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon is being strongly urged to immediately implement measures which would reduce salmon catches in year 2000 to the lowest possible level.

Firstly, it is important to indicate that salmon fishing at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon is an activity which goes back more than 20 years. This traditional practice is neither temporary nor speculative.

During the 80s, the captured volumes were relatively substantial. Statistics are showing that Saint-Pierre et Miquelon fished 3 tonnes of salmons in 1983, 1984 and 1985. Today, captures amount to 2,3 tonnes, a figure which demonstrate some stability of the activity over time.

It is equally important to stress that the expression "Commercial fishery" corresponds in fact to a traditional subsistence fishery benefiting the local community who is highly reliant on fishing.

Catches made by France on behalf of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon in 1999 (2,3 tonnes) remain extremely negligible in comparison to those carried out in Western Atlantic (less than 1,5%).

Despite a low level of catches (less than 3 tonnes), also that this activity has a long tradition and that this fishery is important for the local population, France on behalf of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon nevertheless feels it participates fully to the salmon fisheries management.

This fishery is managed through fishing effort limitations and technical restrictions on fishing gear, in accordance with the decree of 20th March 1987. Amongst this package of measures, one should note that **salmon fishing is only authorised for three months of the year**. There are also some measures which reduce the length of the nets. Furthermore, **the number of fishing permits allocated has decreased since 1998, falling from 51 in 1998 to 43 en 2000, which amounts to a 19% reduction**.

The increase in the captures recorded in 1998 and 1999 corresponds to an improvement in the statistical follow-up. One should also point out that the increase in 1998 compared to the 1997 figure is not 55% as it is indicated in the Resolution, but 35% (1,491 kg in 1997 et 2,307 kg in 1998). Thanks to the improvement in the declaration of catches and to the overall fishery management, one may safely assume that catches have, for a number of years now, been stabilised.

As for the invitation extended by NASCO to its Eighteenth Annual Meeting, France on behalf of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon will unfortunately not be able to be represented. On the other hand, this letter may be distributed to the Contracting Parties of NASCO with an interest in the fishing activity at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON SALMON AT SAINT-PIERRE ET MIQUELON

CATCHES (in kilograms of live weight)			
Years	Commercial fishery	Recreational fishery	Total
1998	1,039	1,268	2,307
1999	1,182	1,140	2,322
2000	1,134	1,133	2,267

PERMITS ALLOCATED			
Years	Commercial fishery	Recreational fishery	Total
1998	9	42	51
1999	7	40	47
2000	8	35	43

N.B.: The expression "Recreational fishery" corresponds to fishing undertaken as a sports and recreational activity; as for "Commercial fishery", this expression is improper. What is actually referred to here is the traditional subsistence fishery carried out by the local population, highly dependent on fishing.