

	<p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Management and Sampling of the Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CNL(25)27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agenda item: 7.c)</p>
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Management and Sampling of the Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide information about the 2024 salmon fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

Decision

- no decision is required.

Background

In recent years, the Council and the North American Commission have been concerned about catches of salmon at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon which, although low, occur at a time when there are serious concerns about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the North American Commission area. An item ‘Management and Sampling of the Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery’ is therefore included on the agendas of both the Council and the North American Commission.

Report on the 2024 Atlantic Salmon Fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon

France (in respect of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon) has submitted a report to NASCO on the 2024 salmon fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. A translation of the accompanying letter is included in Annex 1 of this paper this report and the report in Annex 2.

In summary, the total weight of the 2024 catch was 1,711 kg, compared to 1,452 kg in 2023. The catch increased in both the recreational and professional fisheries. However, the number of salmon caught by recreational fishers has decreased. The increase in the professional catch compared to 2023 is due to one particularly active fisher returning to fish after being unable to do so in 2023 for health reasons. The 2024 catch can be broken down as follows:

- Professional catch: 192 kg (78 salmon) was harvested by five vessels (compared to 28 kg / 13 salmon in 2023).
- Recreational catch: 1,519 kg (524 salmon) were harvested by 80 vessels (compared to 1,424 kg / 545 salmon in 2023).

Commitment Charter for the Recreational Atlantic Salmon Sea Fishery at Saint Pierre and Miquelon

In response to comments raised by members of the North American Commission at NASCO’s recent Annual Meetings, a ‘Commitment Charter for the Recreational Atlantic Salmon Sea Fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon’ has been under development for a number of years and was signed on 18 December 2024. This Charter has been signed by the Prefect of the archipelago, IFREMER’s representative in St Pierre and Miquelon and the Chair of the St Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers’ Association. The Charter contains a ‘Commitment to take personal responsibility’ form which must be signed by all recreational fishers before they can be issued with a recreational fishing license. A translation of the Charter and form are contained in Annex 3.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
23 May 2025

Annex 1



**MINISTÈRE
DE LA TRANSITION
ÉCOLOGIQUE,
DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ,
DE LA FORÊT, DE LA MER
ET DE LA PÊCHE**

*Liberté
Égalité
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**Direction générale des affaires
maritimes, de la pêche et de
l'aquaculture**

Paris, 6 March 2025

*Service pêche maritime et aquaculture durables
Sous-direction ressources halieutiques
Bureau des affaires européennes et internationales*

Ms Kim Damon-Randall
NASCO President
NASCO
11 Rutland Square
Edinburgh
EH1 2AS
United Kingdom

Dear Madam President,

Please find enclosed our Annual Report for the 2024 salmon fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

We anticipate that a delegation representing Saint-Pierre and Miquelon will participate in the Annual Meeting to be held in Cardiff, Wales from 3 – 6 June 2025 in an observer capacity.

France will continue to co-operate with NASCO's Parties and the scientific community as it has done in previous years.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Director for Fishing Resources

Mayeul de DROUAS

CC: The Director General of Overseas Territories

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**PRÉFET
DE SAINT-PIERRE
ET MIQUELON**

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**Direction des Territoires,
de l'Alimentation et de la Mer**

Saint Pierre, 6 March 2025

Reference: D2025/SAMP/013

Maritime and Port Affairs Department

The Director of Territories, Food and the Sea

To

The Director General of Maritime Affairs,
Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Annual Report on the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon 2024 Season

Introduction

The archipelago of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon (France) is one of the territories in North America which continues to authorise an interceptory mixed-stock sea fishery using gill nets to target Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*).

Only one river in the archipelago (the Belle Rivière) has a resident salmon population but fishing is only permitted on brook trout and eels. The latest genetic analyses, carried out in 2017, show that almost 90 % of fish caught in the archipelago's waters originate from the Gaspé Peninsula, the southern part of the Gulf of St Lawrence and Newfoundland (Bradbury et al. 2016).

Substantial work has been undertaken to increase awareness among fishers in order to improve the quality of the available data. The legislation that applies to this fishery is subject to dedicated inspection programmes, carried out by the Directorate for Territories, Food and the Sea's Maritime and Port Affairs Department.

2024 saw the signing of the 'Commitment Charter for the Recreational Atlantic Salmon Sea Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon' by the Prefect of the archipelago, IFREMER's representative in St Pierre and Miquelon and the Chair of the St Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers' Association. Work to develop this Charter has been underway for several years and further details on the commitments given are contained in section 7 of this report.

1. Regulatory Framework

Salmon fishing at Saint Pierre and Miquelon is governed by:

- the Rural and Maritime Fishery Code (CRPM), in particular Book IX;
- the Order of 20 March 1987 which establishes a number of conservation and management measures for marine resources in the French territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone around the coasts of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon;
- the Order of 24 March 2015 which establishes a number of technical measures and catch sizes for the professional fishery in the French territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone around the coasts of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon;
- the Order of the Prefect no. 304 of 8 June 2021 which limits the number of Atlantic salmon fishing permits that may be issued to recreational fishers in St Pierre and Miquelon to 80;
- the Order of the Prefect no. 195 of 19 April 2024, which allocates Atlantic salmon fishing permits to St Pierre and Miquelon's recreational and professional fishers for the 2024 season. This Order specifies the management actions in place, permitted fishing gear, catch size and the location of nets. Article 2 of the Order requires the provision of catch reports, through fishing log-books, to the Maritime and Port Affairs Department before the end of the fishing season.

These texts establish the following measures:

- the fishery is subject to authorisation and an Annual Fishery Plan;
- the minimum catch size is 48 cm;
- nets must be declared and marked;
- the fishery season is restricted to 1 May – 21 July;
- fishing gear must not be placed within 300 m of a river mouth;
- all catch must be declared (through fishing log-books and annual declarations / logbooks for recreational fishers)
- fishing effort is restricted by limiting the number of nets in the water.

2. Permit Allocation

Fishing permits are allocated to professional fishers (who may sell their catch) and recreational fishers (who are not authorised to sell their catch and fish only for personal consumption).

The allocation procedure is based on fishery precedence and on compliance with catch declaration obligations throughout the previous year.

The Maritime and Port Affairs Department deals with permit requests and allocates each permit holder with a specific site to fish for the season. The overall fishery site plan is mapped and published annually by Order of the Prefect (recreational and professional Atlantic salmon fishing permits for the 2024 season were allocated under Order of the Prefect no. 195 of 19 April 2024).

In 2024, 5 professional permits were issued. Since 2021, the number of recreational permits issued has been limited to 80.

3. Catch

The 2024 catch was as follows:

Professional catch: 192 kg (78 salmon) was harvested by five vessels (compared to 28 kg / 13 salmon in 2023).

Recreational catch: 1,519 kg (524 salmon) were harvested by 80 vessels (compared to 1,424 kg / 545 salmon in 2023).

Fishing effort varies greatly between vessels. Twenty vessels caught less than five salmon each and another 30 caught 5 – 10 salmon each. A number of fishers choose to finish fishing well before the end of the season (on 21 July), meaning they only fish for a very short period. Finally, 12 permit holders reported 0 catch in 2024, either due to not attempting to fish or not catching anything. In 2023, 10 permit holders reported 0 catch. This traditional fishery allows the island's recreational sailors to go to sea after a long winter period and, along with hunting in September, is an important traditional leisure pursuit on the islands. There are estimated to be over 600 recreational vessels in the archipelago, where there is a population of 6,000 people. As in 2023, the fishery was impacted by particularly unfavourable weather conditions. Further, fishing conditions were again affected by the presence of drifting seaweed, which tangled in the nets. Finally, several recreational fishers again stated that fuel costs prevented them from going to sea.

4. The Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon 2019 – 2024

Season	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Professional Fishery						
No. of licences	7	5	4	4	6	5
Weight (kg)	72.21	90.52	216	100	28	192
Recreational Fishery						
No. of licences	80	81	80	80	80	80
Weight (kg)	1,214	1,648	1,384	1,142	1,424	1,519
Total (kg)	1,286	1,738.5	1,600	1,242	1,452	1,711

The total weight of the 2024 catch was 1,711 kg, a slight increase when compared to the 1,452 kg caught in 2023. The catch increased in both the recreational and professional fisheries. However, the number of salmon caught by recreational fishers has decreased. The increase in the professional catch compared to 2023 is due to one particularly active fisher returning to fish after being unable to do so in 2023 for health reasons.

Overall 350 salmon caught (58 % of the total catch) measured less than 63 cm in length, which is slightly less than in recent years.

There is no export of salmon by professional fishers and all catch is consumed by the local market. Very few are sold, with the majority retained for personal consumption.

Since 2022, a new framework has been in place for the professional fishery. This framework allows the fishers to diversify their catch considerably (including lobster and scallop fishing and rod fishing for various species) to supply fresh produce to the archipelago's only fishmonger, supermarkets and restaurants. This has resulted in the professional fishery targeting salmon less as they turn to other species such as snow crab, sea cucumber, halibut, scallops, whelk and lobster.

5. Fishing Effort

The fishery locations are similar to those in 2023.



Fishing effort is mainly concentrated around the East and South-East of the island of St Pierre. Other fishing sites are located around Miquelon and Langlade. Both professional and recreational fishers are allocated an individual fishing site, which is specified in the above-mentioned Order of the Prefect No. 195 of 19 April 2024.

6. 2024 Monitoring and Control Report

Each year, 3 sworn agents from the Coastal Unit of the Maritime and Port Affairs Department carry out inspections to ensure compliance with the legislation. The Unit obtained a new vessel, named the Kilda, at the end of 2023. The Kilda can be used for a number of activities, including SAR missions and measuring biodiversity, and allows agents to carry out fishery inspections to measure the effort exerted on different resources. As a result, 49 landing inspections were carried out in 2024. These were a mixture of random and non-random inspections and were carried out at different times of the day. No infractions were detected.

The Maritime and Port Affairs Department also carried out license inspections on the 80 recreational permit holders and 5 professional fishers. The data provided in the log-books submitted by professional and recreational fishers have been analysed and shared with IFREMER (the French National Institute for Ocean Science). Thanks to this rigorous inspection process, there is no undeclared catch in the archipelago.

7. The Outlook for 2025 and the Implementation of the ‘Commitment Charter for the Recreational Atlantic Salmon Sea Fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon’

Professional Fishers

The professional fishers (six in 2024) understood the issues raised by NASCO’s Parties but again asked that they be considered in the context of the very low level of catch that is sold to fishmongers or the local market in St Pierre. They wish to contribute to scientific knowledge by assisting the French National Institute for Ocean Science (IFREMER), in the name of regional scientific co-operation. Furthermore, the professional catch this year was, again, low.

Recreational Fishers

The President of the St Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers Association, which represents the majority of the archipelago’s recreational fishers, was open to the proposals put forward to improve the management of the salmon fishery. He also indicated that several measures have already been taken on their own initiative such as:

- voluntarily restricting the fishing season to 1 May – 21 July each year, despite the regulations allowing the fishery to be open from 1 May – 31 July;
- being involved in the management and assessment of the resource: implementing a fishing log-book scheme which records the size, location and estimated weight of all salmon caught. The recreational fishers commit to providing this information to the administration and scientists. This is one of the most important measures in improving scientific knowledge. It should be noted that while it is obligatory for professional fishers to declare their catch in France, it is not obligatory for recreational fishers to do the same. This participation in the scientific process is, therefore, voluntarily undertaken by the recreational fishers of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon;
- contributing to scientific knowledge through taking salmon scale and adipose fin samples and providing these samples to the scientists;
- fixing the number of permits allocated each year at 80 (since 2021).

In response to comments raised by members of the North American Commission at NASCO's recent Annual Meetings, a 'Commitment Charter for the Recreational Atlantic Salmon Sea Fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon' has been under development for a number of years and was signed on 18 December 2024. As such, the measures described above have now been formalised in the Charter to ensure the longevity of Atlantic salmon and the marine ecosystems around the archipelago of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

New or significant measures in the Charter include:

- Increased involvement in IFREMER's research. Staff from the administration will be trained to take samples during each inspection and at random. There will also be increased involvement from recreational fishers;
- In advance of each fishing season, administration staff and the President of the Recreational Fishers Association will work to increase awareness of the importance of research, safety at sea and the catch reporting requirements for recreational fishing permits;
- Administration staff will carry out both at-sea inspections from the Kilda and landing inspections, in-line with the provisions contained in the territory's Maritime Fishery Monitoring and Environmental Protection Plan1
- IUU fishing has been identified as an issue, which is clearly related to monitoring of the fishery;
- Each recreational fisher will be asked to sign an annex to the Charter in order to obtain a license. This annex is specific to the signatory and commits them personally to completing the log-book in a timely manner (including information on the size, estimated weight and date of each capture); to prevent IUU fishing by allowing inspections; to respect the dates of the fishing season; and to not sell their catch. License holders also personally commit to participate in IFREMER's research by providing any samples requested. Sanctions may be imposed where the provisions contained in the Charter are not respected. Licenses will not be issued unless the annex has been signed.

The members of the recreational fishers' association also commit to continue to be actively involved in scientific programmes carried out by IFREMER and through regional co-operation with Canadian scientists.

Seven recreational fishers voluntarily took part in the sampling programme in 2024. In advance of the fishing season, IFREMER distributed sampling kits to fishers and provided training on how to use them. However, there was a kit shortage. In total, 45 representative samples were taken (adipose fin, scales, length and weight) and sent to DFO St John's, NL for further analysis. The above-mentioned Charter will increase sampling effort in 2025.

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The Director

La directrice des territoires, de
l'alimentation et de la mer



Patricia Bourgeois



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ET MIQUELON**

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**Direction des Territoires,
de l'Alimentation et de la Mer**

**Association des plaisanciers pêcheurs
de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon**

COMMITMENT CHARTER

for the Recreational Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) Sea Fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon

BETWEEN

the Prefect of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon;
the representative of IFREMER in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon;

AND

the Chair of the Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers' Association

PREAMBLE

1. The Atlantic salmon has been categorised as a 'Near Threatened' species on the IUCN¹ 'Red List' since December 2023.
2. Most recreational Atlantic salmon fishing is carried out using nets. This method impacts on both the resource (more so given its migratory nature) and the environment.
3. All fishers must be aware of the ecological concerns if we are to maintain ecological balance in the Atlantic salmon fishery and ensure the sustainability of this recreational fishery.
4. Recreational sea fishing is a highly valued pastime in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. Although weather and sea conditions limit the length of the fishing season, the fishery is of economic importance due to the supplies, rigging, fuel and ship repairs required to sustain the activity in a small territory.
5. The Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers' Association, which works in partnership with the Maritime and Port Affairs Department (SAMP) of the Directorate for Territories, Food and the Sea (DTAM), has already proposed a number of measures to ensure the sustainability of the fishery while protecting the resource.
6. France (in respect of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon) is invited to participate as an observer at the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization's (NASCO) Annual Meetings. Management of the resource takes place within both waters under French jurisdiction and in a wider geographical area which includes Canada and the United States.
7. This Charter applies to those members of the Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers' Association that hold a government-issued salmon fishing license.

¹ The International Union for the Conservation of Nature

ARTICLE 1 – MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCE

The Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers' Association commits to contribute, where possible, to collecting data on recreational Atlantic salmon fishing at sea and providing the data collected to the administrative (SAMP) and scientific (IFREMER) authorities.

Catch-declaration log-books are being implemented as a data-collection tool to enable fishers to report their catch to the authorities. All fishers involved in the recreational Atlantic salmon fishery will declare their catch through these log-books.

The location of the area assigned to each recreational fisher is specified annually in an Order of the Prefect.

The Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers' Association have already suggested a number of management measures to SAMP in order to protect the resource, including:

- restricting the recreational Atlantic salmon fishing season to 1 May – 21 July each year; the regulations allow the fishery to be open from 1 May – 31 July;
- fixing a quota of 80 recreational licenses with rules on renewing Atlantic salmon fishing permits, specified in the Order of the Prefect published each year. Fishers apply to SAMP for a permit each year. Where a permit-holder does not place their nets in the water for three consecutive years, their permit is cancelled and allocated the following year to the first person on the waiting list;
- increased involvement in IFREMER's research protocol implemented to monitor Atlantic salmon biomass. The recreational fishers commit to providing all samples requested by IFREMER at the start of the season by the end of the season, i.e. at least 100 samples per season. IFREMER will also refine the request in accordance with the size of the salmon caught, as declared in the log-books, so that the samples are representative of the catch taken before they are sent to DFO²;

The representatives of IFREMER in St Pierre and Miquelon will provide sampling kits to agents from the SAMP Coastal Unit for distribution to recreational fishers. Training in taking samples will also be provided.

The Chair of the Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers' Association will use the opportunity of the Association's AGMs to highlight the requirement for each individual licence-holder to complete the 'Commitment to take Personal Responsibility' form annexed to the present Charter. The SAMP will check that all licence holders have signed this commitment before issuing further licenses.

The SAMP commits to raising awareness of best practices in Atlantic salmon fishing, safety at sea and issuing a reminder of the catch declaration requirements before the start of the season.

The SAMP Coastal Unit Agents will carry out both at-sea and landing inspections in accordance with the Territorial Plan for the Control of Maritime Fisheries and the Protection of the Marine Environment.

ARTICLE 2 – DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE AUTHORITIES AND RECREATIONAL FISHERS

The Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers' Association commits to continuing and maintaining regular constructive dialogue with the SAMP. Discussions may be held on the request of either the Association or the authorities and will be recorded in written reports.

² Fisheries and Oceans Canada

ARTICLE 3 – REPORTING RECREATIONAL FISHING AT SEA ACTIVITIY

The Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers’ Association commit to ask its members to complete a fishing log-book as accurately as possible. The information provided will include:

- the size of each Atlantic salmon caught;
- the estimated weight of each Atlantic salmon caught; and
- the date of capture.

ARTICLE 4 – COMBATTING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

Working with the authorities, the Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers’ Association commits to combatting IUU fishing across the Territory. Recreational fishers will submit their catches for inspection by the authorities in order to ensure that recreational catches are not sold, in accordance with the regulations. During each AGM, the Chair of the Association will remind members of the sanctions the authorities would impose in any case of observed IUU fishing.

The recreational fishers commit to complying with these regulatory measures in order to ensure the durability of the Atlantic salmon resource and the marine ecosystems around Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

ARTICLE 5 – ENTRY INTO FORCE AND EVALUATION

This Charter shall enter into force once all Parties have signed the Charter. The Charter will be in force for a period of two years from that date.

The Charter should be fully implemented by all members of the Saint-Pierre and Miquelon Recreational Fishers’ Association that hold a salmon fishing license issued by the authorities by 1 May 2025 at the latest.

An evaluation of the implementation of the Charter will be carried out by a Working Group comprising representatives of the signatory Parties. This will be completed at least three months before the end of the term of the Charter. This evaluation will inform a decision to reach a common agreement between the signatory Parties:

- to extend the duration of the Charter, in identical terms, by adding a supplementary clause;
- to amend and renew the Charter by signing a new document; or
- to propose other measures to protect the Atlantic salmon resource in the archipelago’s waters.

Done at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon on 18 December 2024

Le Préfet de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

Monsieur Bruno ANDRE



Le président de l’association des plaisanciers
pêcheurs de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

Monsieur René MICHEL

IFREMER; the representative of IFREMER to Saint-Pierre and Miquelon on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer


Guy CLAIREAUX

ANNEX

COMMITMENT TO TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

for a Recreational Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) Sea Fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon

NAME:

NAME OF VESSEL:

FISHING GEAR USED:

In order to ensure ecological balance in recreational Atlantic salmon fishing, I undertake to:

- ☐ fill in the fishing log-book provided to me by the SAMP at the start of the season in a diligent fashion. In particular, I will state the size of each Atlantic salmon caught, the estimated weight of each Atlantic salmon caught and the date of capture. The authorities may check this log-book at any time.
- ☐ respect the fishery dates, i.e. from 1 May to 21 July each year
- ☐ participate in IFREMER's research protocol by taking samples as shown by Coastal Unit agents
- ☐ work with the authorities to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by permitting inspections by Coastal Unit Agents
- ☐ not sell any salmon caught

Done at Saint-Pierre / Miquelon

on.....

[Signature]