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ANALYSIS OF THE PRACTICE OF CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING IN THE ATLANTIC SALMON IN QUEBEC

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In 1980, Quebec adopted a management policy for salmon rivers to promote optimal resource utilization, expand the access of the resource to a larger number of fishermen, increase the involvement of the community in the management of the resource and increase economic benefits from salmon fishing. One way to ensure a sound management of fish stocks is to promote the practice of catch and release, whether this is done on a voluntary basis or made compulsory through regulations. The aim of our study is to assess the importance of factors likely to influence the behavior of fishermen vis-à-vis the practice of catch and release. To achieve our goal, we conducted a survey via internet involving some 12,000 salmon fishermen in Quebec. Our results indicate that the probability to practice catch and release decreases with the income level and age of the fisherman. Quebec residents are also less likely to return their catch to the water.