

CNL(00)59

Resolution by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean Concerning St Pierre and Miquelon

The PARTIES,

RECALLING Article 66 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

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

RECALLING ALSO 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;

NOTING that the United States has eliminated the catching of sea-run Atlantic salmon in its waters, including recreational catches, and has proposed to list the Gulf of Maine population segment of Atlantic salmon as endangered with extinction;

NOTING that Canada has implemented measures, consistent with advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), that reduce to the lowest level possible the harvest of salmon in its coastal waters in light of the tenuous status of salmon stocks of North American origin;

NOTING that Denmark, with respect to Greenland, is cooperating to rebuild salmon stocks of North American origin by reducing to the lowest level possible the harvest of salmon at West Greenland and by improving the monitoring and reporting of its fishery;

NOTING that in its 2000 report, ICES recommended that “there should be no exploitation of the 1999 smolt cohort as non-maturing 1SW fish in North America or at Greenland in 2000 and that the cohort should not be exploited as mature 2SW fish in North America in 2001, except for in-river harvests from stocks that are above biologically based spawning escapement requirements”;

NOTING ALSO that NASCO has endorsed the use of the precautionary approach in salmon management;

FURTHER NOTING that the salmon fishery in St Pierre and Miquelon is a mixed-stock fishery that intercepts salmon of Canadian and United States origin, and that St Pierre and Miquelon is not a State of origin of Atlantic salmon;

RECOGNISING that France, in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon, although not a Contracting Party to NASCO, is bound by NASCO rules through an exchange of diplomatic letters attached to the 1994 Canada/France Proces-Verbal on fisheries;

CONSIDERING that in 1998 and 1999, the salmon catch in St Pierre and Miquelon was about 2.3 tons each year, representing a 55 percent increase in the 1997 catch figure and well above the last thirteen-year average;

MINDFUL that France, in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon, claims that the increased catch figures for 1998 and 1999 reflect improvements in reported catch;

EXPRESSING serious concern that current salmon harvesting levels in St Pierre and Miquelon are not consistent with scientific advice provided by ICES, and with the level of cooperation from France, in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon, with NASCO's efforts to rebuild salmon stocks of North American origin;

RESOLVE as follows:

The President of NASCO shall 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 in St Pierre and Miquelon to the lowest possible level consistent with advice provided by ICES; and
- (c) to request France, in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon, to inform NASCO by its 2001 annual meeting of measures it has taken to address the concerns of NASCO to reduce the level of harvesting of salmon in St Pierre and Miquelon in 2001 and beyond, and to provide additional details on the salmon fishery, to include licensing, reporting mechanisms, and unreported catch.

The members of the Council are encouraged to initiate or continue making demarches to France, in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon, in support of this resolution.